



October 18, 2024

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CFHLA Salutes Hospitality Heroes for Responding during Hurricane Milton

On behalf of CFHLA, we'd like to salute our Lodging and Allied Members for their heroic responses during Hurricane Milton. There are so many stories about our tourism and hospitality partners stepping up to make a difference when individuals and families really needed help.

Many hotel and resort managers lowered prices on nightly stays or waived pet fees to help families evacuating out of harm's way. Employees quickly shifted to adapt to guests' changing needs. Hotels found ways to host dozens or hundreds of pets at the same time.

The team at the [Hilton Orlando/ Altamonte Springs](#) stepped up to make sure individuals staying in shelters also received hot meals. The catering department worked with [Seminole County Emergency Services](#) to provide food at five shelter locations throughout the county. The hotel team prepared enough food for **450 individuals to eat six meals each**. Our thanks go to General Manager Jaclyn Lorigan and her team for their strong efforts.

This is just one of the many remarkable stories of how our hospitality partners and employees made a difficult situation much better for their guests and community residents. This is why we remain **#HospitalityStrong** as we continue to serve our communities.

If you or someone you know is recovering from Hurricane Milton, please visit our [Emergency Preparedness Page](#), which includes helpful resources and links.



CFHLA Members Revitalize Housekeeping Council

On Thursday, October 17th, CFHLA held its inaugural meeting of the revitalized **Housekeeping Council**. Led by Firat Yuregir, Senior Director of Global Housekeeping Services for **Hilton Grand Vacations**, the meeting focused on establishing this new council's goals and objectives and helping to share best practices. The Housekeeping Council will also focus on ways to educate the future workforce about career opportunities that are available in housekeeping. These are truly the unsung heroes of our industry, and we are looking forward to empowering their growth and amplifying their stories as they continue to create wonderful guest experiences each and every day.

For more information on this Council and to get involved, please contact Erin Walsh at erin.walsh@cfhla.org.





Orange County Convention Center Brings Almost \$4 Billion in Economic Impact to Central Florida Economy

Did you know the [Orange County Convention Center](#) (OCCC) generates about \$3.9 billion in economic impact for the Central Florida economy each year? A recent study by [PFM Group Consulting](#) (PFM) revealed this significant increase, which highlights the Center’s robust business activity.

PFM conducted its study based on data through 2023, and this included direct, indirect and induced impacts.

“We are steadfast in our mission of being an economic engine for the Central Florida region and infusing our local economy with new business and tourism opportunities,” said OCCC Executive Director Mark Tester. “This study confirms that we are working in

alignment with our mission and that the business conducted at The Center of Hospitality is positively impacting Orange County communities.”

The PFM study also found 28,100 individuals are employed both directly and indirectly because of activity at the OCCC. It is also reported that an estimated 1,200 local businesses depend on the OCCC’s event activity in full or in part. Additionally, the facilities directly supported by Convention Center activities, such as hotels, restaurants, offices, etc., generate about \$28.9 million in tax revenue for Orange County Schools during 2023.

[Read the full article here.](#)

[CFHLA](#) salutes all of our hospitality and tourism partners who work together to make OCCC a top destination for conventions in our country and a powerful economic engine for Central Florida.



Mayor Dyer Lays Out his Vision for the Future of Downtown Orlando in 2024 State of Downtown Address

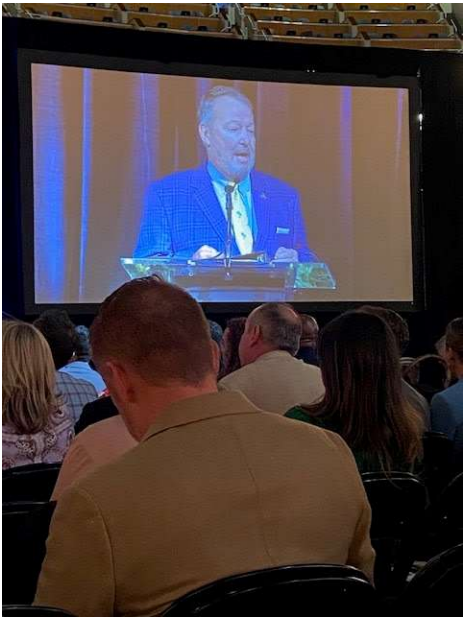
This week, CFHLA and our members were excited to hear from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer as he laid out his vision for the future of downtown Orlando during the 2024 State of the Downtown Address. The event was held at the [KIA Center](#) and it was hosted by [Downtown Orlando Partnership](#).

Here are just a few of the major highlights:

- Convert Magnolia Avenue from a one-way street to a two-way street, filled with shops, restaurants and walkways.
- Create a public park with a boardwalk, green space and playground at Lake Lucerne.
- Change parts of Orange Avenue into a two-way street with a center turn lane, medians and ride sharing pickup and drop off zones.
- The Canopy Park would cover four blocks underneath Interstate 4, with a combination of natural and technology features.

The vision for the future of downtown Orlando will also focus on making sure it is easy to get around in downtown; that there are many parks; and that there is something for everyone in downtown Orlando.

[CFHLA](#) salutes all the partners working together to make downtown Orlando a better place for everyone to work, visit, live, and play.





CFHLA Partners Learn about Artificial Intelligence Legal Compliance & Data Privacy in HR Seminar

On Thursday, [CFHLA](#) offered its final training in our 2024 Human Resources Seminar Series. This session focused on "AI, Legal Compliance & Data Privacy for Traditional and Generative AI."

CFHLA would like to thank General Manager Tom Drury and the team at [Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando/ Disney Springs Area](#) for hosting the seminar, which more than fifty people attended.

Joseph Lazzarotti, Principal with [Jackson Lewis P.C.](#), led the presentation about the latest information on a need-to-know topic. Human Resources specialists learned about best practices for cybersecurity programs, such as conducting annual risk assessments; following strong access control procedures; and conducting cybersecurity awareness trainings.

Participants also took away tips on how to protect company data by limiting which workers access sensitive information; and by maintaining accuracy of data.

CFHLA thanks all the professionals who made time to learn through our 2024 Human Resources Seminar Series.

Lastly, CFHLA would like to thank the seminar's Presenting Sponsor, Jackson Lewis P.C. We also thank our annual Corporate Partners including: Stefanie Mizrahi with [Addition Financial](#); Karen Rivera with [Clean Tec Outsourcing](#); Nevresa Mujcinovic with [Florida Blue](#); and Steve Kliamenakis with [Global Sourcing International](#).



More Photos From HR Seminar #3

Experience Kissimmee Celebrates 10 Years of Bringing Visitors to Osceola County

[CFHLA](#) and our tourism and hospitality partners would like to congratulate and celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of our partner, [Experience Kissimmee](#). Last night, Experience Kissimmee held a dinner and awards gala to mark the ten years of success in bringing droves of visitors to Osceola County. Hundreds of people joined the celebration held at the [Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center](#).

Experience Kissimmee President & CEO DT Minich spoke about the tourism and hospitality organization's growth over the last decade, and how its team now works with almost 20 countries to bring visitors to Osceola County. Minich also talked about how the organization continues to work to attract domestic travelers, sports groups and business travelers to Central Florida.

Experience Kissimmee gave out several Rosie Awards at last night's celebration. The awards honor top champions with strong records of supporting hospitality and tourism in Osceola County.

CFHLA would like to congratulate and sincerely thank Experience Kissimmee for its ongoing efforts that bring visitors to Central Florida; strengthen our regional economy; and create amazing experiences while they visit our area.



Tuesday is the Last Day to Bid on Great Prizes in the 2024 Halloween Golf Online Auction!



HALLOWEEN GOLF ONLINE AUCTION

OPENS: TUESDAY, OCT 15TH AT 9:00AM
CLOSES: TUESDAY, OCT 22ND AT 9:00PM

ITEM HIGHLIGHTS



For more information contact faith.moore@cfhla.org

Score a Discount on Orlando City Soccer Tickets for Saturday's Regular Season Final Match

[Orlando City SC](#) would like to welcome past group purchasers back to [Inter&Co Stadium](#) for the final match of the 2024 regular season against Eastern Conference

rivals, [Atlanta United](#) with this exclusive ticket offer! Come out and support the boys in purple for Fan Appreciation Night in the last match before the 2024 MLS Playoffs. **Click on the photo below to order tickets.**

Discounted Ticket Redemption Instructions:

1. Select the number of seats you need and add to cart
2. Check Out
3. Tickets will automatically be loaded into your Account Manager. The Account Manager link can be found here.

Interested in purchasing 10+ seats or premium group spaces? Contact Alex Quillin at aquillin@orlandocitysc.com or 407-480-4762.



CFHLA Membership Invoices are Going Out Next Week

This is a quick reminder that CFHLA Lodging and Allied Membership invoices will go out next week to our valued partners. You can expect an email to the primary contact on

your organization's account. Members who have questions about 2025 membership invoices can email Erin.Walsh@cfhla.org.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
OCTOBER MEMBERS OF THE MONTH**



Candace Raines
[Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area](#)



Earl Roach

[A&E Hospitality Solutions](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, or to register, just click on the button below.

- **[Hospitality Gala Committee Meeting #2 \(10/18/2024\)](#)**
- **[CFHLA I-Drive/LBV Area General Managers Reception - October 22 Registration \(10/22/2024\)](#)**
- **[CFHLA I-Drive/LBV Area General Managers Reception \(10/22/2024\)](#)**
- **[CPTED Training Seminar - October 23rd \(10/23/2024\)](#)**
- **[ARC Nominating Committee Meeting \(10/24/2024\)](#)**
- **[2024 Halloween Golf Open - Allied Registration \(10/25/2024\)](#)**
- **[2024 Halloween Golf Open Sponsorships \(10/25/2024\)](#)**
- **[2024 Halloween Golf Open - Lodging Registration \(10/25/2024\)](#)**
- **[2024 Halloween Golf Open \(10/25/2024\)](#)**

- [Jumpstart - 2025 Sponsorship Review \(10/29/2024\)](#)
- [Downtown Hoteliers Luncheon \(10/29/2024\)](#)
- [Downtown Hoteliers Luncheon - Registration \(10/29/2024\)](#)
- [Employee Relations Committee Meeting \(10/30/2024\)](#)
- [Seminole County Hoteliers Luncheon - October 30th \(10/30/2024\)](#)
- [CFHLA Board of Directors Strategic Plan Discussion Registration \(10/30/2024\)](#)

[Click Here to View Upcoming
CFHLA Meetings & Events](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

CONNECT WITH CFHLA



WWW.CFHILA.ORG

About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.