



Public Media
Issues & Voices that Matter

**Commentary
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As we scramble putting together the final pieces for our seventh annual Cops 'n Cars for Kids Car Show, it's become clear this event is big. Very, very big. What started out as a small-time show to raise a little money for charity has grown into a huge annual event that will enable more people than ever – including kids with cancer, people with special needs and local youth and families -- to reap the benefits of what we know will be another fun and inspiring family day of fun.

We feel sure those who have attended the Cops 'n Cars for Kids car show in the past will come back this year because they know how much fun it is! Each year, it has grown and this year, we expect 6,000 or more folks from all over Central Florida to come to the Oviedo Mall on January 21 to check it out.

If you're wondering what Cops 'n Cars for Kids is, let me enlighten you. In partnership with the Oviedo-Winter Springs Optimist Club and the Oviedo and Winter Springs Police Departments, it is an event that is free to attend, where you can wander around for hours and check out the numerous antique and unique law enforcement vehicles as well as privately-owned muscle cars. In the end, you'll be able to stick around to see which cars were ranked the best by a panel of judges.

For those who may not fancy cars, there's plenty for you to do as well. Besides vendors with all that food you swore off in your new year's resolution, there is a kids' zone where children can get their faces painted, the Central Florida Zoo will have animals to pet. There will be fire trucks and motorcycles and K-9 demonstrations. And if you've been meaning to donate blood, the Big Red Bus from the Central Florida Blood Bank will be on site. The list of activities goes on. It's going to be a great day.

Putting together this show has been a lot of hard work. Behind the scenes, it's been nothing short of exhausting, yet we all pitch in and laugh through our exhaustion. Last week, I was lying in bed going over a mental list of what needed to be done the next day and fretting that it may not all fit into my schedule. My husband then reminded me that I am a board member of the Optimist Club and the people with whom I've been working on this show for months are also Optimists and that's just what we do. Optimists take care of their community. And this project – a car show – is going to make a difference because kids and our community matter.