

Winter Park Update

December 2023 through February 2024

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

What a great time of year to be in Winter Park and central Florida! Seeing all the families and children playing in Central Park, full of life and energy, fills us all with the same wonder and joy we had as kids ourselves. Strolling on Park Avenue or walking through one of our amazing parks is a great way to experience the season. Access the city's website at cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events for all of the events we have planned.

This is the season to celebrate our friends and family. It is also the season to give thanks.

I am especially grateful to all the people in our lives that make this a special place. When Winter Park was established in 1882, the founders wanted to create a charming village that would last. That vision of a small town still drives all of us who live, work and play here in Winter Park.

I want to thank my fellow commissioners for keeping that vision. Vice Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Todd Weaver and Kris Cruzada spend a lot of time listening to residents, digging into the details and making decisions intended to make the lives of our friends and neighbors better. We have delivered a balanced budget with strong financial reserves. We are planning for the future on major issues like traffic and flood prevention. And we stay focused on doing the work that aligns with our residents: preserving our "History and Heritage" and our "Village Ambiance/Small Town Feel," the top two guiding principles noted in our 2016 Vision Winter Park study.

I want to thank our City Manager Randy Knight and Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle. They lead an amazing team of department heads that deliver results every day. Winter Park has the fastest emergency response times in the region. Our parks team manages over 500 acres of beautiful parks. Our electric utility team keeps outages short and is working with our sustainability team on delivering more renewable energy. To all 15 departments and approximately 500+ full-time team members, we thank you for a great year.

Thank you also to all our store owners, business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, and Park Avenue District for creating the aura of hospitality and great service that brings such fun and joy to our residents and visitors. Thanks also to our arts, culture and heritage community members for keeping our sense of beauty and charm alive! Finally, thanks to all the residents that graciously serve the community. We have over 140 residents serving on over 20 city boards committed to making Winter Park better.

Wishing you and your family the happiest of holiday seasons!

Sincerely, Mayor Phil Anderson

City Manager's Report

Brick streets: love them or hate them

One of the most treasured attributes Winter Park touts is its brick streets. The city has approximately 28 miles of this charming masonry that travels through its tree-lined neighborhoods and strategic commercial areas. When an opinion is sought, the poll normally results in a 50-50 split, some loving them and others not so much.

Brick roads serve a variety of purposes depending on the placement and need.

quaint residential areas They add to the neighborhood charm.

heavily traveled corridors They are a traffic calming measure.

commercial areas They do both ~ like along Park Avenue.

January 2023 marked the kick off of a comprehensive brick street assessment to develop a joint, maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement program. City staff from the Public Works & Transportation and Water & Wastewater Utilities departments are working together to assess all brick streets in the city then categorizing them on a variety of factors such as:

- Roadway foundation/base condition
- Existence and extent of leaky drainage or utility infrastructure
- Overall volume of traffic including the extent to which turning traffic or heavy vehicles have cause bricks to be misaligned.

Depending on the assessments and categorization, improvements will be made by either city staff or hired contractors. Emergency repairs will be addressed first, then the smaller areas that can be improved by city staff will be addressed on an ongoing basis. For those larger bricked areas that involve underground utility repairs or serve high traffic areas, contractors will be scheduled to perform the repairs and improvements.

For more information on the brick assessment project, please email

transportation@cityofwinterpark.org.

New cool place to warm up

Since acquisition of the Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18), the city has been making serious improvements to the entire golfing experience. From modern renovations to the club house to creating an inviting outdoor patio space complete with warm firepits and relaxing seating under the umbrella tables, golfers can enjoy their favorite outdoor activity even more. Other improvements include the installation of a new artificial tee at the driving range, repairs and replacement on all on-course bridges, as well as turf repair, root grinding and sod work to holes 1, 2, 3, 8 & 15. If you haven't golfed the WP18 recently, book your tee time by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/golf > Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18).

ATTN DRIVERS: New 4-way stop

To improve safety at Morse Boulevard and Capen Avenue, this intersection now features a 4-way stop. Please make note of this new traffic behavior and yield to pedestrians.

Utility work in city rights of way

In addition to city crews, throughout Winter Park, there are various private companies performing work in the city's rights of way (ROW). The ROW is the portion of public property between a sidewalk and curb where above-ground electric transformers and cable boxes, or access to utilities such as water meters, are placed. Under the ROW are a number of conduits and pipes for utilities to run power, water, cable, fiber or phone lines to your home and/or business. Prior to work being conducted, utility companies typically place small flags and spray paint markings in the area where

the work will be performed. Door hangers or notices also may be distributed to impacted residents and businesses depending on the company contracted to do the work. Recently, permits have been pulled for telecommunication companies such as CenturyLink®, frog, Blue Water Communications, Charter® Communications and GigaPower; energy companies such as Pearce Services, Duke Energy® Florida and TECO® Peoples Gas; as well as city crews repairing and/or installing stormwater infrastructure, underground electric conduit, or water pipes. Each company is required by ordinance to restore the ROW back to its original condition after work is completed. If this is not done, please submit a report using At Your Request, the city's online reporting system, by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/AtYourRequest. Thank you for your patience as this work is being performed to offer services that are intended to improve and enhance city residents' and businesses' quality of life.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

Quick Tip: WastePro® Services

12.25.23 Christmas Day

No household garbage, yard waste or recycling

01.01.24 New Year's Day

No household garbage or yard waste

recycling will be collected

Have a safe & Happy New Year!

2024 Election info

Mayor & Commission Seat 2

qualifying* » begins Monday 12.04.23 @ noon

ends Monday 12.11.23 @ 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 03.19.24

run-off election » Tuesday 04.16.24 [if necessary]

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

Quick Tip: Friendly irrigation reminder

Water one day a week thru Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

Celebrating the holidays

Winter on the Avenue

December 1 @ 5-9 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting @ sunset

Popcorn Flicks in the Park @ 7 p.m.

Central Park, Park Avenue & West Meadow

Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast

December 2 @ 7-10 a.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade

December 2 @ 9 a.m.

Along Park Avenue | from Canton Avenue to Lyman Avenue

Holiday Pops featuring Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

December 3 @ 5 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Santa Shift Open House

December 4 @ 5-7 p.m.

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

Light Up Hannibal Square

December 8 @ 6 p.m.

Hannibal Square Heritage Center @ 642 W. New England Ave.

Winter Park Holiday Boat Parade

December 9 @ 6-8:30 p.m.

Lake Virginia floating by Dinky Dock Park

Chanukah on the Park

December 10 @ 5:30-7 p.m.

Central Park

Wreaths Across America

December 16 @ noon

Palm Cemetery @ 1005 N. New York Ave.

Pineywood Cemetery @ 1810 S. Lakemont Ave.

Merry Tuba Christmas [9 a.m. registration]

December 16 @ 1 p.m. [performance]

Central Park Main Stage

Orlando Big Band Christmas Concert

December 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Pop-Tarts® Bowl Parade of Bands

December 28 @ 11 a.m.

Along Park Avenue & in Central Park

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

Stormwater assessment FAQs

Q Why am I seeing a stormwater assessment on my property tax bill?

A Effective October 1, 2023, the city moved the stormwater fee from the monthly utility bill to the property tax bill. September 2023 was the last month stormwater was included on the city utility bills.

Q Why did the city decide to change its billing method?

A Charging the stormwater assessment on the utility bill did not capture all properties, specifically those without an active water or electric account (i.e. properties that are vacant or under construction). Moving the stormwater fees to the property tax bill ensures all properties are billed for the fee.

Q How was the stormwater assessment calculated?

A The assessment is based on the amount of impervious surface area on your property and the city's rate of \$0.06/square foot of impervious surface area. The impervious surface area was determined through building permit data and aerial photographs from the Orange County Property Appraiser's GIS system.

Q If I believe the impervious surface area for my property is incorrect, what do I do?

A You can review the impervious surface area on your property by entering your address or parcel identification number and accessing gis.cityofwinterpark.org/stormaudit. Building structures will be shaded in red while driveways and other impervious areas will be shaded in yellow. If you would like the city to investigate the impervious square footage, select "Click here to appeal assessment" after entering your address.

Q If I file an appeal of my stormwater assessment, should I wait until that is resolved before paying my property tax bill?

A There is a 4% discount for paying property taxes by Thursday, November 30. That discount is reduced by 1% each month and if you pay after Thursday, February 29, 2024, there is no discount. If it is determined an adjustment should be made to the stormwater assessment, the city will complete a Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll and file it with the Orange County Tax Collector and Orange County Property Appraiser. Any overpayment will be refunded to you or your mortgage company as applicable.

Quick Tip: Electric undergrounding stats

Total citywide project miles **127.5**

Total miles completed **95.98**

Percentage completed **75.3%**

Total miles remaining **31.52**

1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison September 2023

Florida municipal utilities with customer counts between 5,000 and 100,000 with the addition of neighboring utilities Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) and Duke Energy® Florida.

Quick Tip: City Hall will be closed

noon Friday, December 22, thru Monday, December 25, in observance of Christmas 2023

Monday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day

Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

CoffeeTalk

Mark your calendars for a cup of conversation and coffee for this season's final **coffeetalk** sessions from the comfort of your home or in-person in Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall at 401 S. Park Ave., at 8:30 a.m. on the following Thursdays:

December 7 | Commissioner Todd Weaver **January 11, 2024** | Mayor Phil Anderson

Virtual link registration will be live approximately one week prior to each date by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/meetings. special thanks to our coffee provider **Barnie's Coffee Tea Co.**®

Boating etiquette & Safety

watch those wakes

- Excessive wakes can cause damage to shorelines and affect boater safety.
- When wakeboarding or other water sports that produce a substantial wake, avoid small coves and stay in the middle of the largest part of the lake.
- Kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards are very susceptible to tipping due to wakes.

buoy info

- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) regulates buoy usage and has very stringent rules and processes for getting authorization for regulatory buoys.
- The Lakes Division is working with the Police Department to obtain authorization for regulatory buoys within the Winter Park Chain that will offer safer boating without detracting from the natural beauty of our lakes.

dock digits

- City code requires your house number to be on your dock. This helps emergency responders to easily locate you or a boater in trouble.
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Quick Tip: No gas-powered leaf blowers

Beginning July 2024 The Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance #3230-22 prohibits all internal combustion engine or motor leaf blowers within city limits. This restriction applies to both personal and commercial use. **Please notify your landscaping companies so they can properly prepare as they care for your lawns.**

This ordinance was adopted in January 2022 to improve quality of life by eliminating excessive and unnecessary noise as well as improve air and water quality citywide.

For the complete ordinance, scan the code or access cityofwinterpark.org under **Government » Ordinances & Resolutions**.

You're Invited to the Annual State of the City 2024 [ad] with Mayor Phil Anderson

Featuring Employees of the Year & City Commission Highlights

Friday February 16, 2024

@ Winter Park Events Center Grand Ballroom 1050 West Morse Boulevard

8:30 a.m. | mingle with fellow residents & visit with city departments

9 a.m. | official program including Mayor's Founders' Award

Complimentary event rsvp appreciated by Friday, February 9

mayorsmessage@cityofwinterpark.org

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Mary Sullivan

As I enter my fourth year on the City Commission, I reflect upon how our Commission grew to work together as a team to address our challenges and to continue to make significant improvements for the city now and in the future.

- Maintaining the same property tax rate for the 16th consecutive year and increasing our fund reserves in FY24 for the 8th consecutive year, to their highest level ever.
- Enacting an Orange Avenue Overlay zoning development plan, rolling back "outsize" developer densities that would have forever altered the city's character, and prevailing on all legal challenges.
- Imbedding in our city Charter a supermajority Commission vote requirement on critical city elements now and into the future, e.g. it now takes four votes to dispose of a city-owned property.
- Significantly increasing the number of homes voluntarily placed on Winter Park's Historic Register.
- Creating a new two-acre park on Orange Avenue, "Seven Oaks Park."
- Opening the long-awaited new Winter Park Library & Events Center.
- Developing a 25-year Strategic Capital Plan for major projects.
- Passing ordinances prohibiting gas leaf blowers and allowing, with neighbor approval, backyard chickens.

- Responding to the COVID pandemic by allocating American Rescue Plan Act funds and providing vaccination incentives for city employees.
- Formally resolving to achieve 100% renewable energy for the city by 2050.
- Enacting specific plans for future transportation needs, major stormwater improvements, and information technology challenges.
- Acquiring the 93-acre, 18-hole Winter Park Pines Golf Course. Not only did this preserve green space and protect adjacent home values, the reasonable greens fees have more than covered the cost of the purchase.

Mayor Phil Anderson has worked tirelessly to keep us focused on our Vision 2016 values in all the decisions we make. He has collaborated closely with city staff to spearhead our Strategic Capital Plan for the next 25 years, leveraging 35 years of his business executive experience to provide invaluable guidance for the city's future.

Vice Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, as evident of her leadership abilities, advocates for our citizens' best interests, working closely with city staff. She shares her excellent employee interviews with the community. She led the drive for competitive pay and benefits for the Police Department, which has helped bring them up to full force.

Commissioner Kris Cruzada vigorously hit the ground running. He draws upon his legal experience and brings a wealth of knowledge regarding community service and housing. He serves on multiple community and charitable boards. He ably manages his Commission duties along with a full-time law practice and raising two children with his wife Chichi.

Commissioner Todd Weaver, the veteran among us, is well known for his innovative ideas, environmental advocacy, and his positive relationships with neighbors and citizens. Drawing on knowledge from his ecologic experience, gardening, contractor license, veterinary experience, industrial patents and beekeeping, he brings a creative perspective to our deliberations.

I think the photo below captures our spirit best. Last year I noticed the degraded equipment and basketball court that was The Meadows affordable housing playground. With help from all Commissioners, particularly Vice Mayor DeCiccio, we got funding for a super new basketball court and real playground with swings, slides, and jungle gyms. To kick off the celebration, our police played a game with local kids on the new court (Note: Chief Tim Volkerson plays a mean game of hoops). Our Community Center staff has devoted significant time and attention to our local kids this year. Big thanks to AdventHealth for their \$1,500 contribution to the Winter Park Housing Authority to further these first-rate efforts.

Sincerely, Commissioner Marty Sullivan

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