

Winter Park Update

March through May 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

A decade in review

It has been an honor to serve as the 54th Mayor of the City of Winter Park. Prior to my serving the past six years as Mayor, I served four years in Seat 1 on the City Commission. I am fortunate to have followed, and served with, many dedicated elected officials that have contributed to our progress these past 10 years.

I would especially like to thank my immediate predecessor Mayor Ken Bradley for his vision to build our rainy-day fund. We began this fiscal year with 30% of our General Fund in reserve, due to Mayor Bradley's goal and past commission's budgetary restraint. In addition, former Commissioners and Mayors Brewer, Hotard, Johnston, Marchman, Terranova and Trovillion have always been great sounding boards for me. I'm very thankful for Congressman John Mica, Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon and Senate President Andy Gardiner who have all assisted in moving forward some of our major improvements such as the Howell Branch Preserve, Fairbanks Transmission Line Undergrounding, Amtrak Station and others. The three projects I note totaled more than \$20 million and were all paid for with state and/or federal dollars.

I have served the past two years as the Chairman of the Orange County Council of Mayors and wish to thank other local leaders for their support. We are only as good as our neighbors, and we all work well to build a better whole.

Lastly, when functioning properly, your City Commission works with staff to set objectives, develop strategies, and set a budget to run Winter Park on a daily basis and plan for a brilliant future. We ask City Manager Randy Knight, Fire Chief Dan Hagedorn and Police Chief Michael Deal to work with 500+ professionals that represent us every day to manage these budgets and plans. These men and women take great pride in Winter Park, and I take great pride in calling them friends. Thank you for your continued support.

Highlights of the past 10 years

2011

- Downtown Winter Park Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Winter Park certified as a Green Local Government at the Gold level.
- Completed the 2.7-mile Lake Baldwin Trail in partnership with the City of Orlando.
- Opened the new, state-of-the-art LEED-certified Winter Park Community Center.
- Removed user fees on our dog-friendly, waterfront Lake Baldwin Park.

2012

- Celebrated the city's 125th Anniversary.
- Completed the Urban Land Institute TAPS panel U.S. Highway 17-92 and Fairbanks Avenue corridor study.
- Interlachen Avenue Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Celebrated the grand reopening of the Winter Park Country Club Pro Shop.
- Celebrated the grand opening of the new Winter Park Community Center Pool.

- Celebrated the grand reopening of City Hall, made possible by a stimulus grant from the federal government.
- Dedicated the Winter Park Fallen Heroes Memorial paying tribute to lives lost on 9/11.

2013

- Celebrated the opening of the The Alford Inn at Rollins.
- Dedicated Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

2014

- Welcomed home Lt. Chuck Nadd with a Hometown Hero Welcome Parade featured in a Superbowl® commercial.
- Installed solar panels at the Public Works Compound, the city's first solar energy project.
- Celebrated the grand opening of the city's new Winter Park Train Station, serving both Amtrak® and SunRail®.
- Dedicated "The Peacock Project" fountain in Central Park Rose Garden designed by John Michael Thomas.
- Developed the city's first Urban Forestry Management Plan to ensure a multi-generation healthy tree canopy.

2015

- Launched the Vision Winter Park process.
- Dedicated the Shady Park Pavilion in honor of Dr. Mitchell L. Dawkins, Sr.
- Adopted the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Received \$400,000 in state funds for improvements to Lake Lillian in Mead Botanical Garden.
- Demolished 2600 Lee Road (Club Harem), property purchased by the city in 2014.

2016

- Celebrated the grand reopening of the Winter Park Golf Course, a.k.a, the WP9.
- Opened the Lee Road extension, a road improvement project funded by the neighboring developer.
- Renovated and reopened Showalter Stadium.
- Began work on Quiet Zones at all Winter Park railroad crossings.
- Referendum passed for \$30 million in bonds for the Winter Park Library & Events Center.
- Renovated the Ward Park restrooms.
- Acquired the Fairbanks bowling property for future roadway improvements.

2017

- Began the Denning Drive Multi-Use Trail Project from Orange to Fairbanks avenues.
- Acquired 50+ acres of Howell Creek wetlands for natural park with \$2 million funded by the state.
- Approved funding for a fiber optic network that will connect our traffic signals and other city assets.
- Began work on the St. Andrews Trail, a \$2 million project funded by the state.
- Began the Community Paramedicine Program.
- Launched new Police Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

2018

- Planted a new 20-foot red cedar holiday tree.
- Funded the Mead Botanical Garden Habitat Enhancement Project.
- Launched the Family Fun Program of the Parks & Recreation Department.
- Began undergrounding power lines along West Fairbanks Avenue, a \$16+ million project funded by the state.
- Opened newly renovated Fire Station 64 on Howell Branch Road.

- Celebrated the city's arts & cultural organizations by hosting the inaugural "Weekend of the Arts" event.

2019

- Completed Denning Drive Multi-Use Trail Project from Orange to Webster avenues.
- Celebrated the grand reopening of Azalea Lane Playground.
- Celebrated the grand reopening of the Winter Park Tennis Center.
- Celebrated the Center for Health & Wellbeing's grand opening.
- Opened the new Charles H. Morse Park Moonlight Garden.
- Installed a new geothermal pump at the Cady Way Pool allowing year-round swim.
- Installed new lake buoys to help mitigate unsafe boating activity on the lakes.

2020

- Completed the undergrounding of transmission and distribution lines on West Fairbanks Avenue.
- Completed Quiet Zones at all railroad crossings throughout the city.
- Celebrated Winter Park Library & Events Center official Topping Out Ceremony.
- Planted nearly 200 native trees as part of the Mead Botanical Garden Wetland Restoration.
- Beautified and enhanced the habitat in Ward Park.
- Started a new educational fund in memory of WPPD Lieutenant Stanford Locke.
- Approved \$2.8 million for improvements to Ward Park sports fields and Mead Botanical Garden.
- COVID related assistance:
 - » Approved \$1.9 million for community support, including Feed the Need and utility assistance.
 - » Approved \$500K for business assistance in partnership with the Economic Recovery Task Force.
 - » Secured \$1.3 million in CARES ACT reimbursement funds.

Sincerely, Mayor Steve Leary

Library & Events Center update

Significant progress is being made with the city's new Winter Park Library & Events Center. Emerging above the construction site fence, passersby can see the pre-cast concrete exterior panels that have been installed on each building.

The third structure facing Morse Boulevard, known as the porte-cochere, serves as a covered entrance to both facilities to welcome guests in their vehicles or on foot prior to entry.

Behind the buildings with a beautiful view of the lake, is the formation of The Landing – an outdoor tiered amphitheater where weddings, events and even reading or relaxation will soon take place. In addition, the Events Center Rooftop Terrace is taking form, offering picturesque skyline views of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and beyond.

The Events Center Reservations Office is now open so future brides, meeting and event planners, and the community can visit to start booking their special events at the facility. The office is located in City Hall West Wing at 401 S. Park Ave. and open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reservations can be made by contacting [407-599-3571](tel:407-599-3571) or eventscenter@cityofwinterpark.org.

Despite the pandemic, the city is on schedule to celebrate the grand opening of the Winter Park Library & Events Center at the end of the year. Please access winterparkeventscenter.org for the most updated information about this exciting new facility. #LiveLearnWP

Welcome, Dr. Maulfair

The Fire-Rescue Department welcomes Dr. Mitchell Maulfair, D.O., as their new Medical Director. He is responsible for the development, revision and implementation of emergency medical policies and procedures, as well as ensuring effective emergency medical care is provided to every Winter Park resident in need.

Dr. Maulfair has been a practicing Emergency Medicine Physician in central Florida for 25 years. He and his wife Melanie moved to Winter Park in 1994 and have raised their three children in our beautiful city.

It's time to spring forward

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday 03.14.2021

- » Move clocks forward one hour before bedtime.
- » Change the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- » Switch your sprinklers to two days a week.

City Manager's Report 2020 Employees of the Year

High-quality city services are provided 24/7, 365 days a year by over 500 devoted city employees. Even through the peaks of the pandemic, we held true to that commitment as we safely navigated the waves of COVID and adjusted our precautions as needed. Our residents have expressed appreciation in many ways, whether it is a complimentary email, a nice note mailed, or a simple verbal "thank you," all of which are very much appreciated. I believe all 500+ employees deserve Employee of the Year – especially for 2020. Representing them and in keeping with our annual tradition, I would like to highlight three that have not only kept our city safe but also worked tirelessly to manage city projects, large and small.

Brenda Moody Capital Improvement Project/Grant Administrator, Public Works

Over her 35 years of service, Brenda Moody has worked in many roles throughout the city. Currently, in her position with the Public Works Department, she serves as the lead construction manager for our new 21st century, state-of-the-art Winter Park Library & Events Center. Since breaking ground in March 2020, the project is on schedule to be completed fall 2021.

Brenda has been working diligently on this project for several years. She has committed herself to accurately and efficiently tracking all aspects of the high-profile project while keeping city staff up-to-date on the many varying facets involved with a construction project of this size. Her work has included responding to public records request, owner purchase items, detailed construction logs, and scheduling, to name a few.

Brenda's vast knowledge of the event business, after many years in parks and recreation management, has been invaluable to ensure the city gets a beautiful and fully-functional facility that will serve Winter Park's needs for years to come. She has successfully developed a sales office for the events center to begin the booking of future events. One particular item that Brenda went "above and beyond" on was the compilation of a several thousand-page audit documenting every facet of the Library & Events Center project development from its inception.

Brenda's upbeat, always helpful attitude and team spirit are tremendous assets to the city. Congratulations, Brenda! Thank you for your tireless dedication to our city.

David Hughes Firefighter/Paramedic

Firefighter/Paramedic David Hughes began his career with the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department in May 2016. He is currently assigned to Station 61, where he consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and the ability to be an effective leader. David implements a high degree of detail in all his work and continually sets the bar higher for others to follow. He puts forth the extra time and effort when it is not always convenient or easy to do.

One of the strongest attributes that helps David succeed as a paramedic is his empathetic demeanor as a medical provider. He treats his patients with dignity, respect and fairness, regardless of the situation, time of day, or the events that may have taken place prior to his arrival. His supervisors describe his work as highly effective, accurate and professional. In addition, his initiative and willingness to teach others is why he was recently chosen to be a fire department preceptor. As a preceptor, David will serve an integral role in setting the foundation for future paramedics.

David has expressed his desire to rise through the department ranks and he recently completed the first step in doing so by obtaining his state Fire Officer 1 & 2 certificates. These credentials will allow him to succeed in his goal as he prepares for upcoming promotional opportunities.

These recent accomplishments are indicative of David's professional work ethic, strong character and dedication to the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department. Thank you for your hard work, David, and congratulations!

Aaron Stephenson Officer, Uniform Patrol

Officer Aaron Stephenson began his career with Winter Park in 2015. Over the last five years, he has developed into one of the city's best and hardest working officers. In addition to being very proactive on patrol, Officer Stephenson is always professional and courteous. Numerous compliments and commendations have been received from city residents and visitors in regard to his professional service. He has also been nominated for this award by many of his peers, being described as an officer who is courageous and kind.

Officer Stephenson's initiative was demonstrated last year when he responded to a call regarding suspicious activity of an adult with minors. Normally, these types of cases are turned over to the Criminal Investigations Section for them to address. However, Officer Stephenson took the initiative to follow through on this case himself. He was able to develop probable cause to arrest the suspect on multiple charges, including false imprisonment, lewd and lascivious molestation, simple battery, and deprivation of family custody.

Officer Stephenson also diligently made three warrant arrests on three separate cases in November 2020. The first day, he located and arrested a subject who had an active arrest warrant and was being sought by the U.S. Marshals Service for robbery out of Alachua County. The next day, he located and arrested a subject with an Orange County active warrant for sale and delivery of cocaine. And on the third day, Officer Stephenson located and arrested a subject with a Winter Park active warrant for aggravated battery.

These cases are just a few examples of the brave, proactive approach Officer Stephenson takes to keep our community safe. He works extremely hard each and every day serving as one of our heroes. Thank you for your service to our community. Congratulations, Officer Stephenson!

Please help me congratulate these outstanding city employees.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

2021 Mayoral Election

candidates » Phillip Anderson, Jr. and Sarah Sprinkel

general election » Tuesday 03.09.21

early voting » 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday 03.01.21 thru Friday 03.05.21

[only @ Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office @ [119 W. Kaley St.](#)]

vote-by-mail & drop-off ballots »

must physically be @ Orange County Supervisor of Elections office no later than Tuesday 03.09.21 by 7 p.m. [postmarks do not count]

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

ocfelections.com [Orange County Office of Elections]

We need your input

The city is working on an update to its 2015 Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) that includes goals, long-term objectives, measurable indicators and short-term actions for seven categories:

- 1 Buildings, Energy & Water
- 2 Community Engagement & Green Economy
- 3 Local Food & Agriculture
- 4 Local Government Operations
- 5 Mobility & Urban Form
- 6 Natural Systems & Resources
- 7 Waste Diversion & Recycling

Over the next several months, the Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board will be holding monthly virtual work sessions with the city's advisory boards to discuss and build the framework for the SAP update. Public comment is welcome.

Please complete this short survey before Monday, May 31, to share what items you would like prioritized in the city's SAP update. The survey can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability by clicking the **Action Plan Survey button**.

Need to report a power outage? [877-811-8700](tel:877-811-8700) or cityofwinterpark.org/powerout

It's all about community

Resources devoted to Winter Park's history

The city celebrates, honors and treasures its history in many ways. Within its 10 square miles, the city is home to two history museums, the Winter Park History Museum and Hannibal Square Heritage Center. In addition, the Winter Park Public Library has an extensive archival collection that preserves historical documents, artifacts and photos. Each of these organizations share the love for Winter Park's rich history for the community to enjoy.

History is also exemplified in its buildings and homes. Nestled along the northern edge of downtown Winter Park is Casa Feliz Historic Home & Museum. This home was built in 1933 in the Andalusian Cortijo style by Architect James Gamble Rogers II. In 2001 the community came together to save the

house from demolition and carefully moved the home in its entirety from its original location at 656 N. Interlachen Ave., to its new home on North Park Avenue. The home was restored and now is home to many weddings, musical performances, art gatherings, and other cultural activities.

Similarly, in 2013, the community once again came together to save another home, the historic Capen House, from demolition. The 200-ton building was cut in half, nicknamed Fred and Ginger, then floated separately across Lake Osceola to its new home at the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens on Osceola Avenue. The 4,200-square-foot home is now a place where history, artwork and collections from The Polasek are showcased, in addition to hosting workshops, meetings and special events.

The city values its history and has a Historic Preservation Ordinance as well as a citizen advisory board. The Historic Preservation Board is responsible for the development and administration of a comprehensive historic preservation program. Members are tasked to identify and maintain the city's historic resources for the benefit of past and future residents, and ultimately give advice and recommendations to the City Commission related to historic preservation. For more information about this board, please access cityofwinterpark.org > [Government](#) > [Boards](#) > [Historic Preservation Board](#).

With the help of city staff and the Historic Preservation Board, homes, districts and institutions can apply for designation to be placed on the Local and National Register Listings. For more information regarding historic preservation, please access cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation and stay tuned for updates on the city's social media --channels. During the month of May the city celebrated Historic Preservation Month honoring the importance of preservation. Winter Park has approximately 200 historic homes within the College Quarter and Virginia Heights historic districts listed on the Winter Park Register of Historic Places.

Do You Know Me?

The Winter Park Police Department is pleased to offer a program to assist our citizens with special needs. The "Do You Know Me?" Program is designed to expedite the safe return of persons with special needs to their loved ones and provide valuable information during responses to their home.

The program consists of a database that allows you to enroll and submit identifying information of the person and specify their special needs. It can also provide additional instructions that can help our first responders better understand how to interact with them. Once the information is received, it will be stored in a database visible only to police and fire-rescue personnel. The database will then become an additional tool to be used when first responders encounter someone who has been enrolled and in need of help, especially if that person is unable to verbally communicate.

To enroll in this program, please access wppd.org > [Featured Resources](#) > [Do You Know Me Program](#). If at any time you need to update or delete information about a previously entered individual, please contact Master Police Officer Jim Whitman at jwhitman@cityofwinterpark.org.

Acres of tranquility

Spring is a great time to visit beautiful and natural Mead Botanical Garden located at 1300 S. Denning Drive. From outdoor yoga classes to story time for children, and guided nature walks, Mead has exercise, education and 47-acres of fresh air for every age and interest.

For more information about Mead Botanical Garden offerings, please access meadgarden.org or call [407-622-6323](tel:407-622-6323).

Safely enjoy art experiences

In 2016, the city announced the official formation of the Arts & Culture Alliance. This Alliance is a hyperlocal initiative that joins non-profit arts and culture organizations within the City of Winter Park limits. Its sole mission is to enhance and improve awareness and visibility of the non-profit arts and culture organizations which offer programming to the public.

Alliance members have taken great strides to safely modify operations to inspire our community throughout the pandemic. In effort to continue to entertain, engage, educate and enhance quality of life, a variety of creative safety measures have been taken in addition to social distancing protocols by:

- bringing performances outdoors
- offering virtual experiences
- implementing a reservation system
- reducing capacity

The doors of the arts are open and your patronage in-person and/or virtually is essential and always appreciated. Please access wpinspires.org for an extensive listing of events and directory of the arts organizations in Winter Park. Enjoy the many safe ways you can support the arts and be inspired!
#WPinspires

Save these dates

Saturday, April 3

- what** easter bunny visits
when beginning @ 9 a.m.
where various routes throughout the city
info route information will be accessible @ cityofwinterpark.org/events

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be replaced again this year with bunny visits throughout Winter Park neighborhoods. The Easter Bunny will be accompanied by Parks & Recreation, Police and Fire-Rescue department escorts.

Thursday or Friday, May 6 or 7 & May 13 or 14

- what** spring cleanup
when after 5 p.m. the evening before your 2nd regularly scheduled trash pickup day
where north of Fairbanks/ Aloma avenues corridor {may 6 or 7}
south of Fairbanks/ Aloma avenues corridor {may 13 or 14}
info [407-774-0800](tel:407-774-0800)

This large-item pickup service will provide a 'bonus' day pick up for old furniture, broken appliances and other bulky items. {curbside service customers only}

please note yard waste and household hazardous waste {see date below} is NOT included in the Spring Cleanup.

Saturday, May 22

- what** household hazardous waste dropoff
when 8 a.m. to noon
where to be determined » for complete details, please check cityofwinterpark.org/events
info [407-599-3364](tel:407-599-3364)

E-waste collection, paper shredding, Urban Forestry tree giveaway, make-at-home projects from KWPB, Parks & Recreation Family Fun Program and Mead Garden, Inc. Face coverings and social distancing required. Residential only ~ no contractors, please.

Monday, May 31

- what** City Hall closed in observance of Memorial Day
- when** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For updates on things to enjoy, please access cityofwinterpark.org/events.

[due to COVID-19, many events are modified or rescheduled]

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](tel:1-877-811-8700)

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. | Winter Park, FL 32789](#)