

Winter Park Update

June through August 2022

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 celebrating the freedom and strength of our country, our city and our citizens. In Winter Park, we celebrate that freedom with our wonderful Annual 4th of July and Juneteenth events. Details about these two meaningful events are on the following page.

In Winter Park, we also celebrate summer every day. We celebrate with picnics in our parks, swimming in our pools, and the joys of air-conditioned* bookworming in our library. We celebrate with sidewalk dining, our museums, ice cream cones and of course, our world-class shopping.

And by the end of summer, we will also celebrate the reopening of a new Central Park main stage, which is currently under construction. As a community that values our small-town feel and history, the band stage and park lawn are special. This is where the picnic blankets come out, and family, friends and neighbors come together to enjoy music and movies.

This year there are so many other things to celebrate:

- We can see each other's smiles as our pandemic ebbs!
- We have amazing Police and Fire-Rescue departments, with the best emergency response times in the region and team members that care about our residents.
- We have city staff committed to service and making "Every Day Exceptional" in our community.
- We have financial strength with a strong revenue stream and the highest reserves in the city's history.

While we celebrate our past, we are also planning our future. On March 23, Commissioner Todd Weaver and our newest commissioner, Kris Cruzada, were sworn in, and on April 14, my fellow commissioners and I met to discuss our priorities for the next 12 months. Some of those priorities are:

- Integrating the city's recently acquired Winter Pines Golf Course into our parks system. This investment in 93-acres of green space is a long-term commitment to a family-focused public golf course, keeping the game affordable for families and the next generation.
- Improving bicycle and pedestrian connections to our parks, which some have called our "Emerald Necklace."
- Focusing our attention on traffic safety with design funding and the pursuit of infrastructure grants.
- Seeing how we can improve the lives of all who live and work in Winter Park as we upgrade the city's strategic plans for all departments.

Commissioners DeCiccio, Sullivan, Weaver, Cruzada and I wish you a wonderful summer. Stay cool, splash in the water, celebrate the shade...and don't forget to wear sunscreen!

p.s. & event notes

*fun fact

John Gorrie of Apalachicola invented refrigeration in 1842, which is the technology behind air conditioning. Thanks, John, for making summer in Florida a treat!

in commemoration

The Hannibal Square Heritage Center, in partnership with the Winter Park Library and the city's Parks & Recreation Department, will host the [7th annual Juneteenth Celebration: Remembering, Knowing and Shifting the Narrative](#). This event will be held [Saturday, June 18](#), from [10 a.m. to 2 p.m.](#), at the Winter Park Community Center located at 721 W. New England Ave., adjacent to the Heritage Center. The celebration and observance will feature distinguished guest speakers along with community conversations on diversity, equity and inclusion.

please note location change*

Remember to join us as we celebrate our nation's Independence Day at our [Annual 4th of July Celebration, Monday, July 4](#), from [9 a.m. to noon](#).

*Because the stage in Central Park will be under renovation, this year's event will be held at the Winter Park Events Center [Tiedtke Amphitheater](#) and the [Community Playground](#), located across the Unity Bridge in [Martin Luther King, Jr. Park](#).

For more information on movies, concerts, swimming pools, golf courses and both celebrations that commemorate our freedoms, please access the city's website at cityofwinterpark.org.

Sincerely, Mayor Phil Anderson

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Kris Cruzada

Serving as your commissioner for two months has already taught me so much! A city as dynamic as ours requires continual learning in order to nurture and maintain our quality of life. I am very thankful to the many residents and staff that have shared their abundance of knowledge to help me transition into the role of City Commissioner. I am humbled by their dedication and commitment to the betterment of our city.

In the past 30 days, the City of Winter Park has completed the acquisition of the Winter Pines Golf Course, an exciting addition to the city's assets that honors our commitment to enhance our quality of life. The Winter Pines Golf Course is a great recreational venue that is now a part of the city's public space. It's great to see the commitment on the eastside of Winter Park and it will certainly enhance quality of life for even more residents.

As summer approaches, graduation signs appear in the lawns of our neighborhoods, marking the capstone of achievements and the cornerstone of new goals. I am encouraged by the many young graduates that volunteer within our local community and charitable organizations.

I am grateful for their interest in bettering our community and working alongside more experienced members of our city. Thank you to their parents, teachers, mentors and guidance counselors that have helped to create the opportunity for our youth to volunteer. In Winter Park, there is a volunteer opportunity for everyone to impact where we live and how we live.

In closing, I would like to wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely, Kris Cruzada

Quick Tip: City Hall will be closed

in observance of Independence Day Monday 07.04.22

City Manager's Report

Future of the former library building

In June, the city is scheduled to receive proposals from interested parties sharing their public-private vision for the former library property located on 1.75 acres at 460 E. New England Ave.

Acknowledging this property is within close proximity to residential and also its limited parking options, the Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking visions to "create vibrancy and promote creative reuse of this municipally-owned property" working within the RFPs parameters.

Because the city decided to not sell or demolish the approximately 33,000 square foot building, the RFP is asking for a market rate lease offer and encourages transformation of the internal space into "a place of excitement and community gathering space in the heart of downtown Winter Park." Specifically, the City Commission is interested in hearing proposals that make use of new trends that can repurpose older civic buildings and create unique activity centers for all to enjoy. Ideas of turning the facility into an active and diverse collection of tenant uses that inspire the entrepreneurial spirit and engage gathering spaces, are welcomed. Revenue generating activities could offset arts, cultural and non-profit elements and allow the project to stand on its own financially. Some existing comparisons of interest were the Oxford Exchange and Armature Works in Tampa and Seattle Center Armory in Seattle, WA.

We are excited about what the future holds for the former library building and look forward to reviewing the proposals for consideration. At the time of writing, a date has not been set for City Commission discussion or decision. To stay informed, subscribe to the City Commission Agendas category, by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews. Subscribers will receive emails as soon as information is available related to their selected categories of interest.

COMING SOON: New Central Park Main Stage

If you have walked or driven by Central Park since the end of April, you would have noticed fencing surrounding the old main stage. Inside that fenced area is the active construction of a brand-new Central Park Main Stage, that when finished, will complement the charming architecture of the Winter Park Train Station.

The original main stage was constructed in the 1980s and the only significant improvement made to the stage since then was a refitting of the canopy due to damage endured from the hurricanes of 2004. The city's Community Redevelopment Agency marked this project as a priority and the new stage is scheduled for completion by September 2022, just in time for its inaugural use at the Winter Park Autumn Art Festival.

The stage is perfectly situated within Park Avenue's bustling commercial district and serves as host to over 75 large events throughout the year including family-oriented activities, concerts, movie nights and yoga and fitness classes, to name a few. This stage renovation allows the city to continue to showcase a variety of entertainment that inspires all, for generations to come.

Special thanks to our project partners – Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency, Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, Winter Park Rotary Club, Zyscovich, Inc. (architect) and Votum Construction, LLC (contractor).

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

It's all about community

Obstacles in your path?

When going for a walk or run in your neighborhood, it should not be an obstacle course. Here are some items from Chapter 22 Article V that explain the codes related to property and building maintenance:

weeds, shrubbery & overgrowth

- Trash, rubbish or noxious matter (accumulation of sand, leaves, algae growth, slippery conditions, food or food residue, and vegetation) must be cleared and cannot remain on a lot, place, area, sidewalk or street right of way.
- Weeds, undergrowth, grass, shrubbery or hedges cannot be left to grow over or on any sidewalk and cannot obstruct or interfere with the safe passage of pedestrian traffic on the full width of any sidewalk.
- Weeds or grass cannot be left to grow to a height exceeding 12 inches upon any portion of their lot or upon any sidewalk, over street curbs or street right of way abutting such lot, place or area.
- Shrubs, hedges, trees or plantings shall be kept trimmed so that the visibility for motor vehicle drivers is not obstructed at street intersections and points of ingress and egress to the public right of way.

sanitation & storage of materials

- Any old, broken lumber, rusted or unused equipment, discarded refrigerators, stoves, old pipe or other used, discarded and worn, unsightly articles or materials cannot remain in any yard or open area owned, occupied or in the possession of such person for a period of more than five days.

Failure to comply with city codes could result in fines or liens upon the property.

If you feel something needs to be addressed, please contact our Safety & Code Compliance Division.

Register a Safety & Code

Compliance Complaint

cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest

Code violation questions

[407-599-3600](tel:407-599-3600) or

codecompliance@cityofwinterpark.org

Not so great experience?

If you would like to inquire or report a complaint about a restaurant, take-out or delivery service, caterers or food trucks/mobile food vendors, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Division of Hotels and Restaurants is the agency to contact.

Inquiries and/or complaints can be reported at:

» myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/file-a-complaint

select "Food Service (restaurants, take-outs, delivery, caterers and mobile food vendors)"

» myfloridalicense.com/contactus

» [850-487-1395](tel:850-487-1395)

Business façade renovation programs

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) & Economic Development Division offers two types of business façade improvement programs. Both programs are on a first-come, first-served basis.

CRA Business Façade Program

- offers a 50% matching grant up to \$20,000 to be used toward exterior improvements to businesses within the CRA District.
- supports economic stability, maintains character & quality of commercial districts through leveraging private-public funds.

Citywide Façade Matching Grant Program

- offers a 50% matching grant up to \$20,000 for eligible improvements [storefronts, paint, signs & awnings | water & sewer connections and parking lot landscaping might also be eligible]
- provides financial incentive to encourage exterior renovation & reinvestment in the city's commercial corridor properties.

Quick Tip: Leaf blower code correction [March-May issue]

All internal combustion engine or motor leaf blowers will be prohibited within the city starting **July 2024**.

Save these dates

Tuesday, June 21

- what** learn CPR & save a life
when 6 to 9 p.m.
where Fire-Rescue Headquarters
Station 61 @ 343 W. Canton Ave.
info wpfd.org/classes [registration required]

Saturday, June 25

- what** stop the bleed
when 9 to 11 a.m.
where Fire-Rescue Headquarters
Station 61 @ 343 W. Canton Ave.
info wpfd.org/classes [registration required]

Monday, July 4

- what** 4th of July Celebration
when 9 a.m. to noon
where Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Community Playground & Winter Park Events Center Tiedtke Amphitheater
info [407-599-3342](tel:407-599-3342)

Wednesdays

- what** coffeetalk
when **2 p.m.** [note afternoon time]
08.10.22 Mayor Anderson
8:30 a.m.
09.07.22 Vice Mayor Weaver
10.05.22 Commissioner Sullivan
11.02.22 Commissioner DeCiccio
12.07.22 Commissioner Cruzada
01.11.23 City Manager Knight
where City Hall Commission Chambers
2nd floor @ 401 S. Park Ave.

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

Lakes news & info

Keeping our lakes clean

helpful hints

- Always follow the label directions when using any pesticide.
- Never use pesticides within 30 feet of a lake, ditch or stream.
- Check weather forecasts before applying any outdoor pesticides; refrain from using if windy conditions exist or rain is expected within 24 to 48 hours.
- Clean up spills immediately & always dispose of unwanted pesticides at an approved household hazardous waste facility.

fertilize responsibly

- Use a phosphorus-free fertilizer with time-released nitrogen & spray shields to keep fertilizers off of paved surfaces.
- Do not apply fertilizers within 15 feet of a lake or any other waterway.
- Do not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous from June 1 through September 30.

Public boat ramp closure reminder

The Fort Maitland Park public boat ramp will be closed for approximately four more months, weather permitting. Although the city's Parks & Recreation Department has made efforts to secure alternative overflow parking for Dinky Dock Park, you may still experience a shortage of spaces during peak boating times on Lake Virginia over the summer months.

Winter Park lakes & waterways info

Access cityofwinterpark.org/lakes to sign up for lakes notifications.

Gloria Eby, Director

geby@cityofwinterpark.org

[407-599-3471](tel:407-599-3471)

Joey Cordell, Lakes Manager

jcordell@cityofwinterpark.org

[407-691-7829](tel:407-691-7829)

Rise in fuel costs = rise in utility bills

High energy costs are impacting everything, including utilities. What drivers are experiencing at the gas pumps is also being experienced by customers in their utility bills. The city purchases its power using long-term bulk power contracts with the Florida Municipal Power Association (FMPA) and Orlando Utilities Commission. In addition, it also purchases 10 MW of power from Covanta®, which derives power from burning waste. The city is working with FMPA to keep costs as low as possible.

The cost of fuel is directly passed on to the customer as a specific line item on bills. When agencies see a rise in fuel prices, the city's cost to purchase the power also increases, thus resulting in higher electric bills. A 1,000 kWh residential customer may see an increase in their monthly bills by as much as \$15 per month. This is not unique to Winter Park. All electric utilities are experiencing this same challenge. Because the utility is municipally-owned and the city has local control over other costs, its rates are competitive with other utilities in Florida. As of the latest electric bill comparison data available for Florida electric utilities (March 2022),

Winter Park's charge for a 1,000 kWh residential customer was \$121.15 as compared to an average of \$123.80 for all municipal electric utilities. Other utilities may be more or less responsive to the increasing fuel costs which will have an impact on these comparisons.

Because we live in Florida, the driving factor for energy use is air conditioning. The best way to manage energy use is to maintain the thermostat temperature at 78°F during the warm months and 68°F in mild weather. Additionally, setting the thermostat to a higher temperature while the house is empty – especially during the hot summer months – can help you save up to 17% each month on your bill.

For more information regarding fuel costs or the electric utility, please access cityofwinterpark.org/electric-utility. For questions about your utility bill, please contact Customer Service at [407-599-3220](tel:407-599-3220) or email at customer_service@cityofwinterpark.org.

New utility billing system

The city has upgraded its utility billing system to provide faster response times, enhanced billing information, paperless eBill [PDF of bill provided] and auto payments. Customers can view bills electronically, make or schedule a one-time payment, as well as choose from multiple payment methods [VISA, MC, Discover, eCheck, Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay & Apple Pay].

important information

- » all customers must register with the new system
- » account numbers are required to view or pay bills online
- » a new utility bill sample can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/billpay

important contact info

Pay your utility bill

cityofwinterpark.org/billpay

[1-888-481-1472](tel:1-888-481-1472) [live June 6 - **DELAYED**]

Customer Service

customer_service@cityofwinterpark.org

[407-599-3220](tel:407-599-3220)

[turn on](#) | [turn off](#) | [transfer service](#) | [questions about your bill](#)

Monday through Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Report issues

cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest

[downed power line](#) | [flickering lights](#) | [power or street light outages](#)

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

[water or wastewater issue](#) | [broken main line](#) | [sewer backup](#)

[407-599-3219](tel:407-599-3219)

Historic designation

On March 29, the city proudly became one of only 83 government agencies in Florida that is designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG). According to the Florida Division of Historical Resources, the CLG Program was enacted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. It links three levels of government – federal, state and local – into a preservation partnership for the identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties. For more information regarding the CLG program, please access nps.gov/clg.

The city is now a local partner in the Federal Preservation Program and will continue to encourage the addition of more properties to its over 200 historically designated homes and four historic districts. Residents interested in submitting their home for historic designation consideration may complete the application accessible at cityofwinterpark.org/historicpreservation.

Motorized scooters & golf carts

For those who enjoy riding on a motorized gas or electric stand-up scooter, you must follow the rules that apply to bicycles and yield to pedestrians. Also remember, if you are under the age of 16, helmets are required.

The only golf cart that is permitted on Winter Park roadways are those that qualify as "street legal" or Low Speed Vehicles (LSV). All LSVs are limited to roadways where the speed limit is 35 mph or less, and required to have a top speed greater than 20 mph, but not more than 25 mph. LSVs must also be registered, insured, and operators must wear a seatbelt and have a valid driver's license.

For further information on the specifics that govern golf carts and LSVs, please reference Florida State Statutes 316.212 and 316.2126, or access information at wppd.org.

Upgrades for the Community Playground

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park features a very large playground called the Community Playground, also referred to as Castle Park (the turrets in the structure gives it the castle-like appearance). This playground was built in 1987 and has been a fort, castle and imagination land for thousands of children over the past 35 years. The wear and tear of these happy feet and hands has put the structure in need of renovation and upgrades to be compliant with today's playground safety standards.

A community meeting will be scheduled to discuss the plan (date TBD). Information will be posted on the Parks & Recreation Department's webpage, accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/parks. Residents are also encouraged to subscribe to citEnews, the city's email service, at cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews and select the [City News](#) category to receive press releases about this and other community public meeting dates.

Hurricane information

Below are all the ways the city communicates storm preparation, management and recovery accessible on your electronic devices. While the weather is currently 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
hard copies are available at City Hall, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Public Library

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

Website & social

- cityofwinterpark.org/emergency
all hurricane-related information & updates will be posted here
- cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews subscribe & receive city info via email

- cityofwinterpark.org/outreach the city's emergency alert system [sign up to receive a phone call, text or email]
- facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo]
- twitter.com/WinterParkFla [@WinterParkFla]
- nextdoor.com sign up for neighborhood-specific info

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)

City Commission

Mayor Phil Anderson, Commissioner Marty Sullivan, Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Kris Cruzada 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 de Valle	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 Gary Hiatt	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
Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby	407-599-3471
Parks & Recreation Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Transportation Jeff Briggs	407-599-3440
Police Chief Tim Volkerson	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](#)