

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

Our courses are the best by par

I am thrilled to share exciting new developments for our two city- owned golf courses — the **Winter Park Golf Course (WP9)** and **Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18)**. These aren't just places to play golf, they are cherished public parks with fairways, deeply woven into the fabric of Winter Park. They provide a place where families bond, neighbors connect, and players of all ages and abilities come together.

A brief history In 1995, the City of Winter Park acquired the portion of the WP9 it did not already own. In 2022, we procured Winter Pines Golf Club (renamed to Winter Park Pines Golf Club) to perpetually protect these treasured greenspaces and assure the land would never be sold to developers. Both were purchased with bond issues. The on-going cost of operations of both courses are covered by the revenues from memberships, greens fees, cart fees, driving range fees, as well as merchandising, and food and beverage sales.

WP9 is consistently ranked among the top five public 9-hole courses in the country. In fact, we now have over 100 people on the waitlist to become WP9 members — a clear sign of how treasured these spaces are to everyone. That's why our city has invested in thoughtful improvements to both courses, from upgraded greens and bunkers to a new maintenance facility.

WP18 has made an operating profit every year since the city purchased it. WP18 is blossoming into a true community gem. While those profits don't fully cover the bond used to purchase the land — 95 acres were procured for under \$8 million at a 2.65% interest rate — it is not just a golf course. It is permanently protected parkland. Prior to the city's purchase, development proposals threatened to eliminate this vital greenspace and add congestion to an already stressed area. Now, this land is not only preserved, it has also allowed us to improve stormwater infrastructure and reduce flooding in nearby neighborhoods.

Acquiring and maintaining greenspace is not a cost, but an investment in our quality of life. Every dollar spent helps ensure public access, community health, and a beautiful environment we can all enjoy for generations. To learn more about both courses and book a tee time, please access cityofwinterpark.org/golf.

With gratitude, Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

Commissioner's Column

A message from Commissioner Kris Cruzada

Dear friends and neighbors,

As we move closer to the summer, the daylight hours get longer. I am often drawn outside to walk, garden and enjoy the outdoors. My activities outside and the hotter weather remind me to drink

water and stay hydrated. Please make sure that your residential irrigation system is up to date on the Daylight Savings Time schedule.

This past April, the City Commission Work Session focused on city street sweeping. Every fall and spring a tremendous amount of leaves fall upon our yards and streets. The objective of our street sweeping is to prevent the leaves from accumulating in our stormwater system and lakes. To help this initiative, please place your leaf and yard debris in a yard bin for waste pickup. You may need to remind your landscape or lawn maintenance crew. This will help reduce the nitrogen loads into our local lakes and prevent yard debris clogging our stormwater pipes. One more thing that we as residents can do to help protect water quality in our local lakes is to not over fertilize our yards. Winter Park has guidelines for fertilizing that help keep our lakes clean and avoid algae blooms along the St. Johns River Basin. More fertilization tips can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/lakes » **Fertilize Wisely.**

Lastly, there are many activities for children this summer:

- Programs at the Winter Park Community Center including the Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Camp
- Multitude of camps hosted by Rollins College
- Blue Dolphins Summer Swim Camp at the Cady Way Pool
- Summer Family Program at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art
- ArtCamp at Crealdé School of Art
- Winter Park Library's Summer Reading Challenge

Please take advantage of all that is offered throughout the city for children and families this summer. In closing, I would like to wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely, Kris Cruzada, Commissioner, Seat 3

A latte to learn @CoffeeTalk

Even if you've been 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 07 City Manager Randy Knight & Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle

SEP 04 Vice Mayor Marty Sullivan

OCT 02 Commissioner Craig Russell

NOV 06 Commissioner Kris Cruzada

DEC 04 Commissioner Warren Lindsey

JAN 08 Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

2026

Special thanks to our coffee provider Barnie's Coffee Tea Co®

2024 Water Quality Report

access cityofwinterpark.org/h2oreport

City Manager's Report

City celebrates its electric utility's 20th Anniversary

Twenty years ago on June 1, 2005, the city hosted a "Flip of the Switch" celebratory event announcing the city's official acquisition of the electric utility. The journey to acquire the system began several years prior to 2005 – in fact, it started in 2001. I was Assistant City Manager at the time and was asked to lead the effort to explore the purchase of the electric distribution system from then, Progress Energy. I had no idea how challenging this journey would be, but it has become one of the most rewarding efforts of my career.

Since 1927, the city had maintained a franchise relationship with Progress Energy Florida and its predecessors. When the latest franchise was nearing its end in 2001, Progress Energy wanted to limit the city's rights under the new agreement and refused to include two key components in the new franchise:

1. Any enforceable reliability standards; and
2. The continued right for the city to purchase the system when the franchise expired.

This was not acceptable and that is when we began exploring the option to purchase the system.

We had to take Progress Energy to court to honor our contractual agreement that allowed the city to purchase the system upon termination of the franchise. Fortunately, a judge ruled in the city's favor and the contract was upheld. In June 2003, nearly two years from the day the city's franchise agreement with Progress Energy expired, the city received the arbitrator's determination of value of the Winter Park electric distribution system at \$42.4 million. Due to the city charter, a referendum was needed for residents to approve the issuance of bonds to pay for the system. The date of the referendum was set for September 9, 2003.

The campaign was brutal and the city could not match Progress Energy's media buying power or the \$523,000 they contributed to the political action committee opposed to the city's purchase. For just a fraction of what was spent by Progress Energy, the \$45,000 invested by the city into a public education campaign promised:

- lower rates
- self-regulation
- improved reliability
- increased responsiveness
- reinvestment of revenue
- undergrounding power lines to preserve tree canopy

On September 9, 2003, more than 69% of Winter Park residents voted in favor of a \$49.8 million bond issue that funded the acquisition of the city's electric distribution system. The referendum was the highest voter turnout since 1988 and was the first time in over 50 years a Florida municipality had successfully pursued the acquisition of its electrical distribution system.

I look back on this monumental effort and admire the courage and foresight of our elected officials and our residents. I'm proud to say, 20+ years later we have kept our promises to our residents. We

have successfully undergrounded 81% of the overhead lines with expected completion in 2030, reinvested revenues into our system, strengthened our infrastructure, and offer responsive customer & utility service while maintaining competitive rates for our customers.

I speak with groups all over the country sharing our thriving municipalization story and Winter Park truly has become a model of success. Please join us to celebrate our milestone anniversary:

Wednesday, June 11 @ 3:30 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Ave.

Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Winter Park Farmers' Market
200 W. New England Ave.

For more information, please access cityofwinterpark.org/events.

Sincerely, City Manager Randy B. Knight

Quick Tip: City Hall CLOSED
in observance of Juneteenth Day Thursday 06.19.25

Save these dates

Saturday, June 14

- what** Juneteenth Celebration in Hannibal Square: *Knowing, Remembering and Shifting the Narrative*
- when** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- where** Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church
160 S. Pennsylvania Ave
- info** hannibalsquareheritagecenter.org/juneteenth

Sunday, June 15

- what** Juneteenth: *From Knowing to Remembering*
featuring Trent Tomengo, artist & Professor of Humanities
- when** 2 to 4 p.m.
- where** Winter Park Library
1052 W. Morse Blvd.

info access winterparklibrary.org for multiple junteenth celebration events

Thursday, June 19

what *Night Under the Stars: Jazz & Jubilee*

where 5 to 10 p.m.

where Shady Park in Hannibal Square
721 W. New England Ave.
[adjacent to the Winter Park Community Center]

info equitycouncilcorp.org

Color Our World

Get ready for a vibrant summer of reading, prizes, and community fun! The Winter Park Library (WPL) Annual Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing now through July 26. Readers of all ages can track their reading to earn weekly prizes from local businesses, enter drawings for exciting giveaways, and compete for grand prizes in every age group — including adults!

New this year is **Summer Camp at Home**, a limited-edition activity packed workbook designed by a local educator and WPL librarians to guide parents in hands-on summer learning. Available in print while supplies last.

It's all free, fun, and a great way to inspire reading all summer long. Learn more and sign up by accessing winterparklibrary.org/summer-reading.

Clean streets = healthy city

In April, the city's Public Works & Transportation Department presented a street sweeping policy that includes the sweeping of all public streets, roads, alleys, sidewalks and public spaces within the city. Regular street sweeping is essential to ensure vehicle and pedestrian safety, maintain water quality, reduce pollution, improve public health, and address environmental concerns. Additionally, the removal of debris, trash and contaminants that could otherwise flow into storm drains is critical to maintaining healthy lakes and water bodies.

Generally, the policy outlines the following street sweeping schedule:

Monday through Friday

- 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. arterial streets, Central Business District & commercial
- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. residential

Holidays

Service will resume on the next regularly scheduled service day if street sweeping falls on these holidays:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ New Year's Day | ▪ Juneteenth | ▪ Thanksgiving Day |
| ▪ Martin Luther King Jr. Day | ▪ Independence Day | ▪ Christmas Day |
| ▪ Memorial Day | ▪ Labor Day | |
| | ▪ Veterans Day | |

Currently, the department is developing the street sweeping schedule for each area of the city. In preparation of this service, residents and businesses will be asked to ensure the streets are clear of vehicles, debris and other obstructions that may hinder the street sweeping process during scheduled sweeps. For more information, please email PWAdmin@cityofwinterpark.org.

coming this summer

Knowles parking lot improvements

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency is making improvements to the parking lot on Knowles Avenue, between Morse Boulevard and New England Avenue. The entire project is scheduled to take place from June through August. To minimize the impact, the project will be implemented in phases starting at the intersection of Morse Boulevard and Knowles Avenue, then proceeding in sections to New England Avenue.

During construction, please make plans to park in the surrounding public parking areas throughout downtown as shown on the parking map accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/parking. **bonus** Additional parking is available at the corner of New England and Knowles avenues.

Thank you for your patience as improvements are made to the Knowles parking area to create a more accommodating, safer experience for you, your patrons and guests.

Dedication of two historic gateway signs

The north and south entrances of Park Avenue near the intersections of Webster and Fairbanks avenues will have a new welcoming look this summer. This gateway sign project was made possible with the approval of \$200,000 by the City Commission along with generous donations from Rick Baldwin, Jim & Diana Barnes, The Allan E. and Linda S. Keen Family, Larry & Joy Williams Private Foundation, Mike & Gail Winn, and the Edyth Bush Charitable, Joe & Sarah Galloway, and Elizabeth Morse Genius foundations.

Opening of new mobility hub

On April 9, the City Commission approved the creation of a multi-modal transportation hub to be built in the parking lot along Morse Boulevard across from the Central Park West Meadow. In support of the growing demand for EV adoption, rideshare services and reliable publicly accessible charging stations, this partnership with Optimus Energy will:

- Provide dedicated ride share pick up/drop off with covered seating alleviating rideshare disruption on Park Avenue.
 - Create an industry-leading multi-modal transportation hub.
 - Provide the highest quality EV charging experience.
 - Offer secure e-bike charging and racking.
-

Park Avenue Refresh Project

Park Avenue is the epicenter of Winter Park's culture, charm and economic vitality. The last Park Avenue streetscape restoration occurred between 1996 and 1999. Now, almost 30 years later, the city's main street will be undergoing a refresh to provide for today and tomorrow's needs.

accomplishments to date

- assembled a productive and multidisciplinary project team of experts to design and build the enhancements of the project.
- continued to hold numerous meetings with stakeholders.
- administered a public survey with over 1,300 responses.
- identified Phase 1 of the project:
Park Avenue between Webster and Garfield avenues
- received City Commission approval for:
 - project design for Phase 1
 - design + purchase of new streetlight poles
- completed professional surveying, mapping, topographic and
- subsurface utility engineering services for Phase 1 to identify all above ground and underground utilities.

next steps

- design plans for engineering, landscape architecture and irrigation.
- prepare construction documents & budget to present to the City Commission for approval in August.
- continue repairs to small areas experiencing drainage issues or areas in immediate need.

Upon approval in August, construction is expected to begin in the Fall. Please access more information and updates at cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh. Email questions or comments to ParkAveRefresh@cityofwinterpark.org.

4th of July Celebration

8:30-11 a.m. in Central Park

9:15 a.m. Bicycle Parade [Park Avenue & Morse Boulevard]

more info 407-599-3342

- Cookies, mini pies, Kona Ice® & water [while supplies last]
- Live musical performances by Bach Festival Brass Ensemble & Choir and School of Rock Winter Park
- Kids zone with carnival midway games, bounce slide, face painting, crafts & more!

please note City Hall will be closed July 4.

Girl with Doves by Richard Hallier

- » Donated to the city by the Galloway Family in 1999.
- » Installed in the breezeway of former Rachel D. Murrah Civic Center.
- » Moved to City Hall front lawn for civic center demolition in 2021.
- » Relocated to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park near the state-of-the-art Library & Events Center in 2022.

To view the city's complete online Public Art Collection, please access

cityofwinterpark.org/public-art.

Winter Park utility customers: Text to Pay & Scan to Pay now available!

Utility customers now have two new ways to conveniently pay utility bills from anywhere.

Text to Pay » customers who have a cell number on file will receive a text message containing their current balance and due date. With a one-word response, customers can instantly pay their bill by responding to the text.

Scan to Pay » from the customer portal, customers can receive a QR code that can be used at participating locations to pay by any method the location allows, including cash.

are these safe methods of payment?

Yes, Text to Pay and Scan to Pay are safe methods of payment. Scan to Pay does not require contact with the payment terminal, reducing the chances of skimming, tampering or cloning.

Text to Pay does not require a physical credit card be swiped or even present. The customer will not need to share their payment details, and it is PCI compliant.

can I opt out of Text to Pay notifications?

If you no longer want to receive notifications, respond with OPTOUT or log in to the customer portal. For more information, please access cityofwinterpark.org/billpay » [FAQ](#)

Preparing for hurricane season

June 1 marks the official start of hurricane season and city departments prepare year-round for the impacts of severe inclement weather.

Below are a few examples of the city's ongoing hurricane preparation efforts:

- Updated Flood Management Guide with enhanced language based on proven science.
- Invested \$4.4 million via Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) grant funds to:
 - Stabilize Howell Creek for proper conveyance.
 - Perform critical drainage improvement activities at Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18).
 - Remove sediments at entombed outfalls.
 - Restore critical seawalls and weirs.
- Received \$700,000 in new NRCS grant funds to perform critical debris removal and bank stabilization for the Interlachen canal located by the Mayflower and Interlachen Golf Club.
- Scheduled dredging for maintenance of Howell Creek canal, upstream of Lake Maitland and Genius canal, connecting Lakes Mizell and Virginia.
- Increased the frequency of cleaning of stormwater infrastructure and outfalls to lakes.
- Continued stormwater infrastructure improvements.
- Ensured availability of pumps to relieve flooding.
- Rehabilitated lift stations that were in need of repair.
- Assessed trees in parks and rights of way, identifying and mitigating potential risks.
- Developed an efficient and effective plan for storm debris pickup.
- Procured, inspected & maintained:
 - portable generators for deployment in the event of power outages affecting traffic signals or lift stations.
 - chainsaws and utility vehicles for more rapid restoration of roadway access and removal of hazardous roadway conditions.

- construction sites to prevent materials from becoming windborne debris and keeping storm drains clear.
- Upgraded the local emergency notification system, OUTREACH, that allows subscribers to receive alerts via text message, cell or home phone and/or email regarding local emergencies, including hurricanes and other weather events.
- Continued undergrounding overhead lines (81% complete) and for the remaining 19% of overhead distribution circuits the vegetation trim cycle is one year with additional focus placed on high growth areas during storm season.
- Secured mutual aid agreements for external storm assistance that include municipality and contractor resources.

Staying 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]
- x.com/WinterParkFla [@WinterParkFla]
- nextdoor.com sign up for neighborhood-specific info

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 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
Human Resources Pam Russell	407-599-3227
Information Technology Parsram Rajaram	407-599-3432
Management & Budget Peter Moore	407-599-3567
Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby	407-599-3471
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](#)