

## Winter Park Update

### June through August 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

### Welcome to the start of summer!

As we gear up for summer, we look forward to the Fourth of July and celebrating our country's founding in 1776. However, there is another important date that many cities, companies and organizations have begun to formally celebrate – June 19, the date slavery officially ended in the United States. The City of Winter Park will be celebrating both June 19 and the 4th of July with two exciting events. We invite you to join us!

June 19, known as "Juneteenth," is an important date commemorating African American freedom. It was on June 19, 1865, that the last slaves in the U.S. were freed. Although President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation two and a half years earlier, it was not until 1865 that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to bring the news that the Civil War had ended and slavery had been abolished, a milestone that officially brought the end to the system of slavery.

Winter Park was founded in 1882, a mere 17 years later. In a historic advancement for the time, our city's founders set aside land for freed slaves to own their own land. That innovation created the Hannibal Square neighborhood, proudly named after the historic/ancient African general.

On **Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, Winter Park Public Library and city's Parks & Recreation Department are hosting the annual *Juneteenth Celebration: Knowing and Remembering* at the Winter Park Community Center, located at 721 W. New England Ave. This observance is free and open to the public.

In honor of Juneteenth, we also remember 19th-century residents Gus Henderson, Frank R. Israel and Walter B. Simpson. Gus Henderson was the Black owner and editor of the town's only newspaper, The Winter Park Advocate, as well as the owner of a thriving printing business. On October 12, 1887, Mr. Henderson was instrumental in our city's history, leading Hannibal Square residents to establish a quorum and winning the vote to "incorporate" the town into a self-governing city, including Hannibal Square, in its boundaries. At that same meeting, Frank R. Israel and Walter B. Simpson were elected as Winter Park's first Black aldermen from 1887 to 1893. These three gentlemen helped shape our city with their roots running far and deep in our Hannibal Square neighborhoods.

Also, next month, please make plans to celebrate our nation's Independence Day as we return to an in-person **4th of July Celebration** in Central Park. This year, the city will celebrate the 4th on **Monday, July 5, from 9 a.m. to noon**. Please access more details about both celebrations that commemorate our freedoms at [cityofwinterpark.org/events](http://cityofwinterpark.org/events).

Wishing you a safe and happy summer! Mayor Phil Anderson

## Winter Park is @YourRequest

Requesting city services has never been easier. If you see:

- potholes
- street-light outages

- non-emergency issues
- code compliance concerns
- broken or cracked sidewalks
- repairs or maintenance of city facilities/amenities

You can report these items by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest](http://cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest).

Please note: This service is for non-emergency questions and requests only. Please call [911](tel:911) for all emergency-related incidents.

## City Manager's Report

The construction of the new Winter Park Library & Events Center is on schedule, and we look forward to celebrating its grand opening at the end of this year.

Not only is the exterior of the buildings taking shape, but we can see tremendous progress being made on the interior structures as well. The monumental staircases at both facilities have been fabricated, delivered in separate pieces and carefully placed. In addition, installation of the raked tiers of the Tiedtke Amphitheater to host outdoor events and concerts have been formed, poured and are nearly complete. Trees have been planted in the designated areas around the surface parking lots which have been adorned with beautiful pavers.

In less than two months of opening the Events Center reservations office, the city is proud to announce the first wedding and first high school reunion (WPHS Class of 1972) have been booked! The reservations 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](mailto:eventscenter@cityofwinterpark.org).

If you are interested in learning about naming opportunities for available spaces, please call [407-599-3235](tel:407-599-3235).

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

**Need to report a power outage?** 1-877-811-8700 or [cityofwinterpark.org/powerout](http://cityofwinterpark.org/powerout)

## Thinking about going solar?

If you are interested in going solar at your home, the Solar United Neighbors of Florida Orange County Solar Co-op serving Winter Park residents is now open. There is no cost to join this solar co-op and no obligation to sign a contract. Co-op participants leverage bulk-purchasing power to get discounted pricing and a quality installation, while still signing individual contracts that ensure the right system for your home.

To learn more about this solar opportunity, you can sign up at [solarunitedneighbors.org/orange](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/orange) to attend a live, virtual information session scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, at 6 p.m.

More information about other opportunities offered by the city's sustainability program can be found by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability](http://cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability) or calling [407-599-3364](tel:407-599-3364).

## **Summer reading challenge**

The Winter Park Public Library kicked off summer with their "Tails & Tales" Summer Reading Challenge that began May 29. Readers of all ages can sign up and get reading to win prizes and help the library reach their goal of 10,000 books read this summer.

Reading is winning! Just log one book to be entered to win the grand prize in your age group. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win. For more information, please access [wppi.beanstack.org](http://wppi.beanstack.org) or call [407-623-3300](tel:407-623-3300).

## **Commissioner's Column**

### **A message from Commissioner Todd Weaver**

Greetings Winter Park friends and neighbors,

You'll notice there's been a change in the city's quarterly newsletter. Beginning this edition, the Commissioners will take turns penning the "Commissioners Column," and I have the honor to be first in rotation.

Your city staff and Commission have spent this spring working to set priorities for the coming year and beyond. As part of the American Rescue Plan, Federal funds have been earmarked for our city. By using these dollars to fund priority projects, we will be able to accomplish some important infrastructure upgrades while keeping our city's reserve fund intact.

These Federal dollars will enable us to help our still-struggling non-profits, make needed improvements to Dinky Dock Park and Mead Botanical Garden, as well as build a new Fire-Rescue Department training center.

We can continue the expansion of the underground fiber optic network and public WiFi in our parks. Other projects on the list include rebuilding the Central Park main stage; dredging the canals that connect our chain of lakes to improve navigability; installing some neighborhood traffic calming measures; repairing the roof on the current library building; enhancing cybersecurity for our city assets; and building a multi-use connector from the Denning trail to Mead Botanical Garden and the Orlando trail system.

On behalf of your Commissioners, we wish you good health and a happy summer.

## **It's all about community**

### **City incentives for historic designation**

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.

Currently, the city also has two historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Downtown Winter Park and Interlachen Avenue Historic District. The National Register of Historic Places is an official listing of properties throughout the country that reflect the historic development of our nation, state and local communities. To review both historic register of places, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation](http://cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation).

If you are considering registering your home or property, the city offers incentives to encourage completing the designation process:

## reduced or waived building permit fees

The city will reduce or waive the building permit by 1/3 or 33% for both the plan review fee and the main building permit fees. This incentive only applies to designated properties or those in a historic district.

## undergrounding of electric services

The city's electric utility currently charges customers \$3,000 to run the (service wire) electricity from the street to the house. A historic designation would waive the cost of that connection.

## rehabilitation grants

The city provides rehabilitation grants. The program provides a 50% match to a property owner for exterior improvements. The maximum city matching grant is \$25,000 per property.

## variance request review

Many historic homes were built at a time before the city had zoning or when the zoning rules were much more lenient and are now "nonconforming" meaning that they do not conform to today's zoning rules. This often requires variances in order to undertake additions or expansions to the home. The Historic Preservation Board can address these situations with more flexibility in granting of setback variances and other waivers.

## accessory living unit additions

The Historic Preservation Board is also empowered to allow a second accessory living unit as a rental on an otherwise single-family residential property, subject to their review, providing parking and compatibility with respect to location.

Charming and beloved places such as Casa Feliz, the Winter Park Golf Course & Country Club, All Saints Episcopal Church, Annie Russell Theater, Knowles Memorial Chapel, Albin Polasek house and studio, and the Woman's Club of Winter Park are all historic locations listed on the National Register. If you own a historic home or property, the city encourages you to preserve your treasured asset as an important piece of the city's history. Interested homeowners can find more information about registering their properties by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation](http://cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation) and applications are accepted year-round.

## Save these dates

### Monday, July 5

**what** City Hall closed in observance of Independence Day

**when** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be no interruption of Waste Pro® services.

Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!

### Monday, July 5

**what** 4th on the 5th Celebration

**when** 9 a.m. to noon

**where** Central Park including the West Meadow

**info** 407-599-3463

- "Oath of Allegiance" Naturalization Ceremony
- Dr. John Sinclair and the Bach Festival Society Choir and Brass Band
- Orlando native country/rock/Americana singer/songwriter Sean Holcomb

- OCPS Top Talent Winner Elvis Avetis
- Inaugural appearance of Citizens of Yesteryear
- Kids Zone with games & activities for the entire family
- FREE individual pies, watermelon & bottled water [while supplies last]

## Tuesday, July 13

**what** learn CPR & save a life

**when** 6 to 9 p.m.

**where** Fire-Rescue Headquarters  
Station 61 @ 343 W. Canton Ave.

**what** [wpfd.org/classes](http://wpfd.org/classes)

Ages 13 & up, adult, child & infant CPR, healthcare providers welcome, full certification.

**For updates on things to enjoy, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/events](http://cityofwinterpark.org/events).**

## Who doesn't love Fido?

It is easy to think everyone loves our dogs as much as we do, but when your dog is running off leash in undesignated areas or if you allow them to defecate on someone's property, that love turns into unfavorable feelings fairly quickly.

As much as you want to have your dog run free, please remember the only city park a dog is allowed to run off-leash is inside the designated fenced area of Lake Baldwin Park (located at 2000 S. Lakemont Ave.) during posted hours. All other areas that allow dogs require them to be leashed and under a person's control.

Another important reminder, if you're on a walk and suddenly you feel a tug on the other end of the leash because your dog stops to take care of business, please be kind and pick up what's left behind. Pretending you don't see it because you're texting during the act will not excuse you from the shame of unsanitary behavior. Failure to leash or pick up after your pet are official violations of the city's code of ordinances (Sections 18-44 and 18-45) and can result in a fine of up to \$180.

As the weather warms up and especially with the safe feeling that outside activity offers during the pandemic, more people are enjoying the outdoors. Nothing ruins that more than stepping in a pile of dog excrement or consoling a child because a strange dog was jumping on or chasing them. Please be respectful of your neighbors and those around you by keeping Fido leashed and picking up after them when they answer the call of nature.

## Rhythmic Colors

This summer, as part of the I-4 Ultimate Art Endowment Project, a new art piece, Rhythmic Colors, will be installed at the northeast corner of West Fairbanks Avenue adjacent to the I-4 West entrance ramp. This project was funded by a Florida Department of Transportation Grant to acquire and install public art along the I-4 corridor.

Rhythmic Colors was designed by the creative team at Rogers, Lovelock + Fritz (RLF) and was one of nine proposals submitted to the city in response to an extensive Request for Proposal process. After careful review and consideration, the Public Art Advisory Board selected RLF's proposal to create and install the city's newest addition to its public art collection.

Rhythmic Colors emphasizes rich colors from Winter Park's timeless elements, creates a rhythmic character of the city's past and mimics movement that resembles the high-intense environment. The

array of unique hues composes a dynamic sculpture to welcome residents and guests as they drive by the site.

This piece will begin installation June 2021 with its expected completion by the end of June. A special thank you to 15 lightyears for donating the solar lighting that will showcase the artwork during the evening hours.

The Public Art Advisory Board is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the City Commission for the siting of public art in the most ideal locations based upon the physical, cultural and historical aspects of the sites. This includes identifying signature opportunities and assisting in the selection of artists for possible public art projects. If this appeals to your creativity pallet, please access the board application at [cityofwinterpark.org/boards](http://cityofwinterpark.org/boards). Applications are accepted year-round, especially as positions become vacant.

## **Be inspired**

The city's Arts & Culture Alliance members have taken great strides to make sure you can still safely enjoy your favorite art experiences in Winter Park. Many have brought their performances outdoors, offered virtual experiences, implemented an easy reservations system and reduced capacity to ensure a safe social distance.

All arts and culture doors are open, ready for your in-person or virtual patronage. Please access [wpinspires.org](http://wpinspires.org) to discover your next inspirational experience.

## **Easy energy-saving tips**

### **replace conventional light bulbs**

LEDs are highly energy-efficient and use 75% less energy than regular bulbs.

### **use natural lighting**

Reduce energy usage and save money as well as boost your mood and productivity.

### **reduce hot water usage**

Use warm water instead of hot. Using cold water will help you save even more.

### **check your thermostat**

You can reduce energy usage by up to 5% by increasing your thermostat by just one degree when cooling.

### **request a FREE energy audit**

Access [cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation](http://cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation) to sign up today!

## **Quick Tip: Friendly irrigation reminder**

### **Water your yard 2 days a week**

now through Sunday, November 7  
before 10 a.m. & after 4 p.m., as needed

## **Hurricane information**

Below are all the ways the city communicates storm preparation, management and recovery accessible on your electronic devices. While the weather is calm, please make sure to prepare as well as like, follow or subscribe to one or more of the tools below so you can stay informed.

### **Hurricane Preparedness Guide**

- [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency)  
hard copies are available at City Hall, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Public Library

## Report Outages

- Electric Utility Department [1-877-811-8700](tel:1-877-811-8700)
- Water & Wastewater Utilities Department [407-599-3219](tel:407-599-3219)

## Emergency Operations Center [available upon activation of EOC]

- Non-emergency information line [407-599-3494](tel:407-599-3494)
- Message Center email [MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org)

## Online resources

- [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency) all hurricane-related information & updates will be posted here
- [cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews](http://cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews) subscribe & receive city info via email
- [cityofwinterpark.org/outreach](http://cityofwinterpark.org/outreach) the city's emergency alert system [sign up to receive a phone call, text or email]
- [facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo](https://facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo) [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo]
- [twitter.com/WinterParkFla](https://twitter.com/WinterParkFla) [@WinterParkFla]
- [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) sign up for neighborhood-specific info

## City Commission

Mayor Phil Anderson, 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	<a href="tel:407-599-3234">407-599-3234</a>
City Manager   Randy Knight	<a href="tel:407-599-3235">407-599-3235</a>
Assistant City Manager   Michelle Neuner	<a href="tel:407-599-3236">407-599-3236</a>
City Clerk   Rene Cranis	<a href="tel:407-599-3277">407-599-3277</a>
City Information	<a href="tel:407-599-3399">407-599-3399</a>
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	<a href="tel:407-644-1212">407-644-1212</a>
Police Non-Emergency	<a href="tel:407-644-1313">407-644-1313</a>

### department directors

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

Email addresses can be found at [cityofwinterpark.org/contact](http://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](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org).

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