

Winter Park Update

December 2022 through February 2023

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 Winter Park and our "Hometown Holidays" celebration! While every Saturday seems like a holiday with children and families playing in Central Park after visiting the Winter Park Farmers' Market, the holidays make it even more magical!

During the holiday season, we all get to go back in time a little bit, remember what it was like to be a child and let the warmth of the season put a smile on our face. It just makes me happy. All the lights we added last year (and more) are back. And this year we celebrate with a charming new Central Park Main Stage. We have all the traditional holiday performances and now in a more suitable venue (and shelter...it still rains in December!).

In 2016, Winter Park residents said they valued "History and Heritage" and our "Village Ambiance/Small Town Feel" as the top two guiding principles that describe our 140-year-old community. This new Central Park Main Stage is just one example of how this Commission and our city staff put those principles into action.

In addition to the new stage, we are improving our park system with planned renovations to Martin Luther King Jr., Park. We are adding historical markers in many locations, including Hannibal Square/Shady Park and downtown/Park Avenue. And like a small town, we are committed to the best safety and essential services, including our police department, fire-rescue department and essential services teams that take care of water and power systems. That commitment shined through as our teams responded in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole. We kept our residents safe, restored services quickly, and kept our position as providing the best emergency response times in the region.

We also ended the prior fiscal year and started the next with our reserves fully intact, a balanced budget, and disciplined investment plans for the next 25 years. We tackled the important work of high-quality water and electrical services, roadway safety improvements, economic development assistance, and increased parking for our businesses. We are constantly evaluating ways to keep Winter Park's historic, small-town feel and the charm that our founders in 1882 intended.

I want to thank our business owners for giving us all, residents and visitors, the best shopping and dining experience in central Florida. Thanks also to our arts, culture and heritage community members for keeping our sense of beauty and charm alive!

Whether it is comparison shopping in our stores, dining in one of our great restaurants, or attending live performances and exhibits, Winter Park is a place to come together as neighbors and as friends.

Thank you to all the people that work and live here and make this city a "small town" of neighbors. And special thanks to those that founded Winter Park in the first place for giving us the parks, avenues and charm that truly makes us feel at home.

Wishing you and your family and friends the happiest of holiday seasons.

Sincerely, Mayor Phil Anderson

FDOT's RE-Focus on Safety

zero. That is the only acceptable number when it comes to fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has adopted Target Zero to reduce fatalities and serious injuries to zero. They will accomplish this through infrastructure improvements and by influencing behavior through campaigns and outreach efforts. FDOT is partnering with cities, counties and others in central Florida to make sure everyone gets home every night.

you can make a difference. Did you know...in most crashes, behavior is a contributing factor – behaviors such as speeding, driving drowsy, using a cellphone, aggressive driving, and driving under the influence? The only thing a driver should be doing while driving, is driving...responsibly. As drivers, our actions could save not only our life but the lives of those around us.

Getting to zero is going to be a challenge – please do your part to help FDOT get there. We truly want everyone to get home safely every night. **Stay safe, Winter Park.**

Quick Tip: Friendly irrigation reminder water 1 day a week thru Sunday, March 12, 2023

before 10 a.m. & after 4 p.m., as needed

2023 Election Schedule

Commission Seat 1 & Seat 2

qualifying* » begins Tuesday 01.17.23 @ noon
ends Tuesday 01.24.23 @ noon

*At time of qualifying, candidates must be a qualified elector and reside within Winter Park city limits. To obtain a candidate package, please contact the City Clerk's office via the email or phone number below.

general election » Tuesday 03.14.23

run-off election » Tuesday 04.11.23 [if necessary]

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

Quick Tip: Waste Pro® Services December 26, 2022 & January 2, 2023

If Mondays are one of your regularly scheduled household garbage, yard waste or recycling pick up days, **it WILL be collected.**

Have a safe & Happy New Year!

City Manager's Report

New Central Park Main Stage

As the mayor mentioned in his message, the city celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Main Stage in Central Park on October 8. We look forward to the many concerts, shows and festivities planned for this new performance venue in the heart of downtown. If you haven't seen the new stage, it is quite a remarkable difference!

Feasibility Study Update

The city's Natural Resources & Sustainability and Electric Utility departments are working to develop a roadmap and a feasible action plan for the city to reach its 2035 and 2050 goals as it relates to renewable energy. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and Quanta Technology, LLC, was selected as the consulting firm in response to the City of Winter Park's Roadmap to Renewable Energy RFP. The study officially commenced in October and is in the early phase of the project. The city's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and this study will explore and outline potential solutions for GHG emission reduction, including the impact on local job creation, business development, and other environmental benefits. The roadmap will explore several pathways and sensitivities for the city to reach its objective of delivering affordable renewable-fueled electricity to all retail customers within the City of Winter Park. For more information, please email sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org.

Land swap complete

On October 26, the City Commission approved the agreement between Elevation, LLC and the city that involved a land swap + sale of city-owned property for private property. The city had surplus land at 631 N. New York Ave., that currently houses an unsightly maintenance shed. Elevation would use that land for new office space, therefore adding a new 10,000 sq. ft. of private office to the city's tax rolls. In addition, the agreement included using a portion of Elevation's parking lot to construct a new maintenance building that would be funded by a \$1 million payment from Elevation. When all parties of an agreement can benefit, it becomes a win-win for all.

Former library property

This past summer, the city issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the use of the former library site. The RFP was based upon the parameters set by the City Commission and included that the respondents must agree to a land lease (not a sale), must reuse the existing structure and the use must be compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood. In June, the city received one proposal from Harbert Realty Services which met the conditions of the RFP. The city is currently in negotiations discussing terms and specifics of the concepts presented.

This property has a few challenges unique to the site including extensive renovations, limited on-site parking, and adjacent residential properties. There are a variety of ideas possible with this space including a shared work-space type arrangement with an internal day-time café.

At the time of writing, a neighborhood meeting was scheduled in November to assist in developing the concept for the renovation. The RFP can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/docs/RFP18-22.pdf.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio

I hope this article finds all of those impacted by Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole either fully recovered or very close to full recovery. Ian was a 1 in 500-year event. Usually, the hurricanes that have come through our city have had very strong winds resulting in tree/limb damage to homes and numerous power outages. Ian was different. It was torrential rain that dropped within 24 hours (approximately 12-16 inches depending on the area) that resulted in severe flooding, rising lakes and a loss of power to approximately 3,800 customers.

The purpose of this article is to provide a preliminary Hurricane Ian 'post-game report' on what the city did right, what went wrong, and what the city can do to improve and be ready for future hurricanes.

What Winter Park did right

1. preparation

- a. Drains cleared, collars removed and lake levels for Lake Killarney were dropped days before Ian hit.
- b. Free sandbags provided prior to the storm.
- c. Staffing
 - i. Streamlined staffing during the storm allowed for more fresh employees to work towards clean up.
 - ii. Standby crews ready to engage when needed.

2. strong reserves

- a. Winter Park is strong financially and has General Fund reserves of approximately \$18 million to aid in disasters, such as hurricanes. This allows the City to react immediately, while waiting for FEMA reimbursements, which often take years to receive. As soon as it is received, however, it will go back into reserves. The reserves allowed the city to arrange for electric crews from other states to be on standby days prior to the hurricane and for lodging at local hotels for the crews to assure the city would get power back as soon as conditions permit.

3. Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- a. The EOC was immediately activated and staffed 24/7 for the entire time during the storm. The non-emergency call center answered more than 1,000 calls in two days.

4. Public Safety

- a. The Police Department used heavy equipment to help clear the roads. They also patrolled so that there was no looting or break-ins.
- b. The Fire-Rescue Department responded to nearly 100 calls for service in 36 hours. EMS personnel answered all medical calls during the storm and performed multiple elevator rescues, including rescuing a person from rising water while trapped inside one.

5. Electric Utility

- a. To date, 73% of overhead power lines have been undergrounded. Because of this, we only lost power to 3,850 residents at the peak. Power was fully restored within three days after the storm.

6. Communication

- a. Preparation for the 2022 hurricane season actively began in June. Articles, safety guidelines and how to stay informed were offered using the printed, online and in-person communication tools.
- b. Distribution of Hurricane Ian-specific information began September 26 – three days prior to the storm’s arrival – and continued throughout the storm as well as weeks after the storm covering the recovery process.

What went wrong

1. All lift stations were fully functional and working at full-capacity. With the tremendous amount of rainfall within a short period of time, lift stations were not able to accommodate this amount efficiently enough to prevent spillage into streets and lakes.
2. Two electrical switchgears were completely submerged during the heavy rains, causing power outages to approximately 1,000 customers.
3. Stormwater and sewer systems were not designed to manage the volume of rain received during this storm. It took up to a week for waters to recede in some areas.

What was learned

1. This storm was a major stress-test for the system and additional studies will be conducted on vulnerable areas in the sewer and stormwater systems to prevent future spillage.
2. To avoid submerged transformers, the locations of where the transformers will be placed during undergrounding will need to be identified.
3. Extra sandbags need to be available for use at lift stations and for possible distribution to residents/businesses after the storm.
4. Additional work to the public-facing power outage map should be considered.
5. Finding and securing reliable debris removal crews is integral to the recovery process.
6. For all the crews working during and after the storm, a proper meal plan is necessary to ensure proper nutrition and appropriate opportunities/locations for meals. A standardized feeding system will need to be created.
7. A succession plan is needed for the next line of employees that have not had the experience of the current staff that has been serving in the EOC since 2004.

Please note that these are preliminary assessments. The city will continue to evaluate and work to make our community safer and prepared for whatever comes our way.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely, Sheila DeCiccio

Espresso your thoughts

Please make plans to join city leaders from the virtual comforts of your home or in-person in the Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall at 401 S. Park Ave., for coffeetalk offered on the following Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.:

December 7 | Commissioner Kris Cruzada

January 11, 2023 | City Manager Randy Knight

Virtual attendees can access the hybrid meeting information at cityofwinterpark.org/meetings approximately one week prior to the coffeetalk date. For more information, please contact choward@cityofwinterpark.org or [407-599-3428](tel:407-599-3428).

special thanks to our coffee provider **Barnie's Coffee Tea Co.**®

Quick Tip: City Hall will be closed

noon Friday, December 23, thru Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas
2023

Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's Day

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

Watts the status?

This past summer, the extreme heat plus the rising price of fuel, particularly natural gas, has caused very high utility bills for our customers. [Chart showing how Winter Park's average fuel cost recovery rate trends with The Henry Hub* Natural Gas Spot Price.]

You'll also see a trending decline in fuel costs to include a recent reduction that became effective November 1, 2022. At that time, the city reduced its average fuel cost recovery rate from \$72.73 per MWh to \$51.14 based on current and forecasted fuel costs. This decrease will reduce the total electric charges for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh by 12.64% or \$22.07.

*In 1989 The Henry Hub became the official pricing point and delivery mechanism for the natural gas futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). The Hub provides access to more than a dozen interstate and intrastate pipeline interconnects (i.e., Texas Gas, Columbia Gulf, Bridgeline Holdings, Trunkline, Sea Robin, and Gulf South). You will notice by the orange line that the city worked hard to try and adjust our fuel rates in accordance with the market price as defined by The Hub.

[Chart showing the number of outages the city has experienced since 2006.] You'll see a decreasing trend as more of the city's overhead lines are undergrounded. A schedule of undergrounding projects can be found at cityofwinterpark.org/undergrounding.

[Chart showing how Winter Park's electric bill rates compare with other municipalities.] The reason why the city's rates are slightly higher than average is due to the increased fuel charge in the market. This is a global issue. Most of the city's peer utilities will be increasing their rates in 2023, as they were not as proactive in their fuel cost recovery and subsequently have grossly under collected. chart source: fpublicpower.com/electric-bill-comparisons

Celebrating the holidays

Hear ye! Hear ye! Join us for a wonderful holiday season!

Christmas in the Park

December 1 @ 6:15 p.m.
throughout Central Park

Winter on the Avenue

December 2 @ 5-9 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting @ sunset

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

Central Park & Park Avenue

Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast

December 3 @ 7-10 a.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade

December 3 @ 9 a.m.

Park & New England avenues [adjusted route]

Holiday Pops featuring Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

December 4 @ 5 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Winter Park Holiday Boat Parade

December 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lake Virginia floating by Dinky Dock Park

Merry Tuba Christmas [9 a.m. registration]

December 17 @ 1 p.m. [performance]

Central Park Main Stage

Chanukah on the Park

December 18 @ 5 p.m.

Central Park

CHEEZ-IT® Bowl Parade of Bands

December 29 @ 11 a.m.

Along Park Avenue & in Central Park

access complete details for these festivities and more at cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events.

Love, Your Library Ad

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
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helpful info

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

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