

# CENTRAL Florida

## > Lake Nona

The development, home to Medical City, is helping to transform central Florida's economy.



Lake Nona is home to a Nemours children's hospital, Sanford-Burnham and UF and M.D. Anderson research institutes.

**The year just past marked a milestone** for the evolution of central Florida's economy. At Lake Nona, the Nemours Children's Hospital opened, and Lake Nona's developers announced deals with corporate heavyweights GE, Cisco and Johnson & Johnson that will brand Lake Nona nationally as a nexus for medical research and a community to watch.

The man behind the vision that has shaped Lake Nona — Joe Lewis — and his investment company, Tavistock Group, own businesses and property worldwide,

including Lake Nona and the exclusive Isleworth development in Orlando, where Lewis has a home.

Lewis was the linchpin in Jeb Bush's initiative to implant a bioscience industry in Florida. Blindsided by Scripps Institute's decision to locate in Palm Beach County, Lewis retrenched and quietly went about creating a bioscience core on the Lake Nona property. He and Tavistock executives put together a set of deals that created a "Medical City" at Lake Nona that now includes

the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, UCF's College of Medicine, a UF research institute, an M.D. Anderson research institute and the Nemours hospital.

The nation's biggest VA hospital will open on the site late this year. In the meantime, 2012 established Lewis and Lake Nona firmly as the key drivers in the emergence of a true, three-dimensional regional economy that no longer derives its identity predominantly from the world of theme park tourism.