

# Winter Park Update

## September through November 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

### Fruits of our labor

When we celebrate Labor Day, we pause to recognize the many contributions of the people who help keep our communities strong. Whether enjoying a well-deserved break from school, work or simply taking time to recharge, I hope you can find a moment or two for rest and reflection.

The weather has certainly reminded us it's still summer in Florida, but I know many of us are looking forward to cooler days ahead. Even through the heat, your city has been hard at work all summer preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

I'm proud to share that, for the 18th year in a row, Winter Park's property tax rate has not been raised. The budget is once again balanced, as required by our city Charter. The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget can be accessed at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments](https://cityofwinterpark.org/departments) > **Management & Budget**. A detailed article regarding our FY2026 budget is provided by our City Manager in his report on the inside pages.

In other exciting news, the City Commission has approved the installation of three new temporary art sculptures for Seven Oaks Park. The Public Art Advisory Board and city staff have been working with Orange County's Art & Cultural Affairs team to acquire three of four pieces from their "Sculptures on the Lawn" program that will change out every January to install in Seven Oaks Park. Winter Park's installation of these pieces will be a continuation of its "Art on the Green" program. The new rotating sculptures are proposed to be installed each year in strategic locations throughout the park. We also voted to invite creative ideas for activating a small corner of the park and can't wait to see what the community dreams up.

Looking beyond city limits, the Orange County Commission is preparing to add two new seats, which means county districts will be redrawn. We are working closely with Orange County officials to ensure that Winter Park is fairly and thoughtfully represented throughout the redistricting process.

Your City Commission is diligently working to ensure the best possible outcome for our residents and guests alike.

With gratitude, Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

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## Commissioner's Column

### A message from Commissioner Craig Russell

Dear Winter Park residents,

I hope this message finds you and your families well and enjoying the final days of summer. As your City Commissioner, I want to take a moment to update you on several important developments in our community and share my continued commitment to serving you with transparency, inclusivity and dedication.

## **Investing in Our Youth**

Our youth remain at the heart of our city's future. This summer, we expanded recreational programming, mentorship initiatives, one-on-one tutoring, and youth employment opportunities. From sports clinics to leadership workshops, we are creating spaces where young people can grow, thrive and feel supported. I encourage families to explore these programs and get involved.

[cityofwinterpark.org/parks](http://cityofwinterpark.org/parks) & [cityofwinterpark.org/wpcc](http://cityofwinterpark.org/wpcc) > **Youth Programs > After-School Programs & Teen Club Program tab**

## **Community Service Opportunities**

Civic engagement is the backbone of a strong community. We've launched new volunteer initiatives in partnership with local nonprofits, schools, and faith-based organizations. Whether it's helping at food banks, participating in various cleanups, or mentoring students, there are many ways to give back. Access volunteer opportunities on the city's website to learn how you can get involved.

[cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability](http://cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability) & [wpinspires.org](http://wpinspires.org)

## **Recent Policy & Project Updates**

### **Citywide Construction Projects »**

We're making visible progress on several key projects:

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Renovation**

As part of the revitalization of this cherished community space, we are honoring the legacy of "Castle Park" by preserving its iconic spires and incorporating them into the new design. The updated park will feature a splash pad and ADA-accessible amenities, blending modern functionality with a deep respect for the park's historical and cultural significance to Winter Park families. [cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project](http://cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project)

- **Park Avenue Refresh**

Planning for infrastructure and aesthetic improvements underway to enhance pedestrian safety, lighting and landscaping in our historic downtown district.

[cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh](http://cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh)

Undergrounding & Infrastructure Commitment » I remain firmly committed to completing the undergrounding of utilities citywide. This effort, along with ongoing road resurfacing and stormwater system improvements, is essential to building a more resilient and future-ready Winter Park.

**Public Safety Enhancements** » We've increased funding for police and fire-rescue to ensure a safer Winter Park for all.

## **Back-to-School Best Practices & Safety**

As students return to school, let's work together to ensure a safe and successful start:

- Drive cautiously in school zones and obey crossing guard signals.
- Encourage healthy routines at home, including sleep, nutrition and screen time limits.
- Support mental wellness by checking in with your children and staying connected with teachers and school counselors.

## A Pledge to Serve

As always, I pledge to serve Winter Park with integrity, compassion and a deep respect for every resident. My door is open and I welcome your ideas, concerns and feedback. Together, we can continue building a city that honors its history while embracing a vibrant, inclusive future.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.  
Craig Russell, City Commissioner, Seat 2

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## City Manager's Report 2026 fiscal year budget

The city's fiscal year (FY) is October 1 through September 30. Although city staff reviews its budget on a daily basis, it begins preparation for the new fiscal year budget with planning in February, presentation of the proposed budget in July, and formal public hearings in the month of September. Throughout the entire process, and at all City Commission meetings, the public is invited to comment on the budget.

This city-wide budget, also called the All Funds Budget, is made up of several separate funds that include all operations, capital improvements and debt service of the city. The following provides some highlights of the major funds included in the proposed budget.

The **General Fund (GF)** includes those operating departments commonly associated with local government such as police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, City Commission, city management and other support departments. The total GF budget is \$89.5 million and provides the same level of service as FY25.

Revenues in the city's General Fund are expected to grow 6.7%, driven by continued taxable property value growth, tied to the prior year's, still strong, real estate market. While this is excellent given the long-term historical average revenue growth rate of about 3%, it is still forecasted to be a tight budget year due to the continued inflation of labor, pension and material supplies necessary to provide city services. In-depth discussion of all these issues is included in the comprehensive budget document that can be accessed at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments](https://cityofwinterpark.org/departments) > **Management & Budget**.

### Budget highlights

- Additional pay increases for public safety personnel to compete against expanded state and local funding for police and fire positions.
- Increases stormwater utility capital investments by 63% to \$1.9 million for flood mitigation and water quality improvements at Golfside Drive and Fawsett Road, as well as fixing seawall caps on the canals. This is in addition to \$5.4 million in stormwater improvements along West Fairbanks Avenue and the U.S. Highway 17-92 and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park basin area provided by the Community Redevelopment Agency.
- Updated Parks Master Plan providing benchmarks for city parks, evaluating deficiencies, and providing data for prioritizing future improvements.
- Maintains \$1.8 million for road repair, paving, bricking, curb and bike path, with a goal of completing nine lane miles of paving.
- Grows the reserve fund balance to a record of over \$22 million, or 26% of annual reoccurring expenses held in reserve in the General Fund.

- Maintains the current operating millage rate of 4.0923 which has been the city's unchanged property tax rate for the last 17 years.
- Estimated increase of 10% in electric bills to expand capital investment in critical substation infrastructure, implementation of an outage management system, replacement of aging meters, and keeping pace with the city's electric undergrounding plan.
- Invests over \$18 million overall in critical utility infrastructure and exceeds the minimum of 45 days working capital in the electric utility and water & wastewater utilities funds. The illustration of the dollar bill on the previous page shows the percentage of dollars in the proposed budget to provide services to our residents, showing almost half of the General Fund budget is dedicated to public safety (fire-rescue and police) services.

### **Tentative millage rate**

At the July 23 City Commission meeting, a tentative millage cap of 4.0923 was adopted. This is the same property taxing rate that the city has had for 17 years and is the only city in the metro-Orlando area that has not raised its operating millage rate during that period.

At formal adoption in September, this will become the property tax rate applied to all residential and commercial property in the city. This is the rate that was used to project the property taxes on the notice everyone receives in August from the Orange County Property Appraiser. This is a tentative rate and may be reduced but not increased without an extensive public notice process. Property value assessments are set by the Orange County Property Appraiser's office. Of the total property taxes someone might pay, the majority (72%) do not support the city services proposed in the budget and only 28% of the taxes go to city related services. The debt service millage rate, used to service the library and events center bonds, will decrease 7.2% from 0.2379 mills to 0.2207.

### **General Fund capital improvement projects**

A few projects that are included in the proposed budget are:

**\$925k** Facility improvements including additional generators and HVAC replacements, as well as energy efficient replacement of windows at City Hall.

**\$885k** Park facility investments including bunker refurbishment at the Winter Park Golf Course (WP9) and ball tracking technology at the Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18), as well as continued replacement of athletic field lighting, replacement of the landscaping building, and the possibility of grant-funded replacement of some clay courts at tennis center.

**\$500k** Public safety capital support for safety and security improvements at the Public Safety Facility, ongoing replacement of emergency radios, and LIFEPAK unit replacement for EMS response.

**\$450k** Maintained signalization and bike/pedestrian improvement funding to support the Transportation Master Plan.

**\$400k** Information technology infrastructure enhancements to cybersecurity.

This is a brief overview of the proposed annual budget for next fiscal year. If you would like more information on the city's budget or budget process, please plan on attending the two budget hearings during City Commission meetings **Wednesday, September 10 and 24, at 5 p.m.**, in City Hall Commission Chambers, located at 401 S. Park Ave. We encourage you to share comments about the proposed budget and millage rates before final adoption.

More extensive information regarding the city's proposed FY2025-2026 budget including program budgets for each function of the city, a 5-year capital improvement plan, and 10-year proformas for all major funds, is accessible at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments](https://cityofwinterpark.org/departments) > **Management & Budget**.

Sincerely, Randy B. Knight, City Manager

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## Join us for CoffeeTalk

Please join your city leaders for a robust cup of informal and casual conversation (and hot coffee) at this year's CoffeeTalk series

### Brewing schedule

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

Commission Chambers @ 401 S. Park Ave.

**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**

Mark your calendars to join your city leaders for a cup of conversation and coffee at this year's CoffeeTalk series. **Unable to join in person?** Virtual link access will be available approximately one week prior to each gathering at [cityofwinterpark.org/meetings](https://cityofwinterpark.org/meetings).

For more CoffeeTalk information, please contact **407-599-3428** or [choward@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org).

Special thanks to our coffee provider **Barnie's Coffee & Tea Co.®. Live Boldly. Sip Wisely.**

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## 1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison: June 2025

PLEASE NOTE As part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, there is a proposed rate increase which would be the first rate increase in the non-fuel component of the electric bill since 2019. This is the portion of the bill that covers all costs of maintaining the system, paying the debt service, and funding the cost of capital projects such as undergrounding.

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## ATTN: Utility customers with Capital One debit cards

Due to the 2025 acquisition of Discover Financial Services, Capital One® is replacing approximately 10 million Mastercard® debit cards with Discover® cards. The issuance of the new Discover credit cards will continue in stages through the first quarter of 2026.

Customers who pay their utility bill online using Paymentus® and currently use a Capital One Mastercard debit card in their Wallet or AutoPay will need to update their payment method if Capital One notifies them of a card transition. Once you receive your new Discover debit card, you must

replace your old card information in Paymentus. If your Wallet or AutoPay settings are not updated, future payments will fail.

### **questions & concerns**

M-F » 8 a.m.–midnight | Sat-Sun » 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET  
[customercare@paymentus.com](mailto:customercare@paymentus.com) | [1-800-420-1663](tel:1-800-420-1663)

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### **Winter Park Electric Utility Customers [ad]**

Receive a **FREE** residential Home Energy Use Audit + Energy Efficiency Kit + Solar Feasibility Report

1. **schedule**  
prior to making improvements or adding solar PV system
2. **determine**  
how much energy your home uses & loses
3. **identify**  
energy conservation measures to improve energy efficiency

[cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation](http://cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation) | [sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)

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### **Fast changing traffic signals**

Occasionally, drivers may experience traffic signals changing quickly from red to green or green to red – specifically near railroad crossings. These traffic signals are interconnected with the technology that allows “preemption,” which temporarily alters the normal sequence of traffic signal operation when a train approaches.

This is to ensure clear paths for trains and allows vehicles to clear the crossing to prevent collision and alleviate traffic backups. At the same time, the cross streets will experience sudden green to red changes until vehicles are cleared from the tracks. This could happen twice within seconds if trains are approaching in opposite directions. Once the vehicles have cleared, the signal facing the tracks turns red, preventing further vehicles from entering the crossing.

You may not be able to see the back up of vehicles from your particular light, but when it changes quickly, it indicates there are vehicles that need to be cleared at an adjacent light and railroad crossing. This ensures the safe passing of a train at that intersection.

### **intersections with preemptive traffic signals**

- Webster @ Pennsylvania avenues
- Morse Boulevard @ Park Avenue
- New York @ Fairbanks avenues
- Pennsylvania @ Fairbanks avenues
- U.S. Highway 17-92 @ Orange Avenue

**Safe travels out there!**

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## **martin luther king, jr. park project update**

In July, the city's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Parks & Recreation Department, in partnership with the MLK/Shady Park Planning Committee, dedicated the city's new Unity Corner located in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The ceremony included the unveiling of "Ripple," a larger than-life-size bronze statue of Dr. King. In addition to remarks from city and community leaders as well as sculpture artist Andrew Luy, the ceremony also featured entertainment including vocalist Maria O. Bryant and historic dramatization performer J. Henry.

Ripple is a monumental sculpture installation honoring one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The vision behind Ripple is explained as a visual testament to Dr. King's teachings of nonviolent protest, social equality, and the enduring ripples of his impact on the world.

Inspired by the idea that a single drop of water, or a single voice, can create ever-widening waves of change, Ripple embodies the continuation of the profound echoes of Dr. King's legacy. The installation's curved seating and his sculpted pose, with his outstretched right hand, recall the gestures he often made while speaking – gestures of blessing, acknowledgment, and calm authority. In his left hand he holds a book, symbolizing faith, knowledge, wisdom, and the ideals that guided him. Ripple welcomes all and serves as a new space for hope, healing and unity.

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## **Have you thought any of these...**

Are you looking to make a positive impact in your city?

Do you want to become more involved and engaged?

Would you like enhancements in your neighborhood?

Is there something that you wish you could change?

If you answered yes [or even maybe] to any of these questions, find out which city board is best for you.

## **current openings**

- Civil Service Board
- Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board
- Lakes & Waterways Board
- Utilities Advisory Board
- Winter Park Firefighters' Pension Board

Applications are accepted year round and will be kept on file for upcoming vacancies.

Submit your application by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/board-app](http://cityofwinterpark.org/board-app).

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## **Public Art Collection**



## **Harbor Dawn** by Jeannette Genius McKean

» oil painting 1964

» McKean was a painter, interior designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany glass collector, founder of the The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art and benefactor of Rollins College.

## **Winter Walk** by Tom Parker

» pastel 1981

» A soothing pastel of two people walking through the countryside featuring subtle but colorful hues of a chilly winter landscape.

To view these pieces in person, please visit the Winter Park History Museum, located at 200 W. New England Ave., and their latest exhibit, *Echoes of Expression – The History of Arts & Culture in Winter Park*, where both works are on loan.

To view the city's complete online Public Art Collection, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/public-art](http://cityofwinterpark.org/public-art).

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## **Free tree delivery**

The Urban Forestry Division has partnered with the National Arbor Day Foundation and Florida Forest Service to showcase the Community Canopy Program. Winter Park residents can order a FREE tree by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/urbanforestry](http://cityofwinterpark.org/urbanforestry) and clicking on the Community Canopy Program Information tab, beginning [Tuesday, September 5, through Saturday, November 25](#) (while supplies last). City residents have the option to choose from several different tree species including red maple, sweetbay magnolia and Muskogee crape myrtle. The one-gallon containerized tree will then be delivered directly to each resident's doorstep along with instructions on planting and care.

For additional information regarding the city's tree canopy efforts, please contact [urbanforestry@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:urbanforestry@cityofwinterpark.org).

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## **Athletic field improvements**

The city's athletic fields are widely used and in high-demand for youth and adult sporting leagues year-round. Soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, baseball, track & field are just a few of the activities that the city hosts on its fields. In December 2020, the City Commission approved funding to improve the athletic fields at both Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and the sports complex consisting of Ward Park, Showalter Field and Cady Way.

Field renovations were scheduled based upon demand for field use and when conditions were best for the installation of Bermuda sod. Below is a quick summary of the field improvements:

- **Summer 2021**

Fields A1 and A2 at Ward Park completed.

- **Summer 2022**

All three fields at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park were rebuilt including the installation of new well



which improves the ability to fully support the irrigation requirement of Bermuda grass even during months with less rain.

- **Spring 2023 to present**

»[Showalter East Field](#) (directly behind the stadium) began the conversion from grass to a sport turf field. This new turf field features the upgraded cool play infill that keeps high surface temperatures under control even in middle of the summer and provides a layer of separation between users and rubber infill. It is a 'grass' type playing surface that has more durability to stand up to expected use. As of August 2023, the field is in the final stages of completion and will be available for both practices and games beginning this fall.

»[Softball Field 10](#) (front field at Cady Way Park) began conversion to a multi-purpose field. It has been predominantly used for adult recreation softball over the past 20 years. However, by converting the softball diamond to a multi-purpose field, it will provide residents and athletic organizations serving our residents an additional 800 hours of field use each year. The new multi-purpose field is on track to be open for use by September 2023.

For more information about the city's athletic fields, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/parks](https://cityofwinterpark.org/parks) under [Programs, Activities & Events > Athletic Fields](#).

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## **Quick Tip: City Hall will be closed**

### **Thanksgiving**

**Thu & Fri NOV 27 & 28**

**Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!**

There will be no Waste Pro® services on Thanksgiving Day. All services will resume the following regular pick up day.

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## **Winter Park ARTS WEEKEND a tapestry of experiences [ad]**

**February 5-8, 2026**

**Hosted by winter park arts & culture alliance**

Concerts | performances | interactive activities & more

[wpinspires.org/artsweekend](https://wpinspires.org/artsweekend)

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## **FIX IT! DON'T Pitch it [ad]**

**saturday 09.06.2025**

**9 a.m. to noon**

winter park community center @ 721 w. new England ave.

a community repair workshop for

repairing small appliances, electronics, bicycles, jewelry, eye glasses & watches, and mending clothes

services are subject to change • please call for a complete list  
first come, first served basis • limit two items per person  
to volunteer your time & talents please contact [407-599-3479](tel:407-599-3479) or  
[sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)

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## **Electric Avenue EV Car Show [ad]**

saturday **September 27**

**9 to 11 a.m.**

Park Avenue & Central Park | 150 W. Morse Blvd.

featuring Electric vehicles + Sustainable booths | great raffles + DJ + kids zone

**got an EV?** [limited spaces available] To display your electric vehicle, contact  
[sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)

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## **Quick Tip: It's time to fall back**

Daylight Saving Time ends **Sunday 11.02.2025**

- » Set your **clocks** back one hour Saturday night.
  - » Change the **batteries** in your smoke detectors.
  - » Adjust **irrigation** to one day per week.
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## **Large silver poles on Park Avenue**

If you have driven onto Park Avenue from Fairbanks or Websteravenues, you may have noticed two very large shiny silver poles greeting you at each entrance. Not to worry ~ charm is on its way!

At the time of writing, the silver poles on the north end (by Webster Avenue) were scheduled to be transformed into a beautiful historic gateway sign towards the end of August. Then in late September, the same will happen to the poles located on the south end (by Fairbanks Avenue).

These two new gateways are designed to honor downtown Winter Park's heritage and historic significance. In 2011, the Downtown Winter Park Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of historically significant sites and properties throughout the country.

The historic gateways were made possible by funding from Winter Park's Community Redevelopment Agency along with donors Rick Baldwin, Jim & Diana Barnes, Mike & Gail Winn, The Allan E. & Linda S. Keen Family, Larry & Joy Williams Private Foundation, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation, and Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. Thank you all for your generous contributions!

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## Get HOOKED family fishing event [ad]

saturday **October 4**

**7:30 to 10 a.m.**

Lake Island @ Martin Luther King, Jr. Park | 255 S. Denning Drive

snacks | giveaways | raffle | fun & more

FREE **bait & poles** ARE PROVIDED

More info @ [407-599-3463](tel:407-599-3463) or [jmiller@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:jmiller@cityofwinterpark.org)

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## Charge fast at city's new mobility hub

The city's Natural Resources & Sustainability Department, city officials, and community partners celebrated the energizing of Winter Park's first official mobility hub. This public/private partnership features seven fast chargers from a collaboration with ChargePoint®, Optimus Energy Solutions and GM Energy.

Located at the corner of New York Avenue and Morse Boulevard, the hub offers residents and guests:

- the ability to fully charge any EV
- a designated rideshare pickup/drop off location
- chargers for eScooters & eBikes [coming soon]

Shop, dine and recharge in Winter Park!

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## Save these dates

### Saturday, October 18

**what** **Pumpkin Party**

**when** 10 a.m. to noon

**where** Seven Oaks Park  
@ 1150 N. Orange Ave.

**info** [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

### Saturday, October 25

**what** **Halloween Trunk Fest**

**when** 6-9 p.m.

**where** Martin Luther King, Jr. Park  
Field 3 @ 448 Harper Street

**info** [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

### Wednesday, October 29

**what** **Great American Big Band**

**when** 7:30 p.m.

**where** Central Park Main Stage

**info**     [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

**Thursday, November 6 or 13 & Friday, November 7 or 14**

**what**     **fall cleanup**

**when**     after 5 p.m. the evening before your 2<sup>nd</sup> regularly scheduled trash pickup day

**where**     north of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor **{nov 6 or 7}**  
south of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor **{nov 13 or 14}**

**info**     [407-774-0800](tel:407-774-0800)

**Saturday, November 8**

**what**     **Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff**

**when**     8 a.m. to noon

**where**     Cady Way Park @ 2525 Cady Way

**info**     [sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)

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**Honoring our veterans**

The City of Winter Park will host its **15th Annual Veterans Day Celebration, Friday, November 7, at 10 a.m.** This event will be held at the Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheater adjacent to Shady Park located at 721 W. New England Ave. All veterans that have served in any military campaign or branch in honor of our nation's freedom and their families are invited to attend for our community to pay tribute to their dedicated service to our country.

At 9:30 a.m., the public is invited to visit with organizations that offer resources specifically for veteran needs as the VFW Post 2093 Community Band entertains guests. At 10 a.m., the official program will begin with musical tributes, anecdotal speakers, presentations of Quilts of Valor, and recognition of veterans according to the various military branches served.

For more information regarding the Veterans Day Celebration, please contact [407-599-3506](tel:407-599-3506).

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**Wreaths Across America**

The Parks & Recreation Department Cemeteries Division manages and operates the two city-owned cemeteries – Palm and Pineywood – for the benefit of Winter Park residents. Another way the city honors and remembers our veteran loved ones that have passed is by participating in a program called Wreaths Across America, in partnership with William P. Duval, NSDAR of Winter Park.

For the eighth year in a row, a Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place in the veterans' sections of both cemeteries **Saturday, December 13, at noon**, rain or shine. Following the ceremony, wreaths will be placed on the veterans' markers to honor those who served.

If you or your family would like to contribute one or more wreath, please access your preferred cemetery via the following web links to **donate by Tuesday, December 2:**

**Palm Cemetery @**

**[bit.ly/PalmWreaths](https://bit.ly/PalmWreaths)**

**Pineywood Cemetery @**

**[bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths](https://bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths)**

For more information about the program, please access **[wreathsacrossamerica.org](https://wreathsacrossamerica.org)**.

Thank you for your support of our veterans and this honorable recognition ceremony!

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## **Happy Birthday, America!**

The city looks forward to proudly celebrating the American Semiquincentennial, marking the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In honor of this historic moment in time, America's 250th birthday, Winter Park will celebrate with various events and initiatives throughout the city in 2026. A dedicated committee with representatives from city staff, Arts & Culture Alliance, Daughters of the American Revolution, Park Avenue District, Rollins College, Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and Winter Park Youth City Council has been formed to plan and coordinate the celebrations.

Although details and logistics for many events are still in the works, the following events will be included in the Winter Park Celebrates America 250 initiative:

### **Saturday, March 7 | 9 a.m.**

St. Patrick's Day Parade Float

"Happy Birthday America"

### **May | June | July**

Dress the City in Red, White & Blue featuring patriotic veteran banners and colorful landscaping

### **Saturday, May 23 | 10 to 11 a.m.**

Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony & Historic Tribute

### **Friday, July 3 | 6 to 9 p.m.**

31st Annual 4th of July Celebration featuring a patriotic tribute & birthday cake

Find the city's America 250 event details by accessing **[cityofwinterpark.org/america-250](https://cityofwinterpark.org/america-250)**.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

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## **Have you seen City Hall's new addition?**

In early August, a large, full-color city seal was installed outside City Hall, proudly perched overlooking those traveling south on Park Avenue. It is an official "seal of approval" on a historic landmark in the heart of downtown Winter Park. Stop by and see it in person!

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## March 2026 election information

### 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](http://cityofwinterpark.org/elections)

### qualifying

- » **opens** Monday 12.01.25 @ noon
- » **ends** Monday 12.08.25 @ noon

### general election

- » Tuesday 03.10.26

### Run-off election [if necessary]

- » Tuesday 04.14.26
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## Hurricane information

### MOST USED COMMUNICATION TOOLS

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

### Hurricane Preparedness Guide

- [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency)  
hard copies are available at City Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Library

### 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)

### Emergency Operations Center [once activated]

- Non-emergency Info Line [407-599-3494](tel:407-599-3494)
  - Message Center Info Email [MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org)
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## 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

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## Who to contact

### commission & administration

City Commission	<a href="tel:407-599-3234">407-599-3234</a>
City Manager   Randy Knight	<a href="tel:407-599-3235">407-599-3235</a>
Assistant City Manager   Michelle de Valle	<a href="tel:407-599-3236">407-599-3236</a>
City Clerk   Rene Cranis	<a href="tel:407-599-3277">407-599-3277</a>
City Information	<a href="tel:407-599-3399">407-599-3399</a>
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	<a href="tel:407-644-1212">407-644-1212</a>
Police Non-Emergency	<a href="tel:407-644-1313">407-644-1313</a>

### department directors

Building & Permitting Services   Gary Hiatt	<a href="tel:407-599-3237">407-599-3237</a>
Communications   Clarissa Howard	<a href="tel:407-599-3343">407-599-3343</a>
Electric Utility   Dan D'Alessandro	<a href="tel:407-599-3294">407-599-3294</a>
Finance   Wes Hamil	<a href="tel:407-599-3292">407-599-3292</a>
Fire-Rescue   Chief Dan Hagedorn	<a href="tel:407-599-3297">407-599-3297</a>
Human Resources   Pam Russell	<a href="tel:407-599-3227">407-599-3227</a>
Information Technology   Parsram Rajaram	<a href="tel:407-599-3432">407-599-3432</a>
Management & Budget   Peter Moore	<a href="tel:407-599-3567">407-599-3567</a>
Natural Resources & Sustainability   Gloria Eby	<a href="tel:407-599-3471">407-599-3471</a>
Parks & Recreation   Jason Seeley	<a href="tel:407-599-3334">407-599-3334</a>
Planning & Zoning   Allison McGillis	<a href="tel:407-599-3665">407-599-3665</a>
Police   Chief Tim Volkerson	<a href="tel:407-599-3272">407-599-3272</a>
Public Works & Transportation   Charles Ramdatt	<a href="tel:407-599-3233">407-599-3233</a>
Water & Wastewater Utilities   David Zusi	<a href="tel:407-599-3219">407-599-3219</a>
Email addresses can be accessed at <a href="http://cityofwinterpark.org/contact">cityofwinterpark.org/contact</a>	

### outages

Power & Street Light Outages	<a href="tel:1-877-811-8700">1-877-811-8700</a>
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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](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org).



