

Winter Park Update

December 2024 through February 2025

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

Happy Holidays, Winter Park!

As we step into this festive season, there's so much to be thankful for. After facing two hurricanes, our resilient community emerged with minimal power outages and no extensive damage — a true blessing worth celebrating.

This year, the Park Avenue District approached us with a wonderful vision to enhance the holiday spirit along Park Avenue. With the city and Community Redevelopment Agency matching funds, the District was able to design and curate our new holiday decor as well as raise funds to bring their vision to life. Their multi-sensory display, featuring oranges and magnolias, beautifully honors Winter Park's rich history. One of the highlights is the charming carousel on Park Avenue, inviting joy for all ages and creating lasting memories.

The holiday season is always bustling with events, shopping, dining and time with loved ones. Whether you're traveling or welcoming family and friends, take a moment to experience the magic throughout our city. Winter Park offers a wide range of festive events for everyone to enjoy. Access our city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events to explore all our holiday events, including our traditional favorites: Christmas in the Park, Winter on the Avenue and Tree Lighting Ceremony, Popcorn Flicks in the Park, "Ye Olde Hometown" Christmas Parade, Holiday Pops, Merry TUBACHRISTMAS, Chanukah on the Park along with the annual Kwanzaa Celebration and Light Up Hannibal Square.

Also, please save the date for Friday, January 31, at 8:30 a.m., for my first State of the City Address at the Winter Park Events Center in the Grand Ballroom. This event will be a wonderful opportunity to hear from our City Commissioners, meet key members of our city departments, celebrate our achievements, and recognize our Employees of the Year and the Mayor's Founders' Award recipient. Wishing each of you a safe, joyful and memorable holiday season.

Warmest Regards, Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

Celebrating the holidays

cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events

Christmas in the Park

December 5 @ 6:15 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Winter on the Avenue

December 6 @ 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 7 @ 7-10:30 a.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade

December 7 @ 9 a.m.

Along Park Avenue | from Canton Avenue to Lyman Avenue

Holiday Pops featuring Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

December 8 @ 6 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Santa Shift Open House

December 11 @ 5-7 p.m.

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

Light Up Hannibal Square

December 12 @ 5-8 p.m.

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

Wreaths Across America

December 14 @ noon

Palm Cemetery @ 1005 N. New York Ave.

Pineywood Cemetery @ 1810 S. Lakemont Ave.

Merry TUBACHRISTMAS [9 a.m. registration | 10 a.m. rehearsal]

December 14 @ 1 p.m. [performance]

Central Park Main Stage

The Great American Big Band Christmas Concert

December 14 @ 7 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Christmas Concert presented by AdventHealth Orchestra

December 15 @ 5 p.m.

Central Park Main Stage

Santa visits Winter Park neighborhoods

December 16-19 & 23 @ various times
throughout Winter Park

Chanukah on the Park

December 25 @ 5 p.m.

Central Park

Kwanzaa Celebration

December 26 @ 5-9 p.m.

Winter Park Community Center @ 721 W. New England Ave.

Commissioner's Column

What will it take to keep our "village charm"?

Most of us live here because of Winter Park's lovely urban environment, its quirky shopping district, walking and jogging spaces, parks, festivals and shaded residential areas.

But Winter Park is like an island surrounded by a sea of threats: out-of-control growth, degraded traffic conditions, powerful climate-induced storms, old and often failing regional infrastructure. With deliberate planning, we can manage these threats but make no mistake – it will be costly.

City leaders have constructed 5- and 25-year capital improvement plans to address these threats, but plans are only as good as their execution. Among the capital projects and 25-year costs (millions of dollars) are:

- » Property acquisition for green space & traffic improvements \$35M
- » Transportation infrastructure & pedestrian safety \$145M
- » Stormwater management \$75M
- » Public safety & first responders \$13M

Our annual capital budget of \$2.5 million to \$3 million a year will not cover the cost of these and other critically important improvements. We are going to need an additional \$4 million to \$6 million per year. To do this, we need to raise property taxes.

A millage rate increase of 0.6 mill translates to an additional \$5 million per year. For a \$500,000 home, with a tax of \$2,456, the cost per month would be \$25. If approved by the Commission, it will be the first rate increase in 16 years. Of 12 local municipalities, our millage will still be below average and fifth from the lowest.

As a Winter Park home owner, I consider this \$25 per month an investment in our home and beautiful environment. What is it worth to you?

Sincerely, Marty Sullivan

City Manager's Report

Orange County approves two major city requests

Over the past two years, at the City Commission's request, staff has been performing an in-depth analysis to modify the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), extend the CRA's operational period 10 years, from 2027 to 2037, and update the Community Redevelopment Plan. I'm happy to report, at the October 29 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, they unanimously approved the extension and expansion of the CRA. Along with a consultant, GAI/CSG Consultants Inc., staff worked to provide exhaustive community outreach and meet statute requirements.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Mayor Sheila DeCiccio for attending many one-on-one meetings with Mayor Jerry Demings and each County Commissioner in addition to speaking on the city's behalf at the BCC meetings. We are eager to continue to enhance and grow the city's tax base, while beautifying neighborhoods, and upgrading aging infrastructure.

At the same meeting, the BCC also approved \$8 million in Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funding for the city to acquire, expand and restore the Winter Park Playhouse at its current site located at 711 N. Orange Ave. The acquisition of the property will create a permanent home for the Playhouse, which has a proven record of attracting tourists to the city and county. With support of Orange County's

TDT funding, the expansion of the auditorium (from the current 123 seats to 185 seats) will increase capacity by 50% and enable 10,000+ more residents and guests to attend the popular shows. The Playhouse is the only professional musical theater in central Florida and entertains over 30,000 people annually. They are an important player in the city's arts and culture scene and we value the talent and impact they bring to our community.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

City Hall CLOSED

Christmas

Tuesday @ noon **12.24.24**

Wednesday **12.25.24**

New Year's Day

Wednesday **01.01.25**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday **01.20.25**

Have safe & enjoyable holidays!

Conversations are brewing at CoffeeTalk

Join our city leaders for a cup of conversation and coffee.

Brewing schedule

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

Commission Chambers @ 401 S. Park Ave.

DEC 05 Commissioner Marty Sullivan

JAN 09 Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

2025

Virtual link will be available approximately one week prior to each gathering at cityofwinterpark.org/meetings.

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.

Helpful irrigation reminders through March 9, 2025

- **Irrigation between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. is PROHIBITED.**
- Water no more than one hour per zone, or $\frac{3}{4}$ " per zone per day.
- **ODD numbered addresses OR properties with NO addresses** MAY water Saturday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday
- **EVEN numbered addresses** MAY water on Sunday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Monday
- **Non-residential properties** MAY water on Tuesday between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Wednesday
- **Properties with new lawns or landscaping** are EXEMPT from the restriction for the first 30 DAYS.
- If using **private wells or pumps** for irrigation, ground or surface water, AND water from public and private utilities **MUST comply with the St. Johns River Water Management District's Restriction.**

Christmas on Park

Special thanks to the Park Avenue District for their vision and design of downtown Winter Park's holiday décor. The city's rich history, rooted in oranges and magnolias, dates back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when citrus groves – especially Temple oranges – thrived. Symbolic of Southern hospitality, magnolias still grace our landscape today.

This year's holiday décor honors the city's heritage and embraces the timeless charm of downtown. With support from city and Community Redevelopment Agency matching funds combined with fundraising efforts by the District, they have created a multi-sensory experience. The experience includes music, fragrances, a carousel and cathedral of lights that brings the magic of the holidays to life for both residents and guests. For details, access parkavedistrict.com/christmas-on-park.

Quick Tip: WastePro® Services

Household garbage, recycling & yard trash **will not be collected**:

- n Christmas Day
- New Year's Day

Normal services will resume on your next regularly scheduled collection day.

Keep an eye out for a new online art feature

The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) and city staff are excited to be launching the city's first-ever comprehensive online Public Art Collection. Accomplishing one of the PAAB's top goals of 2024, this collection features over 90 pieces of art representing various mediums from artists around the world.

Each piece's "digital didactic" features the artist, photo, medium, creation date and location. All pieces of the collection are in public city facilities or spaces, including the Library & Events Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Shady Park in Hannibal Square, Welcome Center and City Hall.

The new online catalogue also features an interactive locator map so art enthusiasts can easily locate and visit each piece. You may access the city's new online Public Art Collection at cityofwinterpark.org/public-art.

Attention Electric Vehicle Owners

On November 1, the city began charging to charge at its EV charging stations. Since the City of Winter Park installed its first charging station in 2012, the usage patterns associated with EV charging have changed. The charge-for-free nature of the city's public-facing charging stations has become a source of increasing complaints related to vehicles using a charger for extended periods including overnight, parked un-connected to a charger, or left connected to the charger for extended periods when already fully charged.

To reinforce the true purpose of the spaces created exclusively to charge EVs, the city is now implementing its new EV Charger connection rates:

- **\$1 per 20-minutes** of connected time billed at the start of the charging period
- **add \$10 per hour after 3 hours** of connected time billed at the start of each hour

Please access cityofwinterpark.org/evcharging for more examples of calculated EV charging rates.

In addition, the Winter Park Police Department will begin issuing citations to enforce the following parking restrictions at public-facing EV charging station spaces:

- EVs **must be connected to the charging station** when parked in an EV parking space.
- Non-EVs are **prohibited from parking in spaces designated for EV charging** per city ordinances.

Charging to charge is not unique to Winter Park, in fact charging rates are a normal function of EV ownership. They are applied by utilities such as Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) and Florida Power and Light at stations located at OUC Robinson Recharge Mobility Hub, along with the cities of Dunedin, Green Acres, Celebration and Jacksonville Beach.

For more information regarding EV Charging Stations and connection fees, please access cityofwinterpark.org/evcharging. For questions please email sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org.

Love your Library Yacht Rock 2025

Set sail for a night of smooth tunes, good vibes and a celebration like no other! The **Love Your Library: Yacht Rock 2025** event happens on **Saturday, February 8**, at the Library and Events Center. Featuring iconic soft rock hits of the '70s and '80s performed by Summer Breeze Band, a treasure-filled auction, and nautical-inspired dining by Arthur's Catering, this is an evening you won't want to miss.

All proceeds benefit the Library's vital programs and services. For tickets and more details, please access winterparklibrary.org/loveyourlibrary or scan the code. Anchors aweigh!

Leaf blower ordinances & education

On January 12, 2022, the City Commission approved Ordinance #3230-22 that outlined the following:

- All internal combustion engine or motor leaf blowers [including landscape company usage] are limited to:
Monday thru Saturday
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday | noon to 6 p.m.
- Any debris blown into the public right of way must be removed within 30 minutes. This helps to keep our lakes healthy.
- Beginning July 2024, all internal combustion engine or motor leaf blowers [including landscape company usage] will be prohibited within the city.

Since the adoption of the above ordinance along with feedback received by both residents and commercial landscapers, on April 24 of this year, the City Commission approved Ordinance #3292-24. This ordinance initiates a referendum of the voters on the possible repeal of the internal combustion engine leaf blower ban. The City Commission also delayed implementation of the ban until June 1, 2025, pending the outcome of the vote in March 2025.

To review these Ordinances in their entirety, please access cityofwinterpark.org > **Government > Ordinances & Resolutions**.

For more educational information, please access cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability and select the **Leaf Blower Information button**.

Stormwater Basin Studies

The city's Public Works & Transportation and Natural Resources & Sustainability departments are leading a stormwater basin study in response to various flooding incidents experienced after intense rainfall the past few years. The study will determine the most efficient, productive and cost-effective ways to mitigate potential stormwater flooding issues throughout the city as well as create a new living stormwater model for resiliency efforts.

possible mitigation efforts could include:

- Upgrade and repair existing collection & conveyance facilities.
- New collection & conveyance systems.

- Upgraded and new water quality treatment & storage facilities.

At the October 24 City Commission meeting, staff provided an update on three preliminary basin studies:

western basin study

study encompasses all drainage areas **west** of the chain of lakes

performed by Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

included Lakes Bell, Killarney, Mendsen & Rose

central basin study

study encompasses all drainage areas **within** the chain of lakes

performed by Singhofen Halff & Associates

included Lakes Berry, Chelton, Forest, Grace, Knowles, Maitland, Mizell, Osceola, Spier, Sue, Sylvan & Virginia

eastern basin study

study will encompass all drainage areas **east** of the chain of lakes

performed by Baxter and Woodman, Inc.

included Winter Park Pines sub basin area

With a price tag ranging from \$27 million to \$40 million to complete all proposed mitigation recommendations, city staff will create a plan to prioritize and phase-in certain elements of each basin study recommendations in coming years. The plan will require project collaboration with adjacent municipalities as well as the St. Johns River Water Management District. In November, it was presented to the city's Lakes & Waterways and Lake Killarney boards, and will be scheduled for presentation to the City Commission.

You're Invited to the Annual State of the City 2025 [ad] **with Mayor Sheila DeCiccio**

Featuring Employees of the Year & City Commission Highlights

Friday January 31, 2025

@ 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, January 17

mayorsmessage@cityofwinterpark.org

Save these dates

Sunday, January 19 & Monday, January 20

what **Unity Heritage Festival**

when Sunday » 1 to 5 p.m.
Monday » 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

where Shady Park in Hannibal Square
721 W. New England Ave.

info [407.599.3397](tel:407.599.3397)

Saturday, February 15

- what** **Unity Corner Dedication**
when time TBD
where Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
corner of Denning Drive & Morse Boulevard
info [407.599.3217](tel:407.599.3217)
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March 2025 Election Information

Commission Seat 3 & Commission Seat 4

qualifications

- » Candidates must be a qualified elector AND reside within Winter Park city limits [per City Charter].
- » Candidates may download pre-qualification documents and candidate packets by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/elections.

Qualifying

- » begins Monday 01.13.25 @ noon
- » ends Tuesday 01.21.25 @ noon

general election

- » Tuesday 03.11.25

run-off election

- » Tuesday 04.08.25 [if necessary]

Official ballot language

Repeal of Ban on Use of Internal Combustion Powered Leaf Blowers

Shall the City of Winter Park amend Article IV, Division 2, § 62-97 of its Code of Ordinances, as provided in Ordinance 3292-24, to revise the City Code to repeal the City's ban on the use of internal combustion powered leaf blowers and to regulate noise created by the use of leaf blowers consistent with those regulations regulating noise created by power tools?

Yes _____ No _____

Winter Park Arts Weekend [ad]

February 20-23, 2025

This four-day arts extravaganza will feature dozens of community events and performances at Central Park's Main Stage and 20+ cultural venues throughout the city. We invite you to immerse yourself in the amazing and diverse art & cultural experiences that Winter Park has to offer.

wpinspires.org/artsweekend

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 Jamie England	407-599-3294
Finance Wes Hamil	407-599-3292
Fire-Rescue Chief Dan Hagedorn	407-599-3297
Information Technology Parsram Rajaram	407-599-3432
Management & Budget Peter Moore	407-599-3567
Parks & Recreation Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Zoning Allison McGillis	407-599-3665
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. | Winter Park, FL 32789](#)