



September 27, 2024

CFHLA Thanks Our Back of the House Sponsors

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An aerial photograph of a residential complex, showing several buildings with terracotta roofs, a swimming pool, and a parking lot. The image is framed by a black border and is positioned on the right side of the contact information block.

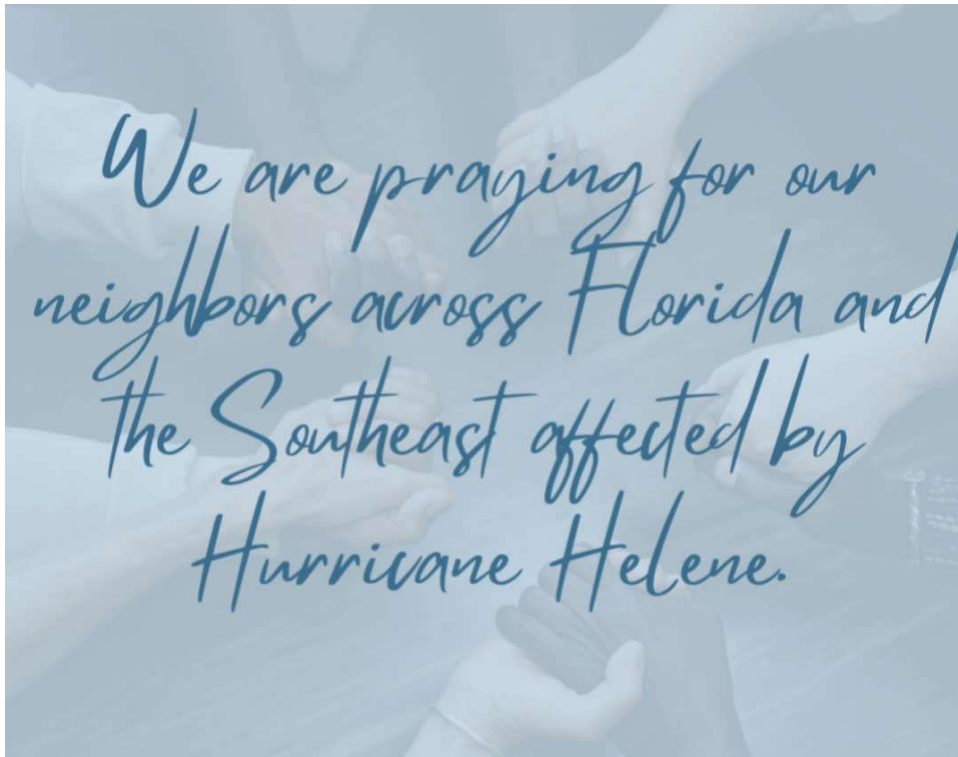
CFHLA Sends Thoughts and Prayers to Our North Florida, S.E. Neighbors Affected by Hurricane Helene

As families and emergency crews survey the devastating damage along the coast in Florida's Big Bend region this Friday, the [CFHLA](#) is sending our thoughts and prayers to our North Florida neighbors and neighbors in the Tampa area who have been impacted by this catastrophic storm.

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association and our partners are here to support the families and businesses impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Whether it's helping our neighbors make critical connections, find important resources or lending other support, the Hospitality Industry in Central Florida stands with our impacted neighbors. We will work together to recover from this difficult storm together as we have in the past.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is providing statewide updates on storm recovery efforts, shelters, evacuations, and available resources for homeowners and business owners on its website, www.FloridaDisaster.org



[Click Here for Updates on Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts and Resources](#)

CFHLA Board Retreat & After Hours Networking



On Wednesday, September 25, our [CFHLA](#) Board of Directors held its September Board Meeting followed by our Business After Hours Networking Reception at the [Orlando World Center Marriott](#) in Orlando. CFHLA wants to thank General Manager Robert Bray and his team for hosting both events. The Board Meeting was sponsored by [Minuteman Press Sand Lake](#).

Barb Bowden, Area Managing Director of [Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando](#), is the CFHLA Board Chair. Ms. Bowden and the Board of Directors reviewed the progress the CFHLA team has made during 2024 to achieve a wide range of goals identified in our 5 Year Strategic Plan. The board also prepared for an upcoming Board Retreat to be held in October.

The [Visit Orlando](#) team, led by President and CEO Casandra Matej, Chief Sales Officer Lisa Messina and Chief Marketing Officer Danielle Hollander, gave CFHLA Board members an update on the status of tourism in Central Florida. Visit Orlando says tourists continue to visit Central Florida at a healthy pace, and there is a lot of excitement for the tourism and hospitality industries as we look ahead to 2025.

The Business After Hours Networking event Wednesday evening was sponsored by Earl Roach and his team at [A&E Hospitality Solutions](#). CFHLA President and CEO Robert Agrusa welcomed nearly 150 members to the After Hours event.

CFHLA honored and recognized Lodging Members of the Month for July, August and September, 2024. The July Lodging Member of the Month is Benjamin McCarney, General Manager of the [Grand Bohemian Orlando](#). The August Lodging Member of the Month is Lonnie Williams, [DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando](#). The September Lodging Member of the Month is Graham Parker, [Hilton Vacation Club Aqua Sol Orlando West](#).

CFHLA also recognized Allied Members of the Month for July, August and September, 2024. The July recipient is David Grimes, [ABC Home and Commercial Services](#). The August recipient is Stefanie Mizrahi with [Addition Financial](#). Melanie Becker with [Universal Orlando Resort](#) is the September Allied Member of the Month.

CFHLA wants to thank the Business After Hours vendors [CoAqua](#), [Barista Cup](#), [Liv's Gourmet Pickles](#), and [Kombucha 221 BC](#) for making delicious food and drinks available to the After Hours attendees.

[Click Here to View More Photos From Both CFHLA Events](#)


CFHLA CARES Drive is Your Chance to Donate Professional Attire to Central Florida Students

The upcoming CFHLA CARES Drive is your chance to make a difference for Central Florida students who are preparing themselves for successful Careers.

[CFHLA](#) is collecting professional and formal clothing for students in need across our community.

The Drive will benefit students at [Orange County Public Schools](#), [Osceola County Public Schools](#), and at [Seminole County Public Schools](#). The CFHLA CARES Drive will be held Monday September 30th through Thursday October 3rd from 8 AM to 4 PM each day. Participants can drop off clothing items at the CFHLA office, which is located at 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 201, Orlando, FL 32821.

CFHLA is accepting all sizes of gently used suits, dresses, professional clothing, polo shirts, shoes, belts, other accessories and school uniforms. Students will be able to use these clothing items at work, for job interviews and at formal events. We ask you to please clean the items you will donate before drop off.


CENTRAL FLORIDA HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION


Professional / Formal Clothing Drive for Students in Need

Drop Off
Monday, September 30 - Thursday, October 3
8:00 am - 4:00 pm


CFHLA Office
 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 210,
 Orlando, FL 32821

Accepting all sizes of gently used:
 Suits, dresses, professional clothing, polo shirts, shoes, & accessories for job interviews, formal events, school uniforms, etc.
Items must be cleaned prior to drop-off


Collecting Items for:



Orange County Public Schools



School District of
OSCEOLA COUNTY
FLORIDA



Seminole County
Public Schools

Regretfully, late drop-offs cannot be accepted.
 For more information, or to schedule an earlier drop-off,
 please contact Melanie Anesh at
 melanie.anesh@cfhla.org or 407-313-5022.

Coco Key Crew Makes Big Splash for Olympia H.S. Swim and Polo Teams

The [CFHLA](#) wants to thank our Partners In Action at the [Coco Key Resort and Water Park](#) for making a big difference for some of Central Florida's young athletes. Coco Key volunteers teamed up to donate 120 pool towels for the [Olympia High School](#) swim and polo teams. The towel donation is a simple Thank You to the young athletes for their dedication, self-discipline to achieve their athletic goals, and for serving as role models for younger students and athletes.

Coco Key Resort and Water Park also donated 40 water park passes. This generous gift will empower teachers and administrators to reward students for their hard work during this school year.



**CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE BODY AD**

CFHLA Celebrates World Tourism Day, Sept. 27th

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association and our Hospitality Industry partners are celebrating World Tourism Day today. It is observed each year on September 27th to raise awareness worldwide about the positive impacts of tourism around the world.

This year's theme for World Tourism Day is "Tourism and Peace." The day emphasizes tourism's ability to unite people, boost economies, and foster cultural exchanges. The [CFHLA](#) and our partners invite tourists from around the world to visit Central Florida to find out why we are one of the top travel destinations in America. Check out [Visit Orlando](#) and [Visit Florida](#) for more information.

RE
MIN
D
For A better life

WORLD TOURISM DAY

September 27



Body & Mind
Wellness Club



Domino's Serves Up Opportunity for a Wekiva H.S. Student Starting a New Job

The CFHLA wants to thank the [Domino's Pizza located in Winter Garden on Stoneybrook West Parkway](#) for serving up a fresh career opportunity. Apollo Gonzalez-Miguel is a [Wekiva High School Academy of Culinary Arts](#) student.

Apollo recently started working with the national pizza chain right here in Central Florida. He is learning to make pizzas and other menu items and to ring out customers at the cash register. The high school student is also learning how to solve problems and to offer the best customer service. He will be able to bake these skills and experiences into his career over time.

CFHLA recognizes and thanks Cindy Traenkner and Amy Walsh for their partnership with Chef Christopher Bates, who inspires students in the Academy of Culinary Arts

Program. Congratulations Apollo on spinning your new opportunity to tasty, new heights!



Wyndham Orlando Resort Will Host Blood Drive Oct 3rd

Did you know that only 3% of those who are eligible to donate blood, actually do it? Here is your chance to give the gift of life. [Wyndham Orlando Resort and Conference Center](#) in Celebration, FL will host a blood drive on Thursday, October 3rd from 8 AM to 1 PM. This blood drive is in partnership with [OneBlood](#). Blood drives sponsored by CFHLA partners have saved thousands of lives all across Florida in recent years.

All donors at the October 3rd blood drive will receive a \$20 E-Gift Card, a pair of OneBlood socks, and a wellness check up including blood pressure, pulse, body temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Appointments are preferred, and you can click on the blue and white flyer below to get more information on how to make an appointment. You can also just walk up to the [Big Red Bus](#) parked at the resort to give the gift of life.

DONATE BLOOD

Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Area Celebration Area
Thursday, October 3
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

All donors will receive*:
- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Socks**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.

Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 68206**

ID REQUIRED
*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information, please visit oneblood.org/donate.

oneblood
Share your power

Dr. Phillips Center Hosts Hospitality Night on Oct 7 with Lyle Lovett and His Large Band

LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND



The [Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts](#) will host Hospitality Night on October 7, 2024. Lyle Lovett and His Large Band will perform in Steinmetz Hall in the heart of downtown Orlando. Hospitality Industry employees who show their ID at the box office 90 minutes before the show can purchase tickets at the discounted price of \$49.50 per ticket.

A singer, composer and actor, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers.

[Click Here for More Info and to Purchase Tickets](#)

NEW TO THE CITY, NOT TO PLANTS.

Elevate your hotel's atmosphere with us.



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



Graham Parker
[Hilton Vacation Club Aqua Sol Orlando West](#)



Melanie Becker
[Universal Orlando](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- [CARES Collection Drive \(9/30/2024 to 10/3/2024\)](#)
- [Foundation Board Meeting \(10/1/2024\)](#)
- [Halloween Golf Open Committee Meeting \(10/1/2024\)](#)
- [PAC/PC Meeting \(10/2/2024\)](#)
- [Seminar #4 - Leadership Development Series \(10/3/2024\)](#)
- [Allied Relations Council Board Meeting \(10/8/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday AM Leads Group Meeting \(10/9/2024\)](#)
- [Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(10/9/2024\)](#)
- [Diversity Committee Meeting \(10/9/2024\)](#)

[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.CFHLA.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.