

Winter Park Update

December 2020 through February 2021

vision Winter Park is the city of arts and culture, cherishing its traditional scale and charm while building a healthy and sustainable future for all generations.

Mayor's Message

What a year

Safe to say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other, including even our personal interactions. The normal handshake or hug has turned into fist bumps and elbow taps. Our smiles are now only seen through the expression of our eyes. Speaking from a podium wearing a mask, to an audience of attendees "masked-up" is quite an experience. COVID has challenged us and COVID has changed us. But COVID has also proven our resilience and exposed our compassion for one another.

In March, as we all started learning about the virus, the city took its first steps in response to the pandemic to ensure the safety of our residents and guests. We canceled large events and programs, closed City Hall, city facilities, playgrounds, gyms and parks. All public meetings went from in-person to virtual and we all learned how to conduct city business by talking to one another in small squares on our computer screens.

As the virus took hold of our normal lives and we were learning more about how easily COVID is transmitted, the city began creating non-traditional ways to offer safe programming and services. The development of online classes and payment processes, implementing free Wi-Fi in Central Park, moving the Saturday Farmers' Market to Central Park West Meadow to allow for vendors and patrons to safely space out, and encouraging outdoor activities at our parks, were all safe ways to feel normal and escape the pandemic paralysis.

In April, through efforts to assist the physical and financial needs of our community, the City Commission and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board approved \$1.9 million in funds to help during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. These funds helped pay utility bills, we reduced our electric fuel rates, and offered free meals via partnerships with Second Harvest Food Bank and Feed the Need Florida.

As the state began to slowly reopen, so did we. Our resilience continued to surface. In May, we held our first socially distant shopping and dining experience when we closed the roads to allow for restaurants and businesses to expand their space to the outdoors. June saw the start of the reopening of City Hall and other city facilities.

In August, the CRA approved another \$500k to support economic recovery efforts, and shortly thereafter, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce created an Economic Recovery Task Force. The city joined the chamber and 10 other organizations with the mission to rank and vet mitigation strategies to promote the city's economic recovery.

From this effort the city has created and implemented many safe events such as Movies in the Park, Music in the Park, musical outdoor concerts, sidewalk sales, and monthly road closures to allow for socially distant shopping and dining.

Winter Park is a strong city filled with residents and businesses that come together during times of need. Thank you to all of our stakeholders and especially our city staff, for your commitment and resilience. I wish you all continued good health as we continue through the holiday season.

Sincerely, Mayor Steve Leary

Vote for your favorite holiday window

The City of Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency and Electric Utility Department are proud to bring back the Holiday Window Contest. As Winter Park learns new ways to thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic, the city is eager to present safe, socially distanced opportunities for guests to enjoy as they also support local merchants and dining establishments. The new Holiday Window Contest will feature participating Park Avenue, Hannibal Square and surrounding area merchants as they transform their storefronts into works of art with fun and festive holiday displays.

The public is invited to judge the windows via a simple QR code, or by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/HWC, from Friday, November 27, through Thursday, December 31. Participating merchants will display a numbered window sign with the QR code so that guests can scan and submit their top selection during the voting time period. The first and second place merchants will receive a \$500 and \$250 electric utility bill credit, respectively, generously provided by the city's Electric Utility Department. Winners will also be announced by the city the week of January 4, 2021.

While guests are visiting the area to enjoy the holiday window displays, they are also encouraged to stroll by the windows of the former Gap location at the southeast corner of Park and Lyman avenues. These windows have been decorated by members of the city's Arts & Culture Alliance in promotion of their mission to enhance and improve awareness and visibility of the non-profit arts and culture organizations within the City of Winter Park limits, which offer programming to the public.

For more information about participating in the Holiday Window Contest, merchants can visit cityofwinterpark.org/HWCregister or email HWC@cityofwinterpark.org.

2021 Mayoral Election Schedule

qualifying » begins Monday 01.11.21 @ noon
ends Tuesday 01.19.21 @ noon

general election » Tuesday 03.09.21

run-off election » Tuesday 04.13.21 [if necessary]

more info » cityofwinterpark.org/elections | cityclerk@cityofwinterpark.org | [407-599-3277](tel:407-599-3277)

City Hall will be closed

noon Thursday, December 24, thru Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas

Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day

Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

City Manager's Report

Topping Out Ceremony

At the end of October, the city and its partners celebrated an important milestone in the construction of its state-of-the-art, 21st century Winter Park Library & Events Center, led by Adjaye Associates as design architect with HuntonBrady as executive architect. The official Topping Out Ceremony was held October 30 at the construction site located at 1052 W. Morse Blvd.

The city's selection of Sir David Adjaye as design architect reflects Winter Park's commitment to creating not just a library or events center but a new campus that is transformational, multi-purpose, and a true community asset. This project will further elevate the strong cultural, recreational, and educational landscape in Winter Park while establishing new economic and social opportunities through the events center facility.

City officials were joined by representatives from:

- Winter Park Public Library
- Pizzuti Solutions, Owner's Representative, Project Manager
- Adjaye Associates, Design Architect
- HuntonBrady, Principal Architect
- Brasfield & Gorrie, General Contractor
- Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Donor
- AdventHealth, Donor

Construction began in March 2020 and has remained on schedule despite the pandemic. The signing and hoisting of a beam are common practices dating back thousands of years with some tales describing origins from the pre-dark age Scandinavian cultures, some refer to Native American practices, and others to 2700 BC Egypt.

Ceremonially, this custom celebrates the construction process reaching this milestone of completing the skeleton of the building. The steel beam is symbolic of the uppermost steel piece going into place and the structure has reached its height. The flag symbolizes our workers pride and patriotism, and together, this ceremony symbolizes good luck for future occupants, and new and continued growth of the project.

Thank you to our residents, construction team and community for helping us reach this milestone. We look forward to the expected grand opening in fall 2021. [#LiveLearnWP](#)

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

Celebrating the holidays

Hear ye! Hear ye!

Winter Park is still celebrating the holidays!

It'll just be done a little differently this year. To keep our community safe, our annual holiday events are modified to adhere to recommended COVID-19 safety precautions.

Memories of Christmas in the Park

December 3 @ 6-8:30 p.m.

10-min. video loop presentation | Central Park Main Stage

Winter on the Avenue

December 4 @ 5-9 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting @ sunset

Popcorn Flicks in the Park @ 7 p.m.*

Central Park & Park Avenue

Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade

December 5 @ 9 a.m.* [attendee reservations required]

Park & New England avenues [adjusted route]

A Classic Christmas featuring the Bach Festival Society

December 5 @ 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.*

prerecorded performance | Central Park Main Stage

Holiday Pops featuring Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

December 6 @ 5 p.m.*

Central Park Main Stage

Park Avenue District Holiday Market

December 11 @ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

Central Park West Meadow

Music in the Park

December 11, 18, 19 & 26 & January 2 @ 6-9 p.m.*

Central Park

Rollins Christmas Vespers

December 12 @ 5-6:30 p.m.*

Central Park Main Stage

Winter Park Holiday Boat Parade

December 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lake Virginia floating by Dinky Dock Park

Holiday Celebration

December 22-24 @ 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. [appointments required]

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art

***reservations** are recommended for these holiday events

Quick Tip: Going out of town?

To request an officer to check on your home while you are away, please contact the Winter Park Police Department non-emergency line @ [407-644-1313](tel:407-644-1313).

A few holiday safety tips

- Always park in well-lit areas and lock your vehicle.
- Never leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle, especially a purse or packages. Put them in your trunk rather than covering up with a towel or under a seat.
- Always pay attention to your surroundings, travel in numbers when possible, and try not to walk alone while talking on your cell phone.
- Report any suspicious person(s) via 911 if a situation is currently happening.

Public Hearings

Planning & Zoning Board 12.01.20 @ 6 p.m.

City Commission 01.13.21 @ 3:30 p.m.

Goodlives, LLC

request consider rezoning from Commercial/C-3 to Central Business District/C-2; construct an 11,245-square-foot, three-story building with 22 surface parking spaces and four new public parking spaces (14,069 gross square feet including covered parking/front porch/balcony)

required Comprehensive Plan amendments & Conditional Use approval

location 301 N. New York Ave.

Henderson Hotel

request vacating a portion of Killarney Drive and Fairview Avenue; construction of a 5-story, 132-room hotel at 129,100 sq. ft. in size, and a 235-space parking garage with one floor of underground parking; a park on the prospective 2.99 acres of property bounded by Lake Killarney, Beachview, Grove and Fairview avenues

required Comprehensive Plan amendments & Conditional Use approval

location 250 Killarney Drive

Quick Tip: Waste Pro® Services

Christmas Day > no household garbage, yard waste, or recycling

New Year's Day > no household garbage or yard waste; recycling WILL be collected

Watch videos

See how the City of Winter Park works hard to "Make Every Day Exceptional" for our residents and guests.

vimeo.com/winterparkfla/collections & youtube.com/winterparkfla/playlists

A virtual Veterans Day

Although the city did not host its annual in-person Veterans Day celebration this year due to COVID-19, it did produce a virtual tribute to honor our veterans. Please enjoy this patriotic acknowledgment of those who have served our country by accessing the home page at cityofwinterpark.org any time from an electronic device.

Have you tried these out yet?

cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest allows users to easily submit questions and requests for city services right from their mobile device or computer. Upon submission, requests will be routed to the appropriate city department to address.

Users can also search through Frequently Asked Questions. Examples of what can be reported via @YourRequest are:

- potholes
- streetlight outages
- non-emergency issues
- code compliance concerns
- broken or cracked sidewalks
- power outages (or call 1-877-811-8700)
- repairs or maintenance of city facilities/amenities

Please remember that this service is for non-emergency questions and requests only. Call 911 for all emergency-related calls. Winter Park – always @YourRequest.

cityofwinterpark.org/self-service provides a more streamlined electronic permit submittal process for applicants as well as offers city staff more efficient tools in the plans review and inspection process.

This new Self-Service Portal makes submitting, applying for or renewing things easier than ever before. Examples of what users can submit are:

- variance requests
- tree removal permits
- inspection requests
- boat dock permits
- business certificates

If an in-person visit to City Hall is needed, guests will be greeted by an entirely new Building & Permitting Services lobby that offers a more spacious and welcoming environment, complete with self-service kiosks.

City staff looks forward to guiding you through this more efficient and easier to use platform.

Advisory board & City Commission meetings

Due to limited seating capacity at each meeting site, members of the public are highly encouraged to participate virtually. For those who prefer to attend in-person, early arrival is recommended. The following guidelines will be followed to allow for safe, socially-distant attendance:

meetings with a maximum of 50 in-person attendees*

Winter Park Community Center @ 721 W. New England Ave.

meetings with a maximum of 20 in-person attendees*

City Hall Commission Chambers @ 401 S. Park Ave.

* If a meeting meets maximum capacity at the site, the public can join virtually by registering online. If, however, the preference is to physically attend after maximum capacity has been met, the person(s) will be required to wait outside the meeting room to be called upon by city staff at the time they desire to speak.

until further notice the following will apply

- All regular meetings for the Planning & Zoning Advisory Board and
- City Commission will be held at the Winter Park Community Center.
- All works sessions for the City Commission will be held virtually.

safety precautions for in-person meetings

- Face coverings must be worn at all times by city staff and attendees.
- All attendees must be seated at least 6' apart from individuals and/or other parties.
- Hand sanitizers will be available for use.

public comment process

- The public can "Request to Speak" using the online registration for the virtual audience or by filling out a hard-copy form for those attending in-person.
- For those physically lining-up to speak, speakers will need to maintain the required social-distancing space.

note Meetings are audio and video recorded for public record purposes.

virtual registration & public comment » cityofwinterpark.org/cclive

Thank you for helping keep our public meetings productive and safe.

It's all about community

Watering reminders

The Water & Wastewater Utilities Department has issued its annual water restrictions reminder to the city's water customers. ALL water customers are required to abide by the guidelines of the St. Johns River Water Management District water use restriction, Section 40C-21.631 F.A.C.

- Irrigation between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. is PROHIBITED.
- ODD numbered addresses OR properties with NO addresses MAY water Saturday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- EVEN numbered addresses MAY water on Sunday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Non-residential properties MAY water on Tuesday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Properties with new lawns or landscaping are EXEMPT from the restriction for the first 30 DAYS.
- Residents using private wells or pumps for irrigation, ground or surface water, AND water from public and private utilities, MUST comply with the St. Johns River Water Management District's Restriction.
- Water only when necessary to meet landscaping needs and NOT between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Water no more than one hour per zone, or ¾" per zone per day.

Violation of these water restrictions may result in a fine or other enforcement action. For more information, please contact [1-800-232-0904](tel:1-800-232-0904) or access St. Johns River Water Management District at sjrwmd.com.

Fertilize correctly

Plants need nutrients to grow and typically get them from the soil, but sometimes organic or synthetic fertilizers are needed to help them along. Fertilizers must be used properly and carefully to avoid pollution of our waterways and groundwater – everything is connected.

Helpful tips to keep your yard beautiful and our lakes clean:

- Always follow the label directions when using any pesticide.
- No fertilizer or grass clippings shall be deposited on streets, driveways or in storm drains.
- Never use fertilizer within 15 feet of a lake, pond, water body, ditch or stream.
- Check weather forecasts before applying any outdoor pesticides, and refrain from using them if windy conditions exist, or if rain is expected within 24 to 48 hours.
- Clean up any spills immediately.
- Always dispose of unwanted pesticides at an approved household hazardous waste facility.
- Choose phosphorus-free fertilizer. Florida soils hold phosphorus very well, and rarely need any to be added.
- If using fertilizer with nitrogen, it must be at least 50% slow-release.
- When using a broadcast spreader, it must have spray/deflector shields to keep fertilizers off of paved surfaces.
- Unless the applicator has taken an online training course, fertilizer should not be applied during the restricted season from June 1 through September 30.

More information about the proper use of fertilizer can be found by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/lakes or City Ordinance 3180-20 [adopted August 2020].

City Commission

Mayor Steve Leary, Commissioner Marty Sullivan, Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Carolyn Cooper and Commissioner Todd Weaver

City Commission meetings are held monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Who to contact

commission & administration

City Commission	407-599-3234
City Manager Randy Knight	407-599-3235
Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuner	407-599-3236
City Clerk Rene Cranis	407-599-3277
City Information	407-599-3399
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	407-644-1212
Police Non-Emergency	407-644-1313

department directors

Building & Permitting Services George Wiggins	407-599-3237
Communications Clarissa Howard	407-599-3343
Electric Utility Dan D'Alessandro	407-599-3294
Finance Wes Hamil	407-599-3292
Fire-Rescue Chief Dan Hagedorn	407-599-3297
Information Technology Parsram Rajaram	407-599-3432
Parks & Recreation Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Transportation Bronce Stephenson	407-599-3440
Police Chief Michael Deal	407-599-3272
Public Works Troy Attaway	407-599-3233
Water & Wastewater Utilities David Zusi	407-599-3219

Email addresses can be found at cityofwinterpark.org/contact

outages

Power & Street Light Outages	1-877-811-8700
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helpful info

The Winter Park Update is published quarterly with a circulation of approximately 16,500, including both residents and businesses. To suggest article ideas, please contact [407-599-3343](tel:407-599-3343) or choward@cityofwinterpark.org.

City of Winter Park | [401 S. Park Ave.](http://401.S.Park.Ave.) | Winter Park, FL 32789