

Winter Park Update

June through August 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

I am very honored to be elected and now serving as the 56th Mayor of the City of Winter Park. Mayor Phil Anderson handed me the mayoral gavel on April 10. I want to thank Mayor Anderson for his outstanding leadership. It was a privilege and an honor to work with him for the past three years.

The city's infrastructure is one of my top priorities. I'm pleased to report that our city's basin studies will be completed soon and give us crucial insights into our drainage, stormwater and flood management systems. This will allow us to prioritize the important infrastructure needs and complete a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. This is especially important since meteorologists are predicting an active hurricane season this year. In addition, the City Commission will continue to work with staff on these projects:

- New electric wiring and lights on North Park Avenue.
- Improvements to the safety and flow of State Road 426/Orange Avenue and U.S. Highway 17-92, working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), as needed.
- Completion of Seven Oaks Park which includes new greenspaces for relaxation, respite and community gatherings, street alignment, drainage as well as additional parking for customers and employees of local businesses.
- Comprehensive brick street assessment identifying streets that need maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement.

One of the joys of summer in Winter Park is that the flowers around the city have been in bloom throughout the year. Along with this, there are many fun upcoming events in our city – and most are free! Here are just a few things you and your family can enjoy:

juneteenth celebrations

June 15 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Celebrating Juneteenth in Historic Hannibal Square:

Knowing Remembering & Reclaiming Our Stories"

Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church
160 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Opening reception for "See Through Our Eyes: Storytellers in Sanford and Eatonville" exhibition

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

June 15 | 5 to 10 p.m.

Juneteenth in Winter Park

"A Night Under the Stars: Jazz & Jubilee"

presented by the Equity Council

Shady Park | 721 W. New England Ave.

June 16 | 3 p.m.

"Juneteenth: Connecting the Dots" presented by Dr. Rebekah McCloud

Winter Park Library | 1052 W. Morse Blvd.

independence day celebrations

June 22 | 7 p.m.

Patriotic Salute in the Park with the Great American Big Band

Central Park Main Stage | downtown Winter Park

July 4 | 9 to 11 a.m.

29th Annual 4th of July Celebration

Central Park | downtown Winter Park

For more information and a complete list of Winter Park events, please access

cityofwinterpark.org/events. I look forward to running into you at these and other events around town. Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer

Sincerely, Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

There's a latte to learn at CoffeeTalk

Even if you've **bean** before, save the dates to join your city leaders for a **robusta** cup of informal and casual conversation (and hot coffee) at this year's CoffeeTalks. Attendees can ask questions and learn more about their elected officials and management team. Unable to attend in person? Virtual link access will be available approximately one week prior to each gathering at

cityofwinterpark.org/meetings.

brewing

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

Commission Chambers @ 401 S. Park Ave.

AUG 01 City Manager Randy Knight & Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle

SEP 05 Vice Mayor Todd Weaver

OCT 03 Commissioner Kris Cruzada

NOV 07 Commissioner Craig Russell

DEC 05 Commissioner Marty Sullivan

JAN 09 Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

2025

City Manager's Report

Congratulations!

During the month of April, the city celebrated two Swearing-In Ceremonies for our newly elected Mayor and City Commissioner (Seat 2). We look forward to working with Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, as well as City Commissioner Craig Russell as we discuss and make important decisions for our city's residents, businesses and guests.

Electric leaf blower update

On April 24, the City Commission approved Ordinance #3292-24 which sets for a referendum of the voters on the possible repeal of the internal combustion engine leaf blower ban that was adopted in January 2022. Therefore, the March 2025 election ballot will ask city residents to cast their vote on this topic. The newly approved ordinance also delays implementation of the ban until June 1, 2025, pending the outcome of the vote in March.

Ready for the 2024 storm season

After last year's unprecedented rain and flooding events from Hurricanes Ian & Idalia and Tropical Storm Nicole, the city has made many improvements in preparation for 2024's predicted active season.

In addition to revising and updating the city's Hurricane Preparedness Plan in collaboration with all departments, the following efforts have been accomplished:

natural resources & sustainability

- Developed a Lakes & Stormwater Management for Flood Control policy.
- Established policies and procedures for lake closures and openings based on safety and impact of water elevations on lakefront properties.
- Installed smart technology (telemetry) to measure lake levels for better monitoring and decision making during a severe weather event.
- Dredged/removed sediment from the bottom of various canals and lakes including lakes Killarney, Osceola, Maitland, Berry, Knowles and Midget, to allow for better water flow and storage. (grant funded project)

public works & transportation

- Conducted major drainage basin studies of the central, eastern and western basins and installing weather stations in each basin.
- Repaired, relined and/or replaced storm pipes in key areas of the city.
- Redesigned, replaced, reconnected or added new inlets and/or pipes to improve drainage in targeted areas.

water & wastewater utilities

- Replaced lining of gravity sewer mains to prevent groundwater from entering the sewer system.
- Installed new/larger force main to increase the pumping capacity of the lift stations.
- Upgraded lift stations to improve reliability.
- Purchased new mobile generator to provide power to lift stations impacted by a power outage.
- Submitted a grant to purchase nine additional portable generators.

For more detailed information about the city's storm hardening efforts, please access cityofwinterpark.org/hurricanes.

Staying informed

In the event of an impending hurricane, please like, follow or subscribe to one or more of the following tools to stay informed.

Hurricane Preparedness Guide

- cityofwinterpark.org/emergency 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](tel:407-599-3494)
- Message Center email MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org

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)

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 the city's emergency alert system
[sign up to receive a phone call, text or email]
- facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo]
- twitter.com/WinterParkFla [@WinterParkFla]
- nextdoor.com sign up for neighborhood-specific info

Please be prepared and stay safe this hurricane season.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Kris Cruzada

Dear friends & neighbors,

The season of summer is nearly upon us. The afternoon rain showers are soon to be a daily event. The summer brings back many memories of my youth in Winter Park. I remember being out of school, the longer days of sunshine, and more time to spend with friends and family. Between the parks, pools and playgrounds, there was always something to do in the summer. I recall the Cady Way Trail to Cady Way Pool was a well beaten path for my brothers and I, as well as the old 7-Eleven on Lakemont Avenue, where we would buy candy and comic books.

This summer, there are many activities for children to do and here are just a few:

- Winter Park Community Center & Shady Park summer programs.
- A variety of summer camps depending on your child's interests, including the Summer Family Program at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, Nature Camps at Mead Botanical Garden, and ArtCamp at Crealdé School of Art.
- Winter Park Library's Summer Reading Challenge.

Please take advantage of all the city has to offer for children and families.

Summer is also a time for vacations. I am always stressed about preparation for family travel. From stopping the delivery of mail to setting up indoor light timers, there's always a checklist before I leave the house. A valuable house check service to our residents offered by our Police Department may give a little more peace of mind while traveling. The House Check Program allows for extra patrol of a property while a resident is away. Simply apply at wppd.org under Programs » Crime Prevention » House Check with the required information for your peace of mind as you enjoy your vacation.

Lastly, summer is also a time to catch up with neighbors, new and old. Often, I see neighbors on a walk, while I am throwing the football with my son or tending to my front yard. Every now and then, a simple hello to a neighbor, leads to how are you and a good conversation.

We, as neighbors, benefit our community when we spend time in mindful conversation to truly understand each other, even if we are different. In closing, I would like to wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely, Kris Cruzada, Commissioner, Seat 3

Affordable housing available now

Affordable housing continues to be an important topic of discussion at the City Commission and senior staff level. The city's partnership with Winter Park Housing (formerly Winter Park Housing Authority) dates back to a city ordinance adopted in 1970 creating the non-profit organization.

The mission of Winter Park Housing is *to provide a secure, sanitary, non-discriminatory, crime and drug-free environment in a nurturing community where residents have access to resources to become self-sufficient and independent*. Winter Park Housing fulfills its mission by managing 705 units across the following properties:

public housing

1. The Meadows at Margaret Square » families
718 Margaret Square
2. Tranquil Terrace » seniors & disabled
845 W. Swoope Ave.

Affordable housing

3. The Plymouth » seniors
1550 Gay Road
4. Railroad Avenue Apartments » families
600 Railroad Ave.
5. Tuscany at Aloma Apartments » families
6999 Aloma Ave.
6. Winter Park Oaks » families
325 Balfour Drive

Currently, 8% of affordable housing units are available for those seeking housing. If you are interested in learning more about eligibility or how to apply, please access winterparkha.org/how-to-apply or stop by one of the leasing offices located at the Meadows, Plymouth, Tuscany or Winter Park Oaks communities.

Winter Park Business Academy

If you are an entrepreneur and are either starting or growing your business, the Winter Park Business Academy (WPBA) is here for you. In September 2023, the city and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) partnered with the National Entrepreneur Center (NEC) and launched the WPBA. Offered to all businesses in Winter Park city limits, more than 200 entrepreneurs have participated in the program. Through the WPBA, participants can take advantage of free resources, workshops and individualized business coaching.

monthly summer workshops

June 25 Business Finance

July 23 Sources of Capital

August 20 Digital Marketing 101

September 24 Brand Positioning Strategies

register & learn

To register for the workshops above or learn more about the Academy, please access [BizLinkOrange.com/WinterPark](https://bizlinkorange.com/WinterPark).

Summer Reading Challenge

Join the ADVENTURE and participate in Winter Park Library's Summer Reading Challenge from **Sunday, May 26, through Saturday, July 27**.

Read every day and keep track of your progress at wppl.beanstack.com/reader365. Log at least five days per week to claim a weekly prize at the Library [while supplies last]. Logging your reading sessions also qualifies you for the chance to **win the grand prize** in your age category. Dive into the world of books and enjoy the journey of reading!

Love the arts? Volunteer?

The city's Arts & Culture Alliance is made up of 20 non-profit arts organizations in the city limits. If you have a passion for educational, visual, performing or fine arts, we may have the perfect volunteer fit for you! The members of the Alliance, listed below, rely on and value public involvement for the success of their organization and programming.

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens + Capen Showalter House

ArtReach Orlando

Bach Festival Society of Winter Park

Casa Feliz Historic Home Museum

Central Florida Vocal Arts & Opera del Sol

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art

City of Winter Park Public Art Collection

Crealdé School of Art + Hannibal Square Heritage Center

GladdeningLight

Mead Botanical Garden, Inc.
Open Scene
Rollins Department of Music
Rollins Museum of Art
Rollins Theater & Dance
Winter Park Chamber of Commerce Autumn Art Festival
Winter Park History Museum
Winter Park Institute
Winter Park Library
Winter Park Playhouse
Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival

If you love and appreciate the arts and are interested in helping the cultural community of Winter Park continue to thrive, please consider sharing your time and/or talents by accessing wpinspires.org and clicking on the **Volunteer Opportunities button** to submit the form.

Brick assessment project update

The city has approximately 28 miles of brick streets that travel through its tree-lined neighborhoods and strategic commercial areas. Since January 2023, the city's Public Works & Transportation and Water & Wastewater Utilities departments have been 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 caused bricks to be misaligned.

Emergency repairs are being addressed first, then the smaller areas (spot repairs) that can be improved by city staff are addressed as needed. 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. Work has already been completed in many areas of the city, however, this is an ongoing initiative that staff will continue to monitor and assess for maintenance and repairs. For more information on the brick assessment project, please email transportation@cityofwinterpark.org

Happy 20th Anniversary!

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the official city seal. In May 2004, the City Commission adopted the seal and tagline "City of Culture and Heritage" honoring the city's commitment to its deep history, strong pride and dedication to the rich culture and heritage.

In 1945, Hugh F. and Jeannette McKean adopted a pair of peacocks for their lawn on Interlachen Drive. Needing more room, in 1950 the birds were moved to land on Genius Drive. The peacock has

also been honored and incorporated into the beautiful Tiffany glass exhibits at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, which was a strong source of inspiration for the city seal.

Since adoption, various versions and elements of a peacock have been incorporated into a number of organizations' marketing, tying to the strong Winter Park brand that was adopted two decades ago. The Winter Park peacock continues to be a source of pride for its residents and surrounding community.

Electrofishing

In April, City Management, Natural Resources & Sustainability Department staff, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) conducted a fisheries survey on the popular public waterways known as the Winter Park Chain of Lakes. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the health of our sport-fish populations. As many anglers enjoy fishing in the Chain of Lakes, the city wants to ensure that the sport-fish population, including the Florida largemouth bass, is sustainable well into the future. A healthy sport-fish community is an indication of a healthy ecosystem which generations of recreational guides (from fishing charters to paddleboard outfitters) depend on for their ecotourist business to thrive.

Biologists use a method known as electrofishing to conduct this survey. This is done by lowering electrode poles into the lake that provides electricity that temporarily shocks the field around the boat where fish can be readily captured, evaluated and released back into the water. Electrofishing provides a rapid assessment for fishery management which also includes invasive species abundance.

Results of this survey prove a very sustainable future for our bass populations. What biologists want to see is a variety of bass in age, size and weight. Specifically, the stomach size of the fish provides a good indication that the bass populations in the Winter Park Chain of Lakes have an adequate balance in available food and shelter (such as submersed aquatic plants) to grow to trophy size. Investments in managing a wide variety of beneficial native submersed aquatic vegetation with the city's Lakes team is paying off with a healthy fisheries management report.

As you enjoy the city's waterways this summer, the department wishes you "tight lines" for the upcoming fishing season!

2023 Water Quality Report

access cityofwinterpark.org/h2oreport

Quick Tip: City Hall will be closed

in observance of Juneteenth Day Wednesday 06.19.24

in observance of Independence Day Thursday 07.04.23

Have safe & enjoyable holidays!

City Commission

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Craig Russell, Commissioner Marty Sullivan, 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 de 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	407-599-3233
Water & Wastewater Utilities David Zusi	407-599-3219

Email addresses can be accessed 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.

