

Winter Park Update

September through November 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

Winter Park ~ cultivating charm & neighborhoods for over 140 years

Visitors to Winter Park often tell me that they love our city's charm. I thank them of course, and then ask what makes them feel that way. Almost always their response is that we have somehow managed to keep a small-town feel alive.

Since 1882, our community has kept that charm because of shared values in what makes Winter Park special. In 2016, the people who live and work in the city said the top four values that define Winter Park are:

1. History & heritage
2. Small-town feel & village ambiance
3. Proactive future
4. Inclusiveness

Well into my second year of service, I assure you that these are the values that drive the Commission's decisions every day. While there is still turmoil from the pandemic, inflation and the Russian conflict, we are confidently moving forward. Our reserves are very strong, and we have managed our expenses prudently.

There is a lot to do, and this is a Commission that gets things done. Already, together with our city staff, we have marked some significant accomplishments over the last 12 months.

- We managed your tax dollars prudently and efficiently, keeping our \$17 million of reserves intact. Going forward, we have the financial strength to adjust our budget to handle recent increases in wages and certain expenses.
- Our Police Department recently celebrated six promotions strengthening our leadership team and the safety of our community.
- Our Fire-Rescue Department has been recognized nationally for excellence and continues to have the fastest emergency response teams in the region.
- We planted seven magnificent live oak trees and are commencing the next step of creating a brand new park in the heart of our Orange Avenue area (at Denning Drive), a future green space that will give our residents and their families, as well as our area businesses, a focal point to gather.
- We prioritized the city's charm and heritage as we adopted the redevelopment guidelines for the Orange Avenue area, adding much needed, safer places to park. These guidelines support our small businesses as they re-invest in their businesses and help make Orange Avenue safer and more attractive.
- We increased your net worth as your home value increased, by focusing on our community's charm and core values.
- We continue to make our already great Citizen Advisory Boards even better with more diversity of backgrounds, knowledge, gender, age and ethnicity than ever before. And their efforts are working. For example:

- » Through our Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable and Utilities advisory boards, we commissioned long range planning efforts to use less expensive solar power for our electric utility customers and in city-owned buildings.
- » Through our Economic Development Advisory Board, we are targeting industries that are compatible with our existing business partners and with Winter Park's reputation and strengths.
- » Through our Transportation and Parks & Recreation advisory boards, we are planning more bicycle paths to connect our parks.

We have made great progress, but there is more to do.

As your City Commission, we are committed to serving the people that live and work in Winter Park. Your priorities will continue to guide this Commission's work of:

- Keeping the charm of a small town.
- Making our neighborhoods better.
- Investing in our city's future – our parks, people, roads and utilities.
- Improving safety and traffic flow.
- Responsibly managing our budgets.

We are a great community. The Commissioners and I appreciate the passion and the ideas that come from our residents. As I look forward to continued service, I also look forward to hearing your voice and your ideas. Thank you!

Sincerely, Mayor Phil Anderson

City Manager's Report

2023 fiscal year budget

Whether you are budgeting for your personal household, small business or large corporation, the past few years have been challenging as we all adjusted to the effects of the pandemic. This year, as the world continues to recover from the epidemic, we are now facing a new set of factors that are impacting our economic outlook: inflation, Russian/Ukrainian conflict, supply chain disruptions, and continued labor shortages, to mention a few.

Navigating the impact of these global challenges to our city budget has not been easy. However, city staff has kept the implications of the worldwide issues at the forefront as they prepared a balanced budget for the City Commission's consideration. A few favorable factors for Winter Park include strong residential property values and strong consumer spending. In addition, vacancy rates for Winter Park businesses are some of the lowest in the region and travel is returning to its pre-pandemic levels. These are all helpful economic factors working in the city's favor.

It is in this context that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget and corresponding five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is described in the subsequent text. You will see that staff has prepared a budget that continues to deliver the exceptional quality of services that our residents, businesses and visitors deserve and expect. The budget process is extremely lengthy and detailed. It begins in February and is finalized by the Commission with the adoption of the budget and millage rates at the second public hearing in September.

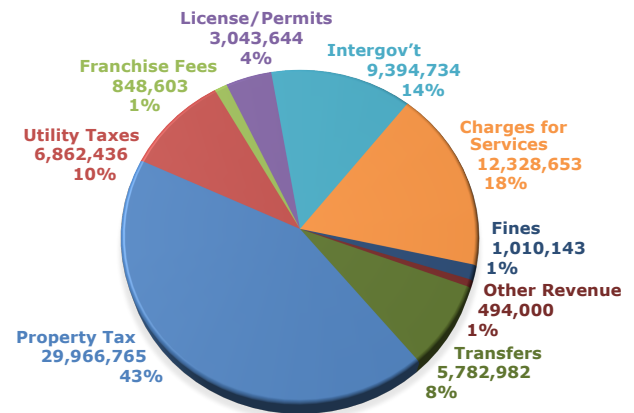
The following list highlights some of the major initiatives proposed in this fiscal year's budget:

- Increases road and sidewalk funding to increase annual repaving from 11 lane miles to 15 lane miles and adds funds for brick road repair.
- Incorporates the operations and funding of the 93-acre, 18-hole, Winter Pines Golf Course that was purchased by the city this year.
- Replaces the 100-foot ladder truck in the Fire-Rescue Department.
- Continues accelerated meter replacement in the city's water and electric utilities to allow for smart-metering technologies and greater system efficiencies and emergency management.
- Raises total undergrounding funding for electric lines to \$7.4 million annually to accommodate inflationary pressures and the undergrounding of service lines.
- Expands funding for solar improvements on city-owned properties.
- Continues capital investment in the city's numerous parks and facilities to provide services at an exceptional level.
- Funds improvements to Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Park through the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

We are excited to see the progress on all FY2023 projects, and the following information helps explain in more detail how the city budget is structured.

Proposed General Fund Budget

The proposed budget for FY2023 is expected to grow a strong 7% or \$4.6 million. Approximately 1/3 or \$1.6 million of increased revenue growth is due to the acquisition of the Winter Pines Golf Course, and the expected operating revenue is planned to offset all expenses and debt service in the budget. Not accounting for the new golf course, revenues would be rising about 4.7%. Property tax revenue will again be the primary means of new revenue growth in the budget with an estimated increase of \$2.3 million (8.5%). Its growth accounts for half of all revenue growth expected in FY2023 and 43% of all General Fund revenues.



Utility taxes and franchise fees will remain largely flat in FY2023. Building and permitting activity is expected to slow in FY2023 and beyond, due to recession concerns. Intergovernmental revenues which are primarily made up of sales tax, revenue sharing and grants, will decline slightly in FY2023, though that is largely a function of the fact that last year over \$2 million in ARPA funding was used to support the budget and now that it is reduced to \$500k, which lowers this overall revenue source.

Sales taxes rebounded in FY2022 beyond all expectations and are setting record monthly highs in early 2022. Charges for services, which represents garbage services, facility rentals, program fees and ambulance transport, will be up by almost 20% or \$2 million. However, \$1.6 million of that growth is due to the Winter Pines Golf Course expected new revenue. Other growth in charges is due to expanded expectation of more facility use and inflation costs for garbage services.

Fines and forfeitures are not expected to change from the previous fiscal year and investment revenues are expected to be under pressure due to rising interest rates. Transfers, which are predominately represented by the payments from the water and electric utilities are expected to grow significantly in FY2023 by over 8 percent.

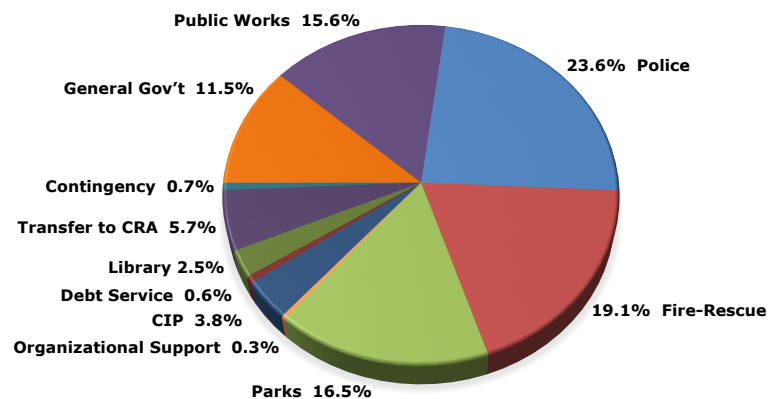
In good revenue years, the city maintained the fiscal discipline to keep operating growth in the 3 to 3.5% range each year and divert additional funds to expanded capital investments, greater city services and savings. Over the last decade, transfers for capital project spending doubled (with the

exception of the pandemic year) and the city's unencumbered reserves as a percentage of reoccurring expenditures climbed from the low single digits to stand at over the 30% goal (approximately \$19 million) in FY2022.

This coming fiscal year, the inflation storm that is being felt in all aspects of daily life, is now being felt by the city as well. The cost to maintain Winter Park's premium green spaces, golf courses and athletic venues are all increasing. Materials for road construction, sidewalks, and most construction activity have already increased by double digits; and the cost of fuel to run the city's fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment is up 40 to 50 percent.

Lastly, wage inflation and competition in the marketplace for talent are putting tremendous pressure on the city's ability to keep and attract employees. All of these factors are driving up costs in FY2023 and are reflected in the personnel and operating costs of the proposed budget. If inflation continues while revenue growth (especially property taxes) start to decline, top notch services could be very difficult to support and may necessitate consideration of additional revenue sources or reductions in capital spending.

The pie chart shown here indicates the percentage of dollars in the proposed budget to provide services to our residents. As demonstrated in this chart, almost half of the General Fund budget is dedicated to public safety (police and fire) services.



- ✓ Keeps a healthy reserve of up to 30% of annual reoccurring expenses in reserves in the General Fund.
- ✓ Maintains the current operating millage rate of 4.0923 which has been the city's rate for the last 14 years.
- ✓ Utilizes an organizational support funding formula based upon one quarter of one percent of gross revenues in the General Fund, water & wastewater utilities and electric utility. This generates approximately \$380k annually for non-profit partners in the city.
- ✓ Maintains a minimum of 45 days working capital in the electric utility and water & wastewater utilities.
- ✓ Maintains or expands current levels of service.
- ✓ Maintains a program that retains and attracts top talent as well as keeping pay within the top 35% and benefits within the top 50% of municipalities approved for benchmarking.

Tentative millage rate

At the July 27 City Commission meeting, a tentative millage cap of 4.0923 was adopted. This is the same property taxing rate that the city has had for 14 years and is a benchmark that no other major municipality in Orange County has achieved. At formal adoption in September, this will become the property tax rate applied to all residential and commercial property in the city. This is the rate that was used to project the property taxes on the notice you received in August from the Orange County Property Appraiser. This is a tentative rate and may be reduced but not increased without an extensive public noticing process.

Property value assessments are set by the Orange County Property Appraiser's office. Of the total property taxes someone might pay, the majority (74%) do not support the city services proposed in the budget. Only 26% of the taxes goes to city services.

- 43% Orange County Public Schools
- 28% Orange County
- 2% voted debt service
- 1% St. John's River Water Management
- 74% SUBTOTAL - TAX BILL
- 26% City of Winter Park services
- 100% TOTAL TAX BILL

Electric Utility Fund

The Commission adopted goal for Electric Fund working capital to be 45 days of operating expenses less amortization. At the end of FY2023 the Electric Utility is expected to have 112 days of working capital or about \$11 million and a positive cash balance of almost \$4 million. This is a significant improvement from only a couple years ago.

This highlights the benefit the utility is receiving from its negotiated bulk power deal with the Florida Municipal Power Association (FMPA), which is saving over 20% on expenses on an ongoing basis. This has enabled the utility to expand its undergrounding effort, promote sustainable solar projects, and invest in the reliability of its infrastructure and substation, all while adding cash back to the balance sheet.

While the current situation for the utility is strong, the growing inflation environment is increasing the cost of major capital projects like the undergrounding program. Additionally, natural rates of growth in utility revenues are very low, typically around 1%, so any ability to generate operating margin largely depends on lowering the cost structure of the power portfolio or raising rates over time.

Water & Wastewater Utilities Fund

Effective October 1, 2022, water and wastewater rates will be increased by 4.5%. The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) publishes a Price Index each year for water and wastewater utilities it regulates. Although Winter Park is not regulated by the FPSC, it uses the Price Index as the basis for its rate adjustments. Average annual Price Index increases for the past five years have been in the 1.5 to 2% range. This adjustment is backward looking and is attempting to correct for cost inflation experienced in the prior year. This means that future years are likely to see higher rates of change as inflation continues to affect the industry.

The Commission adopted the goal for Water & Wastewater Utilities Fund working capital to be 45 days of operating expenses less amortization. At the end of FY2022, Water & Wastewater Utilities is expected to have 134 days of working capital on hand (\$10.5 million) well in excess of the budget goal. This is a decline from the prior year as use of fund balance to pay large capital obligations, such as the shared use agreement with the City of Orlando for the Iron Bridge wastewater facility, have dropped this balance. Other future major projects such as payments to regional partners for capital costs associated with treatment plants as well as large county led road projects that require relocation of utilities, will draw down on cash balances. These upcoming projects highlight the difficulty for the utility in performing long-range capital planning as significant changes can occur to capital requirements and the projects are outside of the utility's control. Having a strong cash position is the best long-term planning strategy for the utility to face this challenge and near-term action on rates may be prudent, but the inflationary environment makes passing on any additional costs to consumers difficult.

This is a brief overview of the proposed annual budget for next fiscal year. If you would like more information on the city's budget or budget process, please plan on attending the two budget hearings [Wednesday, September 14, and September 28, at 5 p.m.](#), in Commission Chambers at City Hall at 401 S. Park Ave. We encourage you to share comments about the proposed budget and millage rates before final adoption.

More extensive information regarding the city's proposed FY2021-2023 budget including program budgets for each function of the city, a five-year capital improvement plan, and 10-year proformas for all major funds, is accessible at cityofwinterpark.org > [Departments](#) > [Finance](#).

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

SAFETY: school in session = school buses & zones

Here are some reminders to keep you out of the principal's office and county courthouse.

school buses

In May, WPPD was invited to participate in the G.R.O.W. Central Florida Community Ball Drive. This event supplied numerous central Florida agencies with sports balls donated by local business partners and residents to bridge the gap between officers and children. This provided a meaningful connection item and proved true for the patrol officers of WPPD as they engaged with children in the community in a game of ball.

- All traffic travelling both directions on a roadway [\[unless it has a raised median\]](#) must stop for buses that are in the process of loading and unloading children [\[watch for STOP arm that extends from d river's side of bus\]](#).
- Never leave the roadway [\[on passenger side of bus\]](#) to pass a stopped school bus.

school zones

- Reduced speed limits help students safely cross streets just prior to start and dismissal times [\[watch for flashing lights\]](#).
- Speeding fines doubled in school zones when lights are flashing.
- Do not hold any wireless devices while travelling through an active school zone [exception: reporting a crime] [\[Florida Statute 316.306\]](#). Violating this law garners hefty fines and points on your license.

REMEMBER school zones = no phone zones

Park renovations

There are a few major parks in the planning stages for significant renovations. To find the most updated information on the status of these projects, please access them at:

cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project

cityofwinterpark.org/hbp-project

cityofwinterpark.org/progress-point

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Marty Sullivan

In 2005, the city acquired its electric infrastructure from Progress Energy (now Duke Energy) in a fierce campaign described by the Orlando Sentinel as "one of the most acrimonious battles in its history . . . in which a Progress-backed group spent half a million dollars warning voters the city wouldn't be able to handle running a utility."

They were wrong. Our investment in undergrounding lines has greatly increased reliability. We now include undergrounding lines to residences with no energy rate increase. However, undergrounding completion dates may be delayed by cost increases and supply shortages.

Frequent outages are now a thing of the past, although we did have two unusually large substation outages recently. We have increased substation protections to prevent outages resulting from conflicts between high voltage and our furry friends.

The city buys electricity from multiple generating companies outside the city. The price of their fuel, primarily natural gas, has more than doubled since last April. This cost is a "pass through" to our electric customers and paid with the "fuel cost recovery" charge, which can be more than half your individual power bill.

Lately, actual fuel costs exceeded our "fuel cost recovery," putting our utility about \$600,000 short. The city covered the shortfall using our fund reserves. Future prices can be wildly unpredictable, however if prices return to "normal," our reserves will be restored with no further fuel cost recovery increase. In contrast, Duke Energy is \$1.3 billion in debt for fuel, requiring increased customer charges for an extended period.

We strive to purchase our electricity from renewable energy generators and are taking steps toward more local solar generation with a 133-kWh system at our water treatment plant, and soon, adding a 267-kWh solar array at Central Operations.

As you can see, the city's electric utility is committed to keeping your power on at competitive rates. We look forward to continuing our undergrounding efforts and reinvesting into the strength of the system.

Sincerely, Marty Sullivan

Save these dates

Monday, September 5

what **city hall closed** in observance of Labor Day

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

Wednesdays

what coffeetalk

when 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

September 7 | Vice Mayor Todd Weaver

October 5 | Commissioner Marty Sullivan

November 2 | Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio

December 7 | Commissioner Kris Cruzada

January 11, 2023 | City Manager Randy Knight

where City Hall Commission Chambers
2nd floor @ 401 S. Park Ave.

virtual access cityofwinterpark.org/meetings

Now serving the "perfect blend" Please make plans to join city leaders in-person or from the virtual comforts of your home. Coffee provided by Bernie's Coffee & Tea Co.®

Tuesday, October 4

what National Night Out

when 6 to 8 p.m.

where Public Safety Facility @ 500 N. Virginia Ave.

info [407-599-3507](tel:407-599-3507) or cbelcore@cityofwinterpark.org

FREE event for the community and its business partners to enjoy some fun, food and games.

[Donations welcome to help restock WPPD's community food pantry.](#)

Meet members of SWAT, Crime Scene Investigators, Criminal Investigations, Special Operations and K-9 Officer Wyatt. [Bonus - get your pets microchipped and their nails clipped for FREE!](#)

FIX IT! DON'T Pitch It [ad]

saturday **09.10.2022**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

winter park farmers' market @ 200 w. new england ave.

a community repair workshop for

repairing small appliances, electronics, bicycles, jewelry, watches & eye glasses

mending clothes • assembling furniture

services are subject to change • limit two items per person

to rsvp (appreciated) or volunteer your time & talents please contact [407-599-3450](tel:407-599-3450) or sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

Energy conservation rebates & incentive programs

If you are a Winter Park electric utility customer, the following programs are available to help you make your home more energy-efficient as well as save money.

home energy audit FREE home energy audit used to help customers identify energy conservation measures for their home.

residential duct repair rebate* Making sure the air duct system in a home is properly sealed is an inexpensive first step to making it more energy-efficient. This program covers 50% of the repair cost, up to \$300.**

residential attic insulation upgrade rebate* Over time, attic insulation settles which reduces its insulating barrier and ability to keep hot air out of a cool house. Having insulation added to under-insulated areas in the attic is one of the easiest ways to help lower an energy bill. The city will pay 50% of the cost, up to \$200, to help upgrade customers' attic insulation.**

*** Please note that to be eligible to receive this rebate, a free Home Energy Use Audit must first be completed.*

*** Rebates will be issued in the form of a City of Winter Park electric utility bill credit. A check will not be issued to individuals.*

simple steps to save energy

- Replace conventional light bulbs with LEDs. These are highly energy-efficient and use 75% less energy than regular bulbs.
- Use natural lighting and turn off lights and fans in unoccupied rooms.
- Use warm water instead of hot. Using cold water will help you save even more.
- Increase your thermostat by just one degree when cooling. This can reduce energy usage by up to 5%. Turning it back 10-15°F for eight hours per day can save you five to 15% a year on your electric bill.
- Unplug chargers and devices that turn on instantly via remote control or have a standby light or clock. These consume energy even when they are not in use. All together, these appliances can account for as much 20% of your monthly bill.

To apply and learn more, please access cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation.

Sustainability Fair & EV Car Show [ad]

saturday **September 24**

9 to 11 a.m.

Central Park West Meadow | 150 W. Morse Blvd. | NE corner

featuring Electric vehicles | Sustainable vendors | Natural Resources & Sustainability Dept.

got an EV? [limited spaces available] To reserve your parking spot, please contact sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org by September 10.

Pool Safety 101

The Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department (WPFD) is asking its residents and the community to ensure their pool and spa drains have the proper anti-entrapment updates to prevent injury and/or death. It has been nearly 15 years since the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act was passed into law. The bill was named in honor of Virginia Graeme Baker who died after being trapped under water by a hot tub drain. Factors that contribute to entrapment include long hair,

loose clothing, sitting on drains and even diving for toys near drains.

pool & spa drains should have minimum one, preferably more, safety features in place

1. updated drain cover
2. second drain
3. automatic shut-off feature
4. safety valve release

additional pool & spa safety measures WPFD strongly recommends

1. designated water watchers [someone responsible to actively watch children]
2. proper child locks
3. fencing around pools
4. water alarms

swim lessons Drowning remains the leading cause of death among children between the ages of 1-4 and second leading cause of death for children ages 1-14. Swim lessons are offered by the Parks & Recreation Department at both the Winter Park Community Center and Cady Way pools. Details can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/swim.

learn CPR In addition to teaching children to stay away from drains, parents and caretakers are also strongly encouraged to learn CPR. This and other important safety classes are offered by WPFD throughout the year and can be accessed at wpfd.org/classes.

Learn CPR & save a life [ad]

Station 61 @ 343 W. Canton Ave. ■ Winter Park, Florida

sat **10.01.22 @ 9 a.m.**

tue **09.20.22 @ 6 p.m.**

- adult, child & infant
- ages 13 & up
- full certification
- registration required

cost \$35

questions & more info [407-599-3317](tel:407-599-3317) or rmattingly@cityofwinterpark.org

register for class availability please access wpfd.org/classes

Central Park main stage

Construction of the new Central Park main stage continues, heading towards completion this September. The new stage will complement and enhance the existing design of Winter Park, including the charming Winter Park Train Station. The craftsman style design will feature tapered columns, latticework, a bead board ceiling, and a roof with standing seam metal, finials and eyebrow vents. Located where the previous stage was, it has been gently turned so the view is improved from Park Avenue, while maintaining its strong presence for performances in Central Park.

The original main stage was constructed in the 1980s with the only significant improvement made since then was a refitting of the canopy due to the 2004 hurricanes. The city's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) marked this project as a priority and moved up the timeline to this fiscal year.

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 as well as yoga and fitness classes. 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 CRA ■ Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation ■ Winter Park Rotary Club ■ Zyscovich, LLC [architect] ■ Votum Construction, LLC [contractor]

THINK TWICE DON'T WASTE IT WP [ad]

Need a reminder for your collection days?

Want to know what goes where?

cityofwinterpark.org/think-twice

Quick Tip: It's time to fall back

Change clocks, batteries & irrigation

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday 11.06.2022

- » Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed.
- » Change the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- » Adjust irrigation to one day per week.

Stormproof your irrigation system [ad]

Winter Park Utility Customers receive \$100 rebate when you purchase a smart sprinkler controller. Save water & money! More info @ cityofwinterpark.org/h2oconserve.

Looking for a career move?

If you are in the market looking for a profession that offers great benefits and an opportunity to work with a pool of extremely talented and inspiring people, the City of Winter Park may be the employment home for you.

Please review our open positions by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/employment and start the process of becoming a proud member of our city family. [All applications must be submitted electronically]

Save these dates

Friday, November 4

- what** veterans day celebration
- when** 9:30 a.m. gathering 10 a.m. program begins
- where** Shady Park in Hannibal Square; adjacent to Winter Park Community Center
721 W. New England Ave.
- info** [407-599-3428](tel:407-599-3428)

A tribute to all veterans that have served in any military campaign or military branch in honor of our nation's freedom.

Thursday or Friday, November 3 or 4 & Nov 10 or 11

- what** fall cleanup
- when** after 5 p.m. the evening before your 2nd regularly scheduled trash pickup day
- where** north of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor **{nov 3 or 4}**
south of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor **{nov 10 or 11}**
- info** 407-774-0800

Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25

- what** **city hall closed** in observance of Thanksgiving
- when** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, November 28 deadline to order

- what** wreaths across america
- order** Palm Cemetery @ bit.ly/PalmWreaths
Pineywood Cemetery @ bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths
- when** **ceremony @ noon Saturday, December 17**
- where** Palm Cemetery @ 1005 N. New York Ave.
Pineywood Cemetery @ 1810 S. Lakemont Ave.

To honor loved ones that have served or to donate one or more wreaths, please access the preferred cemetery above.

Is my tree healthy?

As we continue through the hurricane season, it is important to understand how to properly assess the health of your trees. Because the city's Urban Forestry Division does not perform assessments on private property, here are some helpful tips:

Always start by hiring an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist to assess and advise you on the condition of your trees.

- A consulting arborist qualified by the ISA in tree risk assessment is preferable as they may find that no action is required if the tree is healthy and free of major defects.
- A recommended resource by the ISA to help find a certified arborist in your area is treesaregood.org.

Each tree is unique. Any maintenance recommendations for your particular tree(s) should be made only by an ISA Certified Arborist after performing a complete assessment.

What NOT to do

thinning

MYTH Thin out the interior of your trees to "let the air pass through" and reduce limb and whole tree failures.

TRUTH Thinning is an improper pruning technique. A full tree crown disperses wind force over a wider area, helping to reduce stress on critical branch unions and the trunk itself. Removing healthy foliage on the interior of the crown directs more force towards the ends of limbs. This increases the likelihood of limb and whole tree failure. Any arborist or tree service offering to thin your trees in this manner is not up to date on current arboricultural science and best management practices.

topping

This improper pruning technique involves pruning off the ends of some or all of the limbs of a tree to an arbitrary point on the major limbs. This is very harmful for trees and will lead to a range of issues down the road. Decay forms where these pruning cuts are made. Shoot growth proliferates behind the decay. These shoots are poorly attached to the tree and prone to fail once they grow large enough to hold significant weight.

crown balancing

Some trees have an "unbalanced crown." In most cases this is merely an aesthetic concern unrelated to the health or structural integrity of a tree. Trees growing in a manner that appears asymmetrical or leaning develop structures in their wood which compensates for variation in weight distribution throughout the crown. Other trees may have recently lost portions of their crown through either pruning or limb failure. In both cases, attempting to "balance" the crown of the tree through pruning is harmful to the tree and may increase the likelihood of limb or whole tree failure.

Who to contact

For questions about trees on public property, email urbanforestry@cityofwinterpark.org. Please report any vegetation overgrowth concerns to AtYourRequest@cityofwinterpark.org.

Election Signs & Stands Drop Off [ad]

please separate plastic & metal

1. Cady Way Park @ 2525 Cady Way
2. Mead Botanical Garden Community Garden @ 1300 S. Denning Drive
3. WPFD Station 64 @ 1439 Howell Branch Road

NOW THRU TUESDAY **SEPTEMBER 6**

plastic signs will be converted to NuCycle Enviro Fuelcubes

metal stands will be recycled by a local processor

questions & info sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

an initiative with City of Orlando, Orange County & League of Women Voters

2023 Election Schedule

Commission Seats 1 & 2

- **qualifications** » must be a resident of the city AND a registered voter [per City Charter]
- **qualifying** » Monday, January 17 @ noon through Tuesday, January 24 @ noon
- **general election** » Tuesday, March 14
- **run-off election** » Tuesday, April 11 (if necessary)
- **candidate package** » [407-599-3447](tel:407-599-3447) or cityclerk@cityofwinterpark.org

Events calendar

things to enjoy access cityofwinterpark.org/events.

Hurricane information

We are in the heart of hurricane season. 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
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)

Live upon activation of Emergency Operations Center:

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

Online resources

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

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 del 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
Parks & Recreation Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Zoning Jeff Briggs	407-599-3440
Police Chief Tim Volkerson	407-599-3272
Public Works & Transportation Charles Ramdatt	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.

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