

spring 2013

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
ORANGE LAKE RESORTS

elifetimes

CELEBRATING YOUR VACATION LIFESTYLE

From the Movies to the Magic Kingdom

A fantastic park
expansion leads
a crop of new
Orlando attractions



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It's been quite a tough winter for many parts of the country, with big storms, lots of snow and unusual weather swings all around. If you live in any of the areas that experienced this, I certainly feel for you.

I know we're pretty lucky here in Orlando, a top vacation destination. We have just two real seasons: a few weeks of "cooler" winter and many months of warm sun. It's a big reason I set down roots here and likely why many of you chose to make it your preferred yearly destination.

But as that cool touch of our limited winter quickly fades, it still puts me in the mood to start planning our traditional "family summer vacation." Although my daughters are college-aged now, my vacation thoughts always make me feel a bit nostalgic for their younger years. For you parents with older children, I know you can sympathize with me!

This is something the Walt Disney World® Resort knows all too well. New Fantasyland, which we feature in this issue, connects guests back to an original centerpiece of the Magic Kingdom® Park while adding a host of newer characters. Plus, we touch base with the manager of our onsite Disney Planning Center, who can help you plan your trip to this wonderful family attraction.

That's not all, as Orlando theme parks all seem to be gearing up for a summer of new attractions. But to really go back, you can't go wrong with a visit to the historical port city of Galveston, TX. Read on to learn more.

Even better, do more than read about them—get out there and enjoy them with your kids and grandkids. Years from now, you'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,



Don Harrill
President and CEO



From the Movies to the Magic Kingdom

New Fantasyland features familiar faces and family fun

Bringing classic animated characters to life through enchanting, detailed creations has always been a staple of the Walt Disney World® Theme Parks, and the *Magic Kingdom* Park in particular. So it's fitting that the newest (and largest ever) expansion of the park—**New Fantasyland**—continues to transport guests back to some of their favorite films.



Above: Be Our Guest offers casual dining during the day and fine dining in the evenings (reservations required for evening experience).



Above: Gaston shows off his manly shoulders.

As you relive moments from *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) and *The Little Mermaid* (1989) in the **Enchanted Forest** and remember the charm of *Dumbo* (1941) in the **Storybook Circus**, you'll find memorable experiences for the young and young at heart. During your next visit to Orange Lake Resort, be sure to make time for magic.

Explore the Enchanted Forest

Two new royal castles grace the skyline of the **Enchanted Forest**, a beautiful landscape of trees, rocks and waterfalls where fairy tales come true and love conquers all.

Step into the "tale as old as time" with an incredible feast in one of three themed dining areas at **Be Our Guest Restaurant** in the middle of Beast's Castle. Or for more casual food and beverages, saunter into the manly **Gaston's Tavern** nearby.

And don't miss **Enchanted Tales with Belle**—an intimate, interactive storytelling experience hosted by everyone's favorite well-read princess. Featuring Lumière the



Film Fact

The song "Be Our Guest," after which the restaurant was named, was one of three songs from *Beauty and the Beast* to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song—along with "Belle" and eventual winner "Beauty and the Beast." The film also won the award for Best Original Score.



Above: LeFou's Brew can be found in Gaston's Tavern and serves as the restaurant's signature non-alcoholic drink.

candelabra, the Magic Mirror and other surprises, it's a chance for you to become part of the story.

Meanwhile, you won't feel like a fish out of water when you head next door to Prince Eric's Castle. You'll admire a detailed shipwreck scene outside and enjoy the interactive queue before boarding a giant clamshell and taking a musical ride through **Under the Sea—Journey of the Little Mermaid**.

And when the journey is over, be sure to visit **Ariel's Grotto**. It's a special place where the mermaid herself greets guests, signs autographs and poses for photos to mark the occasion.

Soar through the Storybook Circus

The classic American circus comes alive in theme park glory in a nostalgic area that captures the spirit of the little elephant that could. In the **Storybook Circus**, you'll see multicolored tents, fun characters, movie

details and more. But of course, the star of the show is the reimagined classic ride **Dumbo the Flying Elephant**—which has doubled in size!

Other big-top-style attractions are waiting to bring smiles to little ones' faces, including **The Barnstormer**—a perfect first roller coaster that features Goofy as "The Great Goofini." **Casey Jr. Splash 'N' Soak Station** is a fun way to cool off on hot afternoons, and it's right next to **Fantasyland Station**—the newest addition to the Walt Disney World Railroad.



Film Fact

Beauty and the Beast was the first animated movie to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture. It would not happen again until almost 20 years later, when the field was widened from five films to 10 and Pixar's *UP* (2009) received a nomination.



Opposite: Ariel meets new friends "under the sea." Above: Families can drop in for a quick bite at Gaston's Tavern.

More fun to be mined

Of course, one of the best parts of New Fantasyland is that there's more to come! Upon completion, Fantasyland will nearly double in size—for the largest expansion in the history of the Magic Kingdom Park.

Later in 2013, your favorite Disney princesses will greet their subjects in the new royal court known as the **Princess Fairytale Hall**. Then in 2014, the **Seven Dwarfs Mine Train** will offer an exhilarating roller coaster journey through the world of Snow White's memorable septet of friends.



Film Fact

The Little Mermaid was the first Disney animated film to receive Academy Award nominations since *The Rescuers* (1977). It went on to win the awards for Best Original Song ("Under the Sea") and Best Original Score, to go with a second nomination for the song "Kiss the Girl."

Immerse yourself in the magic

For a special look inside New Fantasyland, be sure to visit revealfantasyland.com. This interactive experience lets you be part of the story and help break the curse that has kept the area hidden until now (as the legend goes). It's a great way to learn more about this magical new world—and inspire you to "earmark" time to see it in person the next time you're in Orlando.

As to Disney artwork/properties: ©Disney



Film Fact

Released in 1941, *Dumbo* was Disney's fourth full-length animated feature after *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), *Pinocchio* (1940) and *Fantasia* (1940). At 64 minutes long, it is one of the shortest of all the company's animated features.



On your next visit, say “hi” to Tember, manager of the Disney Planning Center at Orange Lake Resort!

Onsite Disney experts right at your fingertips

With Orange Lake Resort located adjacent to the *Walt Disney World*® Theme Parks, it's only natural that many visiting owners drop in to see Mickey and his friends. That's why right in the check-in lobby we have Disney Cast Members ready to help plan your visit. With tickets, advice and the “inside scoop” on the best ways to visit their wide variety of entertainment options, it's one stop you want to make soon after arrival.

How long have you been providing guest advice at the Center?

I've been with Disney since 2007, but I started almost two years ago at the desk here and stepped up to my current role as leader last June. We really are the experts at keeping up with everything new going on at Disney. With so much to see and do, we're happy to share tips and inside information we know from working there, attending previews and making personal visits so we can tell guests what it's really like.

Tember, tell us more about your personalized itinerary service.

We sell a wide variety of *Walt Disney World* Resort tickets, from 1- to 10-day theme park tickets to annual passes—pretty close to everything they offer. And like concierges, we can help plan your day, make dining reservations and more. For owners who return here every year, we frequently advise the 10-day *Magic Your Way*® Base Ticket with the *No-Expiration Option* so they can save money in the long run and can get as much out of their experiences as they can.

How can your team help them plan a nice dining experience at your resort?

We have access to book dining and dinner-show reservations throughout the theme parks and across Disney property. And you don't have to be staying at a Disney resort to enjoy these restaurants—you can book as far out as six months or right up to the same day by calling our Disney Planning Center desk at (407) 239-8008 or by dropping by.

What are some other fun entertainment options outside your theme parks you can help arrange?

We have add-ons to our theme park tickets, such as the *Water Park Fun & More* option. This gives you access to our two water parks and *DisneyQuest*®, plus our mini golf courses were just added to it. There's the *Downtown Disney*® Area, where we can also make dining reservations for them, and its new *Splitsville*® - *Downtown Disney* bowling attraction is very popular right now.

Any last bit of advice?

Please see us after check-in! We'll help plan a great visit to the *Walt Disney World* Resort and purchasing tickets here will save you a ton of time from having to stand in line at the theme parks.





More Attractions

Moving to Orlando

The theme park additions don't stop at New Fantasyland, as other Orlando-area theme parks also look to enhance their experiences in 2013.

Transform your expectations at Universal Orlando

Optimus Prime interrupted the nightly Cinematic Spectacular show at Universal Studios Florida® last November to warn of impending doom: Decepticons are coming to Orlando... *this summer*. The powerful leader of the good-guy Autobots has reason to be concerned, because those bad-guy Decepticons are led by their destructive boss, Megatron.

“We broke the mold and have taken this ride to a new technological level in terms of blending seamless 3D.”

— Michael Bay
Transformers movie director and attraction consultant



As you can imagine, the two never liked each other—which concerns everyone. That conflict lays the groundwork for an incredible new attraction that builds on the success of the *Transformers* franchise. Universal Orlando® Resort is bringing **TRANSFORMERS The Ride: 3D** to town this year.

The “ultra-immersive story experience” marries high-definition 3D and flight simulation technology with 14 screens and real-world set features. If you’ve ever experienced the award-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man*® ride, think of this as the next step up in theme park technology.

Antarctic “cool” arriving soon at SeaWorld Orlando

This new SeaWorld® Orlando attraction is a crisp 30 degrees, to be exact—because that’s what penguins love. When **Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin** opens this spring, it will be the biggest expansion in the history of the park and the coldest theme park attraction in Central Florida.

More unique, however, is how you will interact with its pint-sized inhabitants. You’ll choose the intensity of

your ride through the attraction in a trackless vehicle before joining a colony of real penguins.

According to Creative Director Brian Morrow, it’s designed to simulate the “thrills, wonders and dangers of Antarctica, all through the eyes of a special penguin.”

New coasters launch at local park

Fun Spot America, a local, family-owned attraction with a can-do spirit is tripling the size of its Orlando location and adding two theme-park-quality **roller coasters** this spring: *White Lighting*, only the third wooden coaster to come to Florida and *Freedom Flyer*, a steel suspension coaster. Add in a 250-foot *SkyCoaster* suspension ride, double carousel and more kiddie rides, and you’ve got a recipe for all-ages action.

Family fun at a great value

Fun Spot was recently named the “Best Family Entertainment Center in America” by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) and the “Best Budget Attraction” in Central Florida by the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Dear Owner,

We are pleased to announce that your Association and resort information will be available online later this year. Each association will have a separate, secure site that you will be able to access with a password that will be provided to you in an upcoming email communication.

This means you will have access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to information such as renovation updates and photos, resort news, annual meeting minutes and Board meeting notes, as well as Board member biographies, photos and more. Upcoming dates for important meetings, including the Annual Owners' Meeting, will also be posted so you can make plans to attend. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Understanding Your Ownership sections will answer your most commonly asked questions and provide other valuable knowledge, especially for newer owners.

We are excited to provide this additional level of resort communication for you. Watch for updates on **orangelake.com** and in other owner communications. Once the site is launched, it will continue to be a work in progress and updates will be added on a regular basis, so check the site often.

Enjoy your 2013 vacation!



Sincerely,

Lori Howell
Vice President
Association Management



Above: River Island.

Holiday Inn Club Vacations at Orange Lake Resort

On November 7, four of Orange Lake Resort's associations, Orange Lake Country Club Villas Condominium Association, Inc. or Condo I and Condos II, III and IV met for their final Board meeting of 2012. The Condo V Board met on December 12. At both meetings, Directors reviewed Association financials, assessment collections and strong guest satisfaction scores. The General Manager provided an Operations update noting the new landscaping in the North Village and around Building 81000, which was also painted, plus the new-style floors installed in the West Village, East Village and River Island fitness centers. The Board also adopted the 2013 Reserve Study that analyzes reserve funds. This ensures that sufficient funds are set aside

to repair and replace items in the units, exterior painting, roofs, elevators, etc. They also adopted the 2013 Operating and Reserve Budgets and approved several resolutions and agreements necessary to operate the resort.

The Annual Owners' Meeting for Condos I-IV was held on November 8. Condo V's annual meeting was held after the December 12 Board meeting. These meetings marked the first time owners voted their proxies online. The meetings included election of Board members and detailed financial reports with an explanation of the operating and reserve assessments that comprise the maintenance fee. The meetings concluded with a question-and-answer session.

Historic Charm on the Texas Coast



Above: One of the many Victorian homes found in Galveston.

Take a gander at what Galveston has to offer

For a mix of beachfront relaxation, history and charm, you can't beat Galveston Island—set just off the coast of Texas about 50 miles south of Houston. During its history, it has hosted a community of pirates, helped repel the British navy and served as the capital of the Republic of Texas. When the devastating *Great Storm* of 1900 struck the city, it changed the direction of the island, which reinvented itself as the popular tourist destination it remains today.

The progressive nature of the area in its earliest days left its mark on the island. Galveston is noted for over two-dozen Texas “firsts,” including the first post office, gas and electric lights, opera house and more. One of the few remaining is the restored Grand 1894 Opera House, still in use today.



Grand old opera

The Grand 1894 Opera House's beautiful, intimate interior immediately connects you to the golden age of live theater. Its designation by the Texas Legislature as “The Official Opera House of Texas” has led it to become the symbol of the island's arts community and Historic Strand District. A popular destination for locals, visitors and theater buffs, many people have been known to visit the city simply to experience a show in its storied hall.



Above: Historic Strand in the morning.

HAVEN OF HISTORY

The Opera House is just one of many historically significant examples of 1800s Victorian architecture located in the 36-block Historic Strand District, the largest concentration of its type in the country. Many stately brick and limestone homes are filled with lavish antiques and extensive art.

The 120-year-old Bishop's Place is noted as one of the most representative Victorian structures in the nation by the Library of Congress. Other treasures include Michael B. Menard's Home, the oldest on the island at 160 years, and the grandiose Moody Mansion Museum. And the streets are lined with commercial buildings from Galveston's rich past, many of which have reopened as modern stores, boutiques, cafés and restaurants.

Enjoy authentic local joints such as the memorable Old Quarter Acoustic Café, where Texas blues and rock artists such as ZZ Top drop by to play. In the tree-lined Postoffice Street District, the Mod Coffeehouse is a quirky shop that fits right in among several antique dealers. On Gallery Row, you can browse many fine art and collectible galleries, and enjoy the Art Walk every 6–8 weeks. And each year, the entire district explodes in celebration with the largest Mardi Gras party in the state.



GET IN THE MOOD

Of course, there's more to Galveston than history. Moody Gardens, a centerpiece attraction for the island, provides a great variety of fun all in one place. You can't miss its huge glass structures, including the Rainforest Pyramid® with macaws and monkeys and the Aquarium Pyramid® that houses sharks, tropical creatures and penguins.

The attraction's seaside golf course, a Jacobsen Hardy Golf Course Design, provides fantastic play and a picturesque view of the Gulf. There are also 3D, 4D and Ridefilm Theater experiences and a charming 1800s-style Colonel Paddlewheel Boat that cruises the Offatts Bayou. You can even enjoy a dinner cruise with live entertainment.



The 120-year-old Tall Ship *Ellissa* (above) and its Texas Seaport home (below).

Step back to the sea

Galveston was once a thriving seaport of trade and commerce. At Pier 21, the historic treasure Tall Ship *Ellissa* is a beautiful square-rigged sailing vessel that's over 130 years old. Berthed as part of the Texas Seaport Museum, it's fascinating to tour the grand maiden before visiting its museum to learn about the area's rich sailing history.

The Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, however, rode the sea in a different way. The retired, three-level jack-up rig allows you to tour at your own pace through interactive displays to experience what it was like to live, work and drill the ocean depths.

Offering a unique mix of beachfront beauty and historical charm, Galveston is a Gulf Coast treasure with something for everyone. If you're looking for a new set of vacation experiences, be sure to add it to your list of "must see" destinations.





Above: Mike Perham and Barry McKently at River Island.

Have You Heard of Horticulture? Inside the beauty of Orange Lake Resort

What does it take to manage the landscape of a 1,450-acre, four-village, year-round vacation resort? It starts with dedicated people who are all working toward a common goal.

“We want to have the appearance of neat and well-kept grounds on an annual basis,” said Mike Perham, Senior Director of Golf & Grounds Maintenance.

Along with new Horticultural Manager Barry McKently, Perham oversees a large group of people responsible for maintaining that appearance. It’s a collaborative effort between a resort staff of seven and approximately 35 additional contractors. It takes a large team because maintaining the grounds of a vacation resort presents its own challenges.

Irrigating Orange Lake Resort

Sprinkler heads on property:
Over 29,000

Water used per year:
Over 250 million gallons

“We’re trying to incorporate plant material that’s year-round that also features color,” Perham said. “But so much of what we rely on that gives you that color is tropical in nature. We’re always vulnerable to a cold snap, but we’ve been blessed with a mild winter.”



Prime plant places

If you’re interested in seeing beautiful plants during your vacation, be sure to check out the outdoor landscaping around the River Island pool complex or the indoor displays in the West Village Clubhouse Promenade.

In order to keep the resort looking fresh and healthy, the team typically completes four planting changes annually, each involving approximately 11,000 plants. So the next time you visit Orange Lake Resort, take a look around—you just might see some brand-new foliage amongst the fun.



New Madagascar Live Stage Show at Busch Gardens

If you’ve ever seen the *Madagascar* movies and dreamed of seeing those crazy characters in person, you’re in luck. Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay is premiering its new live stage show, “Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation,” this spring.

You and your family will party along with Alex the Lion and his friends as they vacation with other guests at the park. This original, energetic musical show features singers, dancers and rock/pop music performed by a live band. You’ll even have the chance to meet the characters and take photos with them as part of each scheduled performance.

And with the opening of “Madagascar Live!” comes an exciting change to Stanleyville Theater. The park’s landmark theater is being newly refurbished, and it will now be enclosed and air-conditioned for your comfort.



©Disney

Twenty Years of Flower & Garden Fun

One of the most anticipated and enjoyable seasonal events in the Orlando area is the [Epcot® International Flower & Garden Festival](#), and this year the celebration is turning 20 with more fun than ever before. In addition to the colorful flowers, lush gardens and topiary versions of your favorite characters, brand-new experiences will be waiting for you.

With **Garden Marketplaces**, you'll be able to sample food and drink creations inspired by the gardens around the World Showcase. You can also **Party with Mickey & Friends** at the main entrance, with new surprises every day. Two new Imagination Walkways—**Tinker Bell's Butterfly House** and **The Land of Oz**—offer ideal fun for kids. And at night, the new **Illuminated Gardens** provide a twinkling end to the evening.

Of course, this festival wouldn't be complete without the Flower Power Concert Series, which features the new additions of **The Village People** ("Y.M.C.A.") and **Tommy Roe** ("Dizzy") this year. Other memorable performers include **Chubby Checker & The Wildcats**, **Micky Dolenz** of the

Monkees, **Herman's Hermits** starring Peter Noone and **Starship** starring Mickey Thomas.

Spring is a time of renewal, growth and rejuvenation, and the 20th Annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival is following suit. With all its new additions, there's never been a better time to experience this immersive event, whether you've attended before or it's your first time. The festival runs March 6 – May 19 and is included with regular park admission.



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Make it Back for Mardi Gras

If you're visiting Orlando soon, don't forget about [Mardi Gras](#) at Universal Studios Florida, the "biggest bash this side of the Bayou." This popular event takes place on Saturdays and select nights through April 20. You'll experience authentic Cajun foods (for purchase), dazzling parades, live bands direct from New Orleans and all the beads you can handle.

A Trip Around Our Resorts

With the holiday season now just a memory, it's time to move your eating and fun outdoors. Head over to the east coast just north of the Grand Strand to Little River for its [32nd Annual Blue Crab Festival](#). It's only about 45 minutes from Myrtle Beach—and the seafood is as superb and fresh as it comes. Or spend Easter in Galveston, TX with two free Easter egg hunts at [Moody Gardens](#) March 31 (for kids 12 and under) before heading into the Garden Restaurant and Moody Gardens hotel for big holiday buffets.

For a more thrilling outing, sail over a 100-acre Wisconsin adventure park filled with rugged topography, mature forest and a wide variety of wildlife on a thrilling zip line at [Lake Geneva Canopy Tours](#). Or use real earth-moving equipment to push, dig and gouge the ground on a stretch of Vegas dirt at the unique offering called [Dig This](#). And for a different kind of excitement, the high season of Spring Break begins in March over at Panama City Beach, with the college crowd bringing a livelier scene to its famous shores.

Spring isn't too late for skiing in New England, and [Killington](#) kicks off the season on March 22 with Nor'Beaster, a two-week series of parties, competitions and events. Later, the working [Billings Farm & Museum](#) has its Opening Day Celebration on April 27 with



horse-drawn carriages, free ice cream and hands-on programs to kick off its 30th year.

Finally, in the beautiful town of [Gatlinburg](#) and its neighbors Sevierville and Pigeon Forge, the annual Smoky Mountain Springfest awakens with bright flowers, fun outdoor events and festivals beginning March 12.



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Gatlinburg, TN

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Lake Geneva, WI

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Onsite Resort Information
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