

2023

winter park update

june thru august



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watch us on



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.



Welcome to the start of summer!

School is out, vacations are planned, and the grill is going. Summer really speaks to enjoying our freedom and community in so many ways. Of course there are the formal celebrations of Juneteenth and our city's Annual Fourth of July Celebration, both coming up soon. These are great opportunities to remember how we all got here as fellow citizens. Please access more information about all of these celebrations at cityofwinterpark.org/events.

Here in Winter Park, we celebrate summer in many other ways. If you have chosen Winter Park to live in or visit, you probably came for the sun, but also for the shade from our tree canopy. You probably chose Winter Park because of its arts and culture organizations (and in the summer because of their air conditioning). And you chose to live here because of the outstanding people that work here and help make our community great. Our commissioners and staff work hard to make sure we have a special place to live, work and play.

To make the most of both our sun and our shade, we recently committed to a comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan. One focus is on our tree canopy. Trees are so important – they keep us cool, drop the temperature about six degrees during the summer, and pump out fresh air. Our Urban Forestry team works hard to preserve trees and also plant new ones. In fact, on Earth Day in



mayor's message

April alone, our team gave out 1,400 trees in celebration. We have also prioritized using the sun to generate power. By the end of 2025, the city will have a total of 20 megawatts of solar power to add to our electric utility's capacity. Our electric utility serves around 80% of our residents and has some of the lowest power costs in the area.



We also celebrate summer as a great time to cool off, indoors and outdoors. Winter Park is proud of its thriving museums, arts and culture organizations, library facilities, and of course, shopping.

The new "Park Avenue District" has just been recognized as part of the Main Street America™ program. Outside, take a dip in the city pools at the Winter Park Community Center and Cady Way, or get out on a lake. And of course, we are well on our way with improving our two golf courses, our historic Winter Park Golf Course (WP9) and Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18), keeping the family feel but making each one better.

We also celebrate the people that make it all happen. We still have the best police and fire response times in the region. Our parks, lakes and urban forestry teams are outstanding. Our streets teams are working hard



>mayor's message continued

to make our roads safer...and for the brick streets...smoother! And our senior management and commissioners are doing the job within a balanced budget.

Years ago, our residents identified the top two character traits that make us special: **1** history & heritage & **2** small-town feel.

These values continue to drive our decisions.

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!

Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,



Mayor Phil Anderson

quick
tip

City Hall will be closed in observance of

Juneteenth
Monday
06.19.23

Independence Day
Tuesday
07.04.23

We wish you safe & enjoyable holidays!

Seven Oaks Park groundbreaking

On April 13, city officials broke ground on the greenspace newly named Seven Oaks Park. This ceremonial ground breaking marked the official start of construction at the corner of Denning Drive and Orange Avenue. The chosen name honors the seven large live oaks planted in March of last year and pays tribute to one of the city's most treasured assets, its urban forest.



The grand opening of this beautiful 2.4-acre Seven Oaks Park is expected in early 2024. To keep up-to-date on the city's newest extraordinary outdoor experience, please access cityofwinterpark.org/sevenoakspark.

Pour-over your thoughts at CoffeeTalk

Even if you've **bean** before, there's still a **latte** to learn. Let's not make the discussion **bland**, join your city leaders for a **robusta** cup of conversation and coffee at this year's CoffeeTalks. The coffee may be **roasted**, but not our guest speakers. **Affogoto** bring a cup? No worries, Barnies Coffee & Tea Co.® is donating their special **blend**.



brewing

Thursdays | 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Commission Chambers
@ 401 S. Park Ave.

AUG 03

City Manager Randy Knight &
Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle

SEP 21

Vice Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

OCT 05

Commissioner Marty Sullivan

NOV 02

Commissioner Kris Cruzada

DEC 07

Commissioner Todd Weaver

JAN 11

Mayor Phil Anderson

2024

Becoming a smart city

The City of Winter Park and its consultant, Magellan, will host a community meeting **Thursday, June 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.**, at the **Winter Park Country Club** located at 761 Old England Ave. The meeting will be structured in an open-house style where attendees can easily stop by and talk with representatives about the new ways the city can become “smarter” through the use of new technologies and data analysis. With the proper infrastructure in place, connectivity of these technological advancements can allow the city to optimize transportation, deliver municipal services, and provide next-generation utilities, all while improving the quality of life for its residents, businesses and guests.

The city is asking for input related to the various types of smart city improvements that are being considered. In addition, the city will explore opportunities to improve high-speed internet access and connectivity to support these smart city initiatives. Whether it is the installation of fiber to homes/businesses, addition of new electronic devices such as digital signage, strategic placement of sensors and cameras, or implementation of digital infrastructure improvements such as incident/outage management technology or 2-way citizen communications, the city is seeking feedback on the following four smart city pillars identified within its vision:

intelligent transportation

Measures, monitors and controls the flow of traffic through the city by reducing congestion, optimizing routes, detecting accidents, avoiding idling pollution, as well as detecting and communicating available parking.

utilities Offers next-generation utility services that are reliable, efficient, secure and sustainable with exceptional customer service.

public safety Equips first responders with the tools, technology and training to plan for and respond to emergencies swiftly and effectively, while balancing the public good with individual privacy.

quality of life Fosters a welcoming environment that thrives on technical innovation and modern conveniences.



city manager's report

Beginning Thursday, June 1, you can learn more about the city's smart city efforts and share your input by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/smart-city. The online feedback form will be accessible until Thursday, June 22.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy B. Knight".

Randy B. Knight, City Manager

Ready for fun summer activities?

The Winter Park Library's Summer Reading Challenge is back with exciting classes and incentives for all ages. Our *All Together Now* theme celebrates community, and we have fun and enriching activities scheduled through July 29.

This year, we are challenging Winter Park to read 18,000 books! Plus, the more you read, the more chances you have to win prizes! Register at the Library or online by accessing winterparklibrary.org/summer-reading.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
all Together Now
MAY 27 - JULY 29



commissioner's column



A message from Commissioner Todd Weaver

Greetings friends and neighbors,

This quarter I am honored to host the Winter Park City Commissioner's Column. I wanted to address a subject that is top of mind for all of us at this time of year: stormwater and how we deal with it.

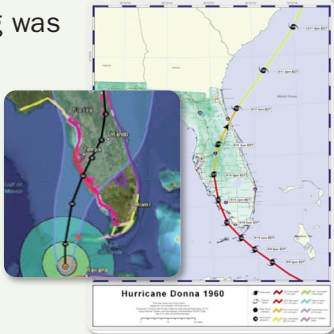
When we have heavy rains, our lakes are the primary recipients of stormwater, but they are not the only ones. The water comes not just from the rains, but also from runoff from our streets and landscape.

One path for stormwater to drain into the aquifer is our greenspaces – our parks, lawns and gardens. Our non-paved, non-built areas are vitally important to allow rain to naturally absorb into the soil and reach the aquifer. This is why your City Commission is committed to closely following our building codes.

Another way for this water to drain is through a system of strategically placed drain wells. These drain wells are vertically connected directly to the Florida aquifer via pipes that are 6" to 24" in diameter. You might call them "rapid aquifer recharge systems."

Some of the drain wells were built in response to Hurricane Donna in 1960. Donna was similar in many ways to Hurricane Ian. She blew in on a path through central Florida and traveled north, causing widespread flooding of the entire St. Johns River basin from Orlando to Jacksonville.

While neither Donna or Ian set records for rainfall in a day (Tropical Storm Fay in 2008 dumped some 25" of rain on us in a 24-hour period), what was so devastating was that stormwater from both Donna and Ian created a complete blockage to the normal flow of our main drainage outlet, the St. Johns River. This prevented floodwater from escaping from our area into the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, the floodwaters were trapped in central Florida for days, providing plenty of time to cause major damage.



The state no longer allows new drain wells. This means we have to find other ways to safely hold stormwater, divert it, and/or proactively open the drain wells several days before we know a major storm will arrive.

Our city staff is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other government agencies, and consulting professionals on engineering upgrades and compiling new best practices for stormwater infrastructure maintenance.

Some of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds Winter Park received were allocated to dredge the Venetian Canal (which connects Lake Osceola to Lake Maitland), as well as the Fern Canal (which connects Lake Virginia to Lake Osceola). Those canals were impacted with sediment buildup which impedes boat navigation from one lake to another. This buildup also slows stormwater flow to the lower Howell Creek basin. The dredging began in mid-April and is expected to be completed over nine weeks, weather permitting.

We were fortunate to have received a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This funding will support several projects which have been introduced as a result of the storms of 2022. A few of these projects will include dredging of the drainage ditches and ponds throughout the WP18 Golf Course, restoration of the embankments of Howell Creek in Mead Botanical Garden and in the Howell Branch Preserve, dredging of many stormwater outfalls throughout the city, and restoration of the 9th Grade Center retention pond. The first project will be dredging at the WP18 Golf Course.

Thanks to everyone for your patience, especially those of you who had flood damage to your homes. City staff, advisory boards and the City Commission have made our storm preparedness a priority, so that we are ready with a robust response when Mother Nature strikes again.

Sincerely,
Commissioner Todd Weaver

quick
tip

Public Boat Ramp Updates

Dinky Dock Park public parking lot: **OPEN**
Fort Maitland Park public boat ramp: **OPEN**

save these dates

Saturday, June 17

what **juneteenth in winter park**

when **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Remembering Rosewood

[curated by Barbara Chandler in partnership with the Hannibal Square Heritage Center]

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

educational seminars

[presented by the Equity Council Corp.]

5 to 10 p.m.

A Night Under the Stars: Jazz & Jubilee

[presented by the Equity Council Corp.]

where **Winter Park Community Center & Shady Park in Hannibal Square**
721 W. New England Ave.

All festivities in partnership with the city's Parks & Recreation Department.

Tuesday, July 4

what **28th annual 4th of july celebration**

when 9 to 11 a.m.

where **Central Park & Park Avenue**

Enjoy carnival games, bounce houses, Bach Festival Brass Ensemble & Choir performances, refreshing treats and more!

Saturdays [once a month]

what **dock party**

[distributing our city knowledge]

when 9-11 a.m.

where **June 24 @ Lake Bell**

1051 Lake Bell Drive

July 29 @ Lakes Knowles & Wilbur

Lake Knowles Circle

August 26 @ Lakes Osceola & Maitland

Kraft Azalea Garden

info 407-599-3463

Family-friendly neighborhood events where residents get to meet city lake experts, learn valuable lake info, and enjoy breakfast bites, beverages, sustainable giveaways, a raffle and more!

quick
tip

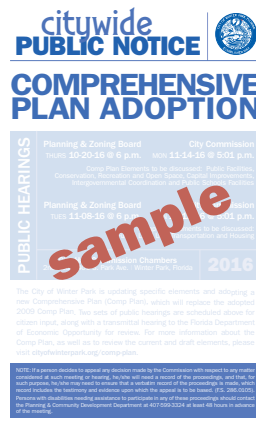
July is Park & Recreation Month!

To find ways you can celebrate, access cityofwinterpark.org/parks.

It's time to update our Comp Plan

Per the requirements of Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes, the city is updating its Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). This update will reflect any changes that have occurred since the adoption of the 2017 Comp Plan and will not be a complete re-write. Although a majority of the Comp Plan will remain unchanged, the data and analysis sections that direct the policies of the plan will be updated.

The Planning & Zoning Board (Local Planning Agency) and City Commission will hold a series of work sessions and public hearings for citizen input, with a goal to complete the updates before the end of 2023. As more specifics are determined, the schedule of these public meetings will be accessible at cityofwinterpark.org/comp-plan as well as via a citywide notice.



events calendar

for things to enjoy, please access
cityofwinterpark.org/events



it's all about community

Playground update

Over the past year, city staff and members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and Community Redevelopment Advisory Board (CRAB), along with city consultants, Dix Hite, have held several community input meetings related to the renovations of the Community Playground (also known as Castle Park) at Martin Luther King, (MLK) Jr. Park. After decades of wear and tear, the playground is in need of renovations, including improvements to bring the playground into compliance with today's safety standards.

A conceptual design was brought forward at a joint CRAB/PRAB meeting in April. It presented a good balance of preserving key structures and the identity of the current playground while also adding updates and improvements, such as better visibility, water features, accessibility, line of sight adjustments, inclusiveness and modern safety standards.

More information regarding the Community Playground and other enhancements to MLK, Jr. Park can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project.



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.

For more information on fertilizing responsibly:



scan the code or access
cityofwinterpark.org/lakes
under Fertilize Wisely

You can also sign up to receive email notifications about your lake, herbicide irrigation restrictions, and other important lakes news.

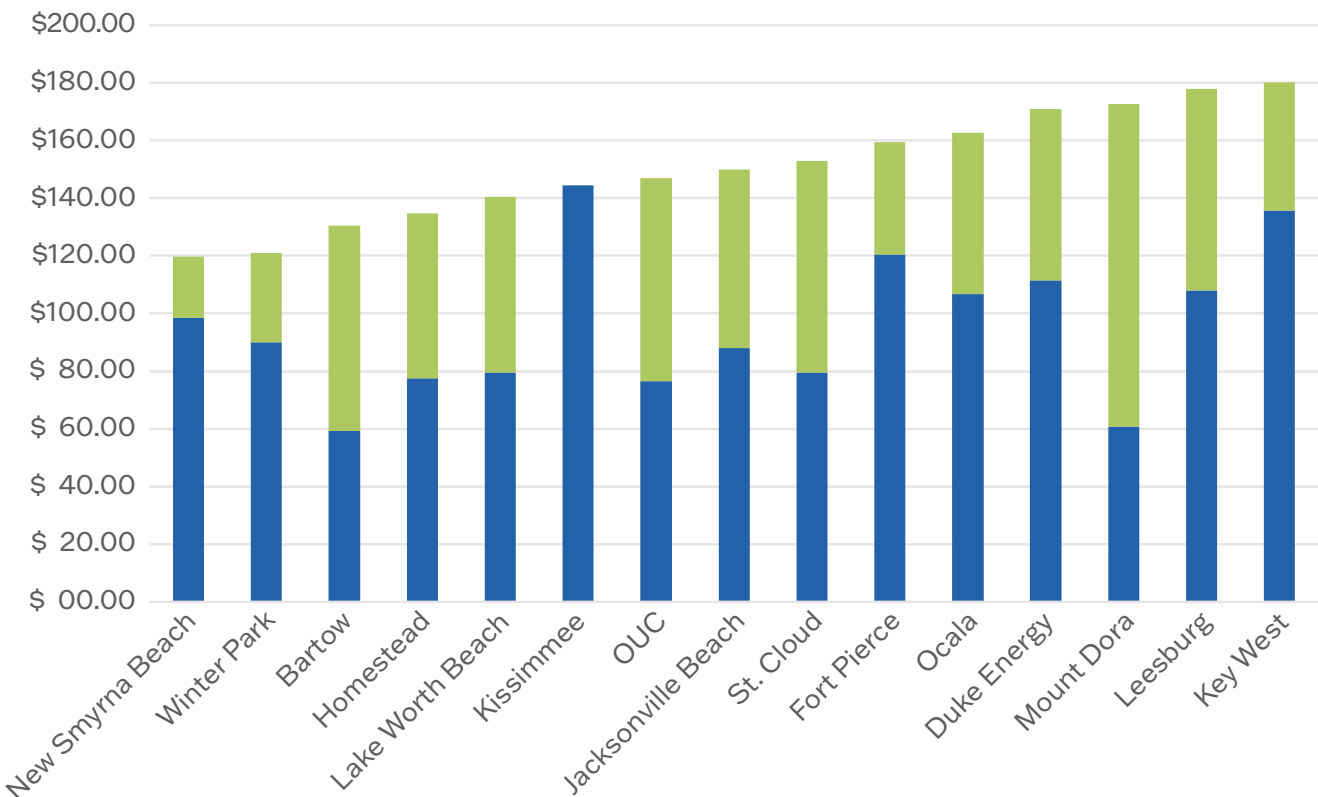
scan the code
or access
cityofwinterpark.org/lakes



So how do we rate?

When compared to Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC), Duke Energy and other municipally-owned utilities (5,000-100,000 customers), **Winter Park continues to offer one of the lowest residential electric utility rates in the state.** The corresponding graph shows the 1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison as of March 2023.

■ Base Rate ■ Fuel or Power Cost Adjustment



Hurricane information

Below are all the ways accessible on your electronic devices that the city communicates storm preparation, management and recovery. 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 to stay informed.

Hurricane Preparedness Guide

- cityofwinterpark.org/hurricanes
hard copies are available at City Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Library

Emergency Operations Center [available upon activation of EOC]

- Non-emergency information line **407-599-3494**
- Message Center email MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org

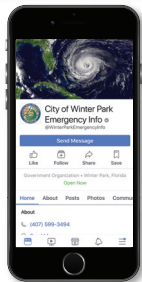
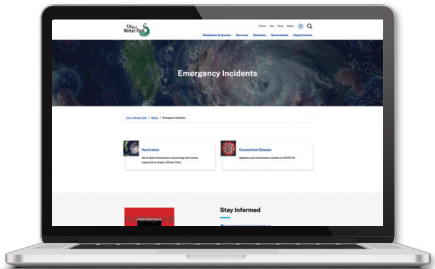
Report Outages

- Electric Utility Department **1-877-811-8700**
- Water & Wastewater Utilities Department **407-599-3219**



Website & social

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



PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO FL
ACG



401 South Park Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

city commission



left to
right

Commissioner Marty Sullivan, Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio,
Mayor Phil Anderson, 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
Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby	407-599-3471
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	407-599-3242
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 or choward@cityofwinterpark.org.

City of Winter Park | 401 S. Park Ave. | Winter Park, FL 32789