

2026

winter park update

june thru august



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watch us on



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.



Summer is here & we are celebrating America's 250th Birthday!

School is out, vacations and summer camps are underway, and the pace of life begins to slow just a bit. It is a season for simple pleasures — picnics in the park, afternoons by the pool, a glass of lemonade on a warm evening, and time spent with family and friends.

I still remember how much I looked forward to this time of year when I was young, especially the Fourth of July. Fireworks lighting up the sky, backyard cookouts, and gathering with loved ones are traditions that stay with us and connect generations.

This year feels especially meaningful as we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. Here in Winter Park, we have been celebrating all year with special events, and I am excited to share a couple of featured upcoming events for our community to celebrate together.

Winter Park History Museum invites you to explore America250 at their special pop-up exhibit that honors 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On view now through July 15, the exhibit



mayor's message

highlights how our local stories connect to the nation's history and enduring spirit of independence. Discover Winter Park's Revolutionary War roots through displays from the Daughters of the American

Revolution, experience wartime patriotism with the WWII Veterans History Project, and how today's youth reimagine freedom and unity through a Winter Park High School film project. Visitors can also enjoy colonial-style clothing displays, view a community-

created art installation celebrating our shared heritage, and take a moment to write a letter of gratitude to active-duty service members. Join us in reflecting on the past— right here in the heart of Winter Park.

31st Annual 4th of July Celebration is a new **evening** event this year! We will host our annual 4th of July celebration **Friday, July 3, from 6 to 9**

p.m., in Central Park. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, and wear your red, white, and blue to enjoy an evening of patriotic festivities. The event will begin on the Central Park main stage where I will be sharing opening remarks. Festivities will continue with the National Anthem, ➤



> mayor's message *continued*

music from the Bach Festival Choir and Brass Ensemble led by Dr. John Sinclair, featuring a special patriotic tribute for America's Semiquincentennial. Activities will also feature a Kids Zone in Central Park West Meadow with carnival midway games, bounce slides, face painters, Kona Ice® and more – all hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department.

The Bach will also lead the crowd in a special "Happy 250th Birthday America!" patriotic tribute saluting our military branches, presented by AdventHealth. Then celebrate with cake and ice cream, graciously provided by The Glass Knife and Kilwins® (while supplies last).

Presented by the Winter Park Celebrates America250 Committee, all of these celebrations are free and open to everyone to enjoy. More information can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/America-250.

It is shaping up to be a truly special summer in Winter Park. I look forward to seeing you out and about, enjoying all that makes our community such a wonderful place to call home.

Sincerely,



Mayor Sheila DeCiccio



The graphic features a background image of a person in a white lab coat filling a glass with water from a faucet. The text "2025 water QUALITY report" is prominently displayed, with "drinking" written in a curved font above the word "water". A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and the text "scan the code or access cityofwinterpark.org/h2oreport" is written below it. The vertical text "the city of winter park" is on the left side.

commissioner's column



A message from Commissioner Kris Cruzada

Dear friends and neighbors,

Recently, the City of Winter Park had a Strategic Planning Session led by Ron Gailey, Founder/CEO of Onpointe Insights, a city hired consultant that conducted the resident survey earlier this year. One standout datapoint from the survey was the "Refer a Friend Score." It calculated the likelihood our residents would refer/recommend our city to a friend or family member. Our score was strongly positive. Survey results can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/residentsurvey.

The survey reflected positive feedback from residents in regard to our events, parks, arts/culture offerings, and lakes. Additionally, residents want our city to continue our efforts to manage growth and be fiscally responsible. In review of all the data, I was impressed by the thoughtful citizen survey comments. I was also astonished by our city staff that had reviewed the results and provided solutions and comments to the City Commission during our session.

It's clear to me through the survey and session, that our city operates at a high standard. This doesn't occur by happenstance, but is intentional. When I trace back processes from our actions, I deduce that we have a high level of dialogue between residents, city staff and City Commission. It's humbling to think about. I often see the gratitude in the discussion and the attention to detail to provide the best delivery of well-researched information to decisionmakers and stakeholders. All of this would not be possible without the great staff that commit themselves to a high level of service and the well-researched articulate residents.

In the headwinds of seemingly uncontrollable events, we are able to find direction and purpose, an eternal perspective. We have a great community of residents, business owners, city staff and community institutions that make our city great. We are truly blessed to call Winter Park our home.

Sincerely ~

Kris Cruzada | Seat 3

Strategic planning

At the end of April, the City Commission participated in a strategic planning discussion with our city leadership teams to review the resident survey results and develop priorities based on the feedback for the next 3-5 years.



A total of 819 residents responded (+/- 3.43% statistical margin of error) and results can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/residentsurvey. At the strategic planning session, many topics were discussed but after a full day of

thoughtful conversation, the following top five priorities were identified:

1. Parking
2. Roads & traffic
3. Communication
4. Maintaining facilities & amenities
5. Pedestrian safety/ micromobility



city manager's report

There were other significant issues discussed such as addressing our gateway corridors, preserving high quality staff, reviewing the events held in the city, looking for cost saving opportunities through partnerships and internal efficiencies, assessing additional fire facilities, workforce housing opportunities and further discussions regarding taxes/bonds.

Staff will continue working with the City Commission to further advance these topics into formal strategic tasks and plans. More information will be developed in the coming months and upon completion, can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org.

Park Avenue Refresh

Phase 1 of Park Avenue Refresh project is in full swing from Swoope to Garfield avenues. In April, the Park Avenue Refresh team started the Block-by-Block closures on the west side of Park Avenue beginning at Swoope then headed south to Garfield. The construction area includes closing



the right of way, parallel parking spots adjacent to the curb, and the one southbound lane of traffic.



During these block-by-block closures, all businesses will remain open with guests still able to shop, dine and access businesses throughout the project area. Also, to assist during construction, additional parking has been provided at West Morse Boulevard between New York and Virginia avenues.


Activity inside the block-by-block barricades will include:

- Removal & repair of a majority of the right of way sidewalk
- Construction of bump-outs at major intersections (Cole & Canton avenues)
- Repair & treatments of raised planters
- Installation of safety bollards at intersections
- Placement of new decorative planter pots
- Replacement of trash cans & recycling receptacles
- Removal of non-contributing signs
- Installation of new smart streetlight poles

During Phase 1 construction, customers and guests to the avenue will see two streetlight poles (old and new) placed within close proximity to one another during the construction. The old poles will remain energized to provide continuous lighting along Park Avenue and are planned to be removed once all 24 new streetlight poles of Phase 1 are installed and energized.

Weather permitting, Phase 1 is expected to be completed by Fall 2026 and Phase 2 (Garfield to New England avenues) will begin in January 2027. All Park Avenue Refresh updates and information are accessible at cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh. If you have any questions, please email parkaverefresh@cityofwinterpark.org.

Thank you for your patience during the Park Avenue Refresh Project. We're fluffing our feathers ~ something beautiful is coming!

Sincerely,  City Manager Randy B. Knight

quick
TIP

City Hall
CLOSED

Juneteenth
Friday
06.19.26

save the dates

Sunday, June 14

what Juneteenth Celebration in Hannibal Square: *Knowing, Remembering and Shifting the Narrative*

when 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

info hannibalsquareheritagecenter.org/juneteenth

Wednesday, June 17

what Juneteenth Observance: *Dr. Marvin Dunn*

when 2 to 4 p.m.

where Winter Park Library
1052 W. Morse Blvd.

info winterparklibrary.org

Saturday, June 20

what *Night Under the Stars: Jazz & Jubilee*

when 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



Blast off into reading with the Winter Park Library! Log seven days per week to claim a weekly prize. Logging your reading sessions also qualifies you for the chance to win the grand prize in your age category! Join in the summer challenge by accessing winterparklibrary.org/summer-reading.

Middle America

by Matthew Cornell

public art
collection
CITY OF WINTER PARK



- » painting | 2013
- » Childhood memories of road trips across the United States, are the underlying inspiration for many of Cornell's works; a self-described search for "home."
- » Cornell's small-town works are an amazing study in the use of light. It instantly and consistently draws the viewer into each piece, creating a feeling of mystery and intrigue in the nighttime glows.

To explore the city's complete online Public Art Collection, please access cityofwinterpark.org/public-art.

quick
TIP

City Hall
CLOSED

Friday 07.03.26
in observance of
Independence Day

Happy
4th of
July!

★ *join us* ★
Friday, July 3
 6 to 9 p.m.
 Central Park ★ Winter Park

to celebrate
**America's
 250th Birthday**

at our
*annual
 4th of July
 celebration*
 patriotic music ★ kids zone

plus enjoy
**Happy Birthday America
 Patriotic Tribute**
 presented by **AdventHealth**
featuring
 birthday cake & ice cream
 graciously provided by
The Glass Knife & Kilwins®

WINTER PARK
celebrates
AMERICA
250

cityofwinterpark.org/
 america-250



quick
TIP

**THE
 POWER
 OF PARKS AND
 RECREATION**



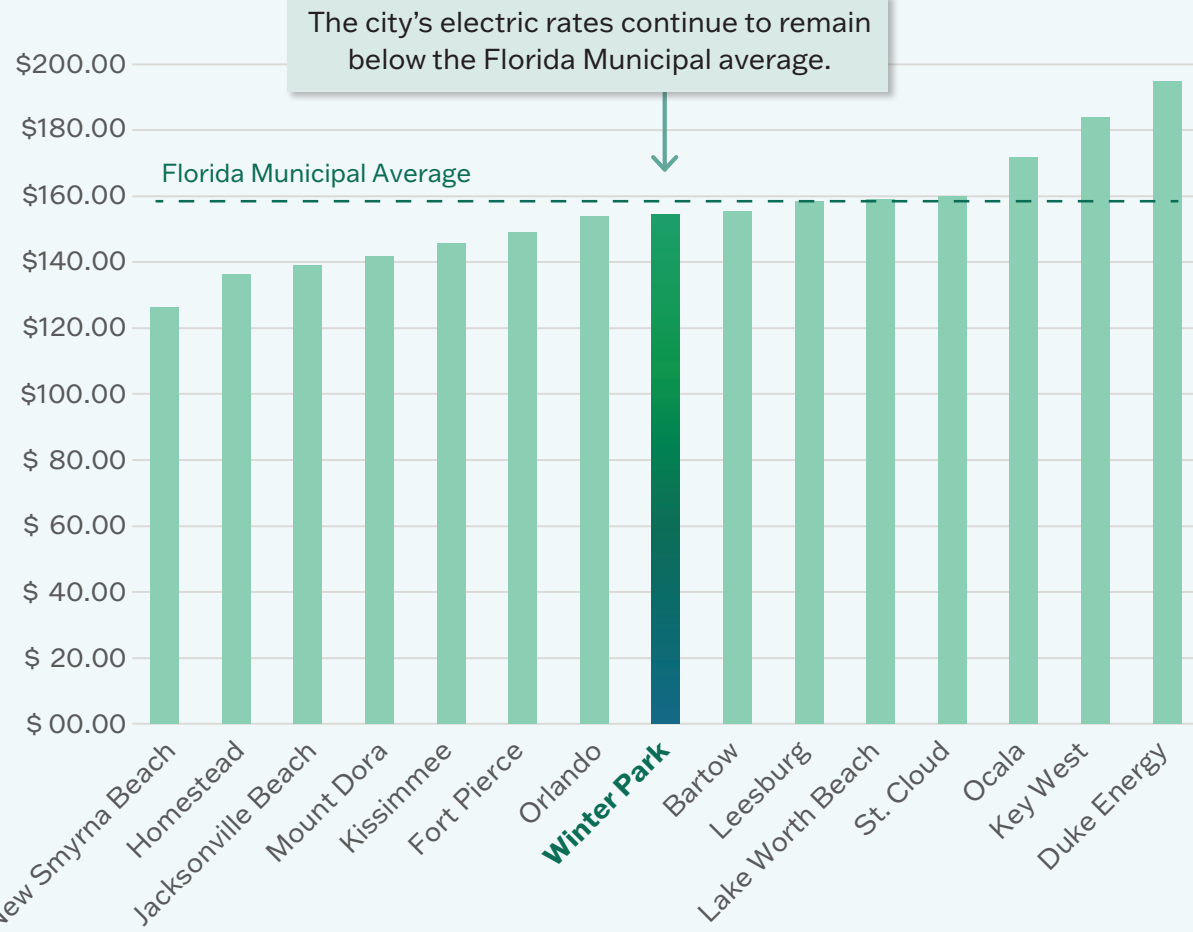
join us
**@ a park
 near you**

**JULY IS
 PARKS AND
 RECREATION
 MONTH**



for the complete calendar of events, please access cityofwinterpark.org/parks

1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison: March 2026



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

WE NEED YOUR INPUT



to help identify unsafe conditions and what improvements are most needed

ALONG FAIRBANKS AVENUE
from Driver Avenue to Park Avenue

share your
feedback



scan
or access
bit.ly/FairbanksRSA

Thank you for participating
in this important safety study.

Public Works &
TRANSPORTATION



A latte to learn @ 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 06 City Manager Randy Knight &
Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle

SEP 03 Vice Mayor Kris Cruzada

OCT 01 Commissioner Elizabeth Ingram

NOV 05 Commissioner Craig Russell

DEC 03 Commissioner Warren Lindsey

**JAN 07
2027** Mayor Sheila DeCiccio



special thanks to our coffee provider

BARNIE'S
COFFEE TEA CO.

LIVE BOLDLY.™ SIP WISELY.™

lakes news & info

It's Lakes Appreciation Month!

Celebrate with us throughout July in the Winter Park Chain of Lakes!

Have you cruised thru it yet?

There's a new online lakes dashboard that has the stats for all our lakes. You can access it at cityofwinterpark.org/lakes.

Need a boat permit?

3 ways to get daily & annual permits

1. cityofwinterpark.org/boating
2. City Hall @ 401 S. Park Ave.
3. Winter Park Library @ 1052 W. Morse Blvd.

quick
TIP

Interested in volunteering?

access cityofwinterpark.org/volunteer for opportunities

IMPORTANT FERTILIZER RULES

June 01 to
Sept 30

Apply only fertilizer with **zero** nitrogen & phosphorus.

NOW

Oct 01 to
May 31

If fertilizer has nitrogen, at least **65% N** must be slow release type.

Keep fertilizer at least **25 feet** from natural waterbodies.

year
round

Limit application to **1 pound** total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Use **zero** phosphorus unless a soil test shows a deficiency.

MORE
INFO

scan the code or access
cityofwinterpark.org/lakes/fertilize-wisely

includes complete ordinance details



It's time to prepare

June 1 marks the official start of hurricane season and while the skies are blue and the weather is calm, you are encouraged to review your hurricane preparedness plans and access the city's website at cityofwinterpark.org/hurricanes.

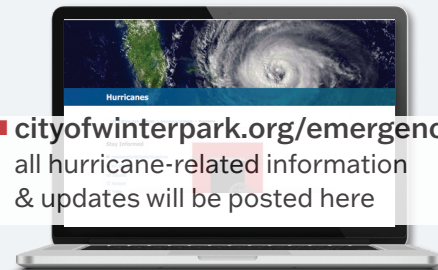
orange county PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

If you or a family member requires evacuation and/or sheltering assistance due to physical, mental or cognitive impairments, or sensory disabilities, it is important that you sign up for the Orange County People with Special Needs Program. This program is designed to ensure people with special medical needs have a safe place to seek shelter during a natural disaster or unplanned event. Registration for this program can be accomplished in the following ways:

- Completing the online registration form by accessing ocfl.net/psn.
- Calling Orange County's **311 hotline** or **407-836-3111**.
- Asking your home health agency, hospice agency, medical equipment supplier or senior social service agency to register you.

important reminder Registration with Orange County's Special Needs Program DOES NOT make your property a higher priority for utility restoration. Customers with special needs should make arrangements in advance to move to a location where their needs can be met.

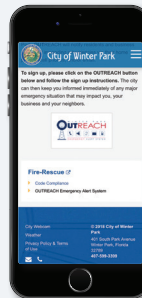
MOST USED COMMUNICATION TOOLS



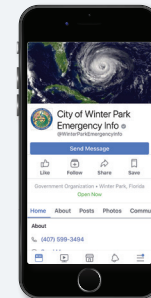
- cityofwinterpark.org/emergency
all hurricane-related information & updates will be posted here



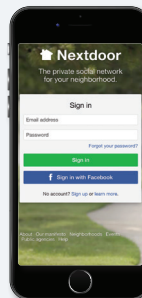
- cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews
subscribe to Emergency Information & receive hurricane info via email



- cityofwinterpark.org/outreach
city's emergency alert system [sign up to receive a phone call, text or email]



- [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo](https://facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo)



- nextdoor.com
sign up with your address for neighborhood-specific info



- [@WinterParkFla](https://x.com/WinterParkFla)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

- cityofwinterpark.org/emergency
- Hard copies available @ City Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Library

REPORT OUTAGES

- Electric Utility Department
1-877-811-8700
- Water & Wastewater Utilities Department
407-599-3219

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER [once activated]

- Non-emergency Info Line
407-599-3494
- Message Center Info Email
MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org

PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO FL
ACG



401 South Park Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

city commission



left to
right

Commissioner Craig Russell, Commissioner Elizabeth Ingram,
Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Kris Cruzada and
Commissioner Warren Lindsey

Commission meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th 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 Kim Breland	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
Human Resources & Risk Management 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 Jason Riegler	407-599-3219

Access email addresses at cityofwinterpark.org/contact

power & streetlight outages

1-877-811-8700

Article ideas | choward@cityofwinterpark.org or 407-599-3343

The Winter Park Update is published quarterly with a circulation of approximately 16,500, which includes residents and businesses.

City of Winter Park | 401 S. Park Ave. | Winter Park, FL 32789