

May is already here and that means school will be out soon. With summer at our doorstep, I just want to share a few things going on around our neighborhoods. A Jewish proverb says, "God cannot be everywhere and therefore he made mothers." With the flurry of events to get ready for the end of school year or the preparation for a summer full of fun, May brings much activity to each of our households. But let us not forget Mother's Day on May 9th. If possible, I hope you'll take a moment and express your appreciation to your mother and all of the mothers in your life. Abraham Lincoln said "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me, they have clung to me all of my life..." Happy Mother's Day.

With our cold weather behind us, April and May means it's time to work on your lawn. In case you have missed the notice in your recent Orlando Utilities bill, Orange County and the City of Orlando have announced a new local ordinance that regulates lawn fertilizer maintenance. This ordinance will help promote healthier lawns and lakes throughout our community. Here are just a few of the highlights: Phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers are required, fifty percent of the Total Nitrogen (that's the TN) must be a slow release formula and areas within ten feet of lakes, ponds, streams, canals and wetlands are fertilizer free zones . Also, never allow grass clippings, leaves or other yard debris to enter paved areas, storm drains or waterways. For more information go to ouc.com and look for the publication about lawn fertilizer maintenance. Remember these new restrictions will lead to fewer storm water pollutants, which leads to a healthier environment and a better quality of life for everyone.

Each year there are hundreds of volunteers who help make our communities great. Let me take a few minutes to mention again our City's Main Street programs, located in District 3: College Park Partnership, Ivanhoe Village, Audubon Garden District and Mills 50. Each of these add just a little extra that makes our quality of life a little better, but as you can imagine they can't do it without you. College Park's long running JazzFest and Holiday on the Drive, along with Ivanhoe Village's Jingle Eve and Spring Festival and Audubon's Zombietoberfest and their community market will require the leg work of many individuals in order to continue providing great events to our community. For more information on these Main Street programs or how you can get involved, go to CityofOrlando.net/mainstreet.

Speaking of District 3 we have launched our very own Facebook page. You can check it out by going to our City's webpage, CityofOrlando.net/district3 and click on the Facebook logo. It's a chance to stay up to date on what's going on in Orlando and District 3.

It's that time of year again; please plan to join the Orlando Police Department along with the other City departments on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 for the 27th annual National Night Out Celebration. National Night Out is a unique crime prevention event sponsored the Orlando Police Department and the National Association of Town Watch. It is a time for the community to come together and take a stand against drugs and crime. We cordially invite you and your community to be a part of our 2010 National Night Out Team. Please call the Neighborhood Watch unit at 407.246.2369 for more information.

And a special thanks to all the 2009 National Night Out participants. Orlando placed 3rd in the nation and with your help we'd like to move up the ranks and have the best celebration Orlando has ever seen.

Finally, May is also a time we remember our Law Enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. On Thursday May 6th at 7:30 p.m., please join me and the Orlando Police Department on the steps of the Orange County Courthouse for this moving and fitting Memorial Service. As we remember those who have given so much, there are still others who continue to serve our community making it safer each and every day.

Again thanks for your continued support. Don't forget to remember your mother and enjoy life in and around our great community.