

2026

winter park update

march thru may



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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.



State of the City Address highlights

Winter Park's "State of the City" is strong, and we are rooted in community and collaboration. The city emphasizes respect, dignity, and active listening, working closely with residents, businesses, and various government agencies. This cooperative approach has secured roughly \$32 million in grants, with nearly \$10 million more pending, much of it dedicated to critical water infrastructure.

Winter Park also maintains the highest bond rating in the country, AAA General Obligation Bond rating by Fitch reflecting our exceptional financial health.

City operations are supported by 537 staff members, whose continuity and leadership contribute to Winter Park's stability.

A major milestone this year was the **20th anniversary of the city's Electric Utility acquisition**, a decision that continues to pay dividends. Today:

- distribution lines are 83% underground
- residential electric rates remain 35% lower than Duke Energy® of Florida
- commercial rates are 22.4% lower than state average
- the award-winning utility has expanded its solar portfolio

Both electric and water utilities completed their strategic plans, and Winter Park even earned recognition for having the **Best Tasting Water in Central Florida in Region III**.

Infrastructure improvements by **Public Works & Transportation** include resurfaced roads, drainage upgrades, flood control projects, and the installation of seven new weather stations.



mayor's message

The **Natural Resources & Sustainability Department** opened its first mobility hub, implemented hurricane restoration efforts, dredged waterways, and administered environmental grant projects.

The **Community Redevelopment Agency** achieved major accomplishments, including the expansion and extension of the CRA, keeping \$57 million of local tax revenue for reinvestment, securing an \$8 million Tourism Development Tax grant for the Winter Park Playhouse, and launching a brownfield program along West Fairbanks.

Parks & Recreation celebrated the opening of Seven Oaks Park, completion of the *Unity Corner: The Ripple*, new courts at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, as well as multiple joint projects funded through CRA partnerships.

Winter Park's charm and quality of life continue to earn national recognition—including being ranked one of the most deserving towns of a "Hallmark Christmas movie" and the #1 small city in Florida by several publications.

Community partnerships strengthened public amenities and safety, including new beach volleyball courts, free swim safety classes for young children, and literacy programs at our #1 children's library in the state.

The city's \$90 million General Fund continues to prioritize public safety, with **Police and Fire-Rescue** maintaining top-tier accreditation and



> mayor's message *continued*

rapid response times. New initiatives like the HART team support unhoused residents with compassion and resources.

Behind the scenes, **Building & Permitting** completed over 18,000 inspections to ensure structures meet building and electrical code regulations, with **Safety & Code Compliance** conducting over 4,000 site inspections. **IT** has modernized systems, improved cybersecurity, and is exploring the implementation of AI to increase effectiveness and productivity. The city also negotiated the removal of nearly all billboards from major corridors.

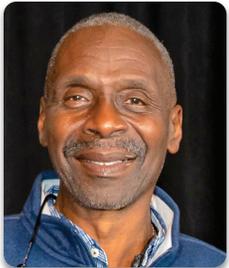
Looking ahead, we are excited about a number of projects:

- Phase 1 of the Park Avenue Refresh project is underway.
- Working with regional leaders to connect SunRail® to the Orlando International Airport.
- Developing West Fairbanks as part of the new CRA expansion.

I'm proud that we continue to be the only full-service city in the metro-Orlando area that has not raised its operating millage rate now for the 18th consecutive year. In the years ahead, we will be facing real challenges with the increasing costs of doing business each year. Plus the discussions at the state level of possible tax reform, will be something we will need to work on together to find solutions.

What I do know is that you have a City Commission that is engaged, informed and committed to continue working hard for the best interest of our city.

Also, every year at the State of the City Address, as Mayor,



I present the **Mayor's Founders' Award**. This year I was honored to present it to Ronnie Moore because he exemplifies everything that makes this city so special. He leads with kindness. He works with humility. And for more than four decades, he has shown up for this community with consistency, care, and quiet strength.

In Ronnie's 44 years of service, he gave his heart, exemplified leadership and demonstrated what it means to truly love the place you call home.

Warm regards, *Sheila* Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

Phase I Update

Phase 1 construction for the Park Avenue Refresh Project began January 20 between Swoope and Garfield avenues.



phase 1 will include

- directional boring of conduit for new irrigation, electrical & fiber
- air spading of tree wells
- repair of broken planters, sidewalks & curbs
- installation of new streetlight poles integrated with smart hubs, new technology, banner arms & hanging baskets
- seasonal landscaping & additional live oaks, where appropriate
- safety treatments at intersections with decorative planters &/or bollards
- new trash & recycling receptacles

Construction crews will work one to two blocks at a time and the construction zone will include the right-of-way, adjacent parking and one southbound lane of traffic. Pedestrian traffic will be maintained to allow guests to continue to shop and dine at the businesses and restaurants.

additional parking available on Morse Boulevard between
[duration of the refresh] New York & Virginia avenues

more information access cityofwinterpark.org/parkaverefresh
email ParkAveRefresh@cityofwinterpark.org

project updates sign up at cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews
[received via email] select **Park Avenue Refresh**

thank you for your patience
during the refresh project

we're fluffing our feathers~
something beautiful is coming

quick
TIP

spring forward
sun **MARCH 08**
Daylight Saving Time begins

- » Set **clocks** forward one hour Saturday night.
- » Change the **batteries** in smoke detectors.
- » Adjust **irrigation** to two days per week.

commissioner's column



A message from Commissioner Warren Lindsey

CONSIDERATION OF CITY REVENUE REDUCTION BILLS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Since Winter Park was established in 1882, our city leaders over the generations strived to protect, preserve, maintain and enhance the quality of life and services for our residents. While the baton of leadership has passed from many city commissions since that time, the mission has remained solidly in place.

The results of this mission are reflected in the excellent services residents expect, deserve and enjoy – including police and fire protection, infrastructure, streets, sidewalks, our beautiful lakes and parks, a modern library, stormwater protections, the crown jewel of the Park Avenue District and Central Park, recreational facilities for youths and adults, as well as the efficient servicing and maintenance of all these assets – just to name a few. That is why we live, work and raise our families here and why our property values remain high.

The ad valorem tax rate for homestead residential properties has remained the same in Winter Park for the last 18 years because of steady increases in the tax assessed value of our properties to fund many city services. Of course, the increase in our property assessed values is a direct result of the outstanding services we provide to our residents and our businesses which make Winter Park the very attractive place it is to live.

While our city fortunately has several revenue streams to fund services, and we operate our electric department and water department as enterprise funds – self-funded and self-sufficient departments – the most significant revenue source for the city's general fund that pays for traditional city operations comes from property tax revenue. Of that, approximately one-half comes from homestead property tax revenue.

Of course, no one likes to pay taxes. And our city leadership has an absolute obligation to be conscientious stewards of tax money and to ensure that the city is run effectively and efficiently, without waste, to watch the pennies (or maybe nickels, now that pennies are no longer minted). Trust, competence and transparency in the fiscally responsible expenditure of city revenues on behalf of our residents is a prerequisite of good governance.

That said, we all know that “there is no such thing as a free lunch.” Services to residents cost money, and outstanding services translate to a better and more enjoyable quality of life and higher property values.

POSSIBLE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT AFFECTING CITY REVENUES

Currently, the Florida Legislature is considering placing several proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot which, if passed, would substantially reduce revenue for local governments, including the City of Winter Park, to provide and maintain traditional services. Under law, before such constitutional proposals become formal ballot questions, the city may use public funds to provide neutral, factual information regarding municipal revenues, services, and other potential impacts if such amendments are passed.

However, once proposals are placed on the ballot, the city may not expend public funds for communications sent directly to electors, even if those communications are purely factual.

This means that the city has a limited window of opportunity to provide neutral, factual information to its residents regarding how the passage of potential ballot initiatives under discussion without any substituted revenue sources would affect services that the city currently provides. In other words, what current services to our residents would be reduced or eliminated if such provisions were passed. To address the “law of unintended consequences,” that neutral, factual information should also include how commercial real estate in the city would be affected (i.e., rents, property values) if property tax rates are raised for those properties to offset reductions in residential real estate tax revenues.

At the February 11 City Commission meeting, the Office of Management & Budget presented how the proposed constitutional amendment affecting property taxes could potentially impact the city's revenues and services. The presentation can be accessed at cityofwinterpark.org/departments » **Management & Budget**.

The information that we will learn over the coming months will address our voting decisions if any proposed amendments affecting funding of city services make it on the ballot in November.

Sincerely ~ Warren Lindsey

Congratulations to our Employees of the Year!

Each year we celebrate three city employees as Employees of the Year. These individuals represent 500+ city family members that are committed to providing high quality city services to our community. Special thanks to Orlando Credit Union for sponsoring the Employee of the Year program.

Thank you all for living out our employee mission to “Make Every Day Exceptional.”



city manager's
report

Randy



Theresa Broman Creative Services Manager

As Creative Services Manager, Theresa Broman supports all city departments, managing a wide variety of requests relating to graphic design, logo creation, newsletter layout, event photography and acquiring promotional items. Many of the requests she receives come with a very quick turnaround requirement and Theresa always meets the tight deadlines, getting projects done in record time with her professional expertise. Her attention to detail and commitment to perfection result in the city being presented in the most positive manner.

To add to Theresa's already packed to-do list this year, she also took on the extra responsibility of website maintenance during a colleague's maternity leave. She handled the extra workload seamlessly making sure all city websites were updated daily. Always a team player, Theresa responds with eagerness when she is called upon to consult on various city projects requiring a strong eye for professional design. Despite her heavy workload often filled with stressful deadlines, Theresa continues to offer compassion and kindness towards her fellow employees, helping them by offering creative solutions to their projects. **Thank you for all you do for each and every department!**



Brad Grainger Captain

Captain Brad Grainger exemplifies the values of Winter Park Fire-Rescue through his consistent commitment to safety, professionalism and service. He goes above and beyond not for recognition, but because he genuinely cares about the department, his coworkers and the community. Brad has played a key role in improving operational safety and readiness, including the implementation of MedixSafe narcotic truck-mounted safes, upgrades to oxygen cylinder and fill station systems, and ongoing support of CAAS accreditation efforts. He not only understands the standards but helps ensure the entire department is prepared and compliant.

During the transition to the new cardiac monitors and defibrillators, Brad ensured crews were well-trained, comfortable and confident using the new equipment. He continues to support EMS operations through supply management, vendor coordination, quality assurance, and involvement in rescue truck and EMS unit design. Beyond operations, Brad gives back as a CPR instructor in the community and serves as a trusted mentor to both new hires and seasoned members. **Thank you for your quiet leadership, unwavering commitment and positive impact that makes Winter Park Fire-Rescue stronger every day.**



Corey Mitchell Senior Police Officer

Senior Officer Corey Mitchell is an integral part of the agency and its Street Crimes Unit. He played a critical role in the successful transition and development of personnel by providing invaluable assistance and training to a newly assigned sergeant and detective with limited experience in narcotics investigations. Corey's leadership has played a pivotal role in bringing them up to speed on the operations, expectations and functions of the unit.

Throughout the year, Corey has been responsible for several high-profile narcotics arrests, in addition to numerous warrant arrests. These cases have resulted in the seizure of trafficking level quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, and marijuana. Beyond these arrests, Corey remains deeply involved in ongoing narcotics investigations, dedicating countless hours to surveillance operations and detailed suspect crime analysis. His leadership instills purpose, focus and tenacity throughout the unit and his work ethic and positive attitude contribute significantly to the overall effectiveness and morale of the unit.

In addition to his detective responsibilities, Corey also serves as a SWAT team squad leader. In this role, he is frequently tasked with developing and disseminating operational plans for the city's many large-scale public events. He is a respected leader and mentor within the SWAT team, exemplifying the same level of commitment and professionalism that he brings to his detective role. **Thank you for your leadership, initiative and dedication to the agency.**

New learning garden at MLK, Jr. Park

Something new is growing up at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable was awarded a \$20,000 MLK Corridor Community Grant by Keep America Beautiful® to create a new Learning Garden in the heart of the park. This vibrant space features raised garden beds with seasonal vegetables, fruit trees and an outdoor learning classroom area designed to support hands-on education for all ages.

Developed in partnership with the city's Natural Resources & Sustainability Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Winter Park Library & UF/IFAS Extension Orange County, the Learning Garden will offer opportunities for community programs, workshops, and volunteer days focusing on healthy foods options and protecting the shorelines of our lakes.

Waste Diversion @ Farmers' Market

The city's Sustainability Division is excited to roll out new waste diversion efforts beginning this spring at the Saturday Farmers' Market. In partnership with O-Town Compost, this initiative will help reduce food waste and promote composting while keeping the market clean and sustainable.

The Lost Child

by Wilber Quispe Huaman



public art
collection
CITY OF WINTER PARK

- » tapestry | 2022
- » Quispe is a master weaver born in the tiny village of Paccha in the Peruvian Andes.
- » He formed his own weaving workshop at the age of 17 and won his first national prize at 21.
- » This piece is a story from the artists' orphaned childhood where he later lived in the jungle with a merchant family and a tree became his nighttime home for a short while.

to view the complete online Public Art Collection, please access cityofwinterpark.org/public-art

HHWD+

household hazardous waste dropoff

saturday **March 7** | **8 a.m. to noon**
Cady Way Park @ 2535 Cady Way

WASTE PRO® | URBAN E RECYCLING
AMERICAN TEXTILE RECYCLING SERVICES

- » Bring proof of city residency.
- » Refer to lists of accepted items.
- » Keep in original containers & labeling.
- » Prescriptions go to Public Safety Facility.

helpful
tips

RESIDENTIAL ONLY. NO CONTRACTORS PLEASE.

more info @ **407-599-3479** | cityofwinterpark.org/hhwd

spring cleaning

May 7 & 14 | May 8 & 15

- what** **Bulk Trash Collection Event**
{formerly known as Spring Cleanup}
- when** place eligible items curbside after 5 p.m. the evening before your 2nd regularly scheduled trash pickup day
- where** **Households with Thursday pickup**
{**May 7 & 14**}
- Households with Friday pickup**
{**May 8 & 15**}
- info** 407-774-0800
- please note** yard waste and household hazardous waste* are NOT included in this event.
[*please see HHWD event info above]

WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMERS



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 | sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

 **SAVING ENERGY SAVES YOU MONEY** 



events calendar

for fun things to enjoy, please access

cityofwinterpark.org/events

MANAGING YARD WASTE

residential

- Yard waste is collected one time per week on Wednesday.
- Place yard waste in a container or bundle & stack.*
Bundles should not
 - *exceed 4 ft. length or 4 in. radius
 - *weigh over 50 lbs.
[any piece, segment, stump, etc.]
- Stacked palm fronds are collected whole.
- Place yard waste curbside by 7 a.m.

questions

 407-599-3479
 sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

now thru July

who Winter Park Celebrates America250

where commemorative community activities throughout Winter Park
info cityofwinterpark.org/america-250

Saturday, March 7

who St. Patrick's Day Parade

when 9 a.m.
where along Park Avenue, downtown Winter Park
info winterparkrotary.com

Fri-Sun, March 20-22

who Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival

when 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Fri & Sat
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Sun
where Park Avenue & Central Park, downtown Winter Park
info wpsaf.org

Fridays, April 10-May 1

who Power Your Self-Resilience Wisdom & Practice

when noon to 1:30 p.m.
where Winter Park Library
@ 1052 W. Morse Blvd.
info 4-week session | Apr 10, 17, 24 & May 1
sign up required @ natural-resources-sustainability.eventbrite.com

Saturday, May 9

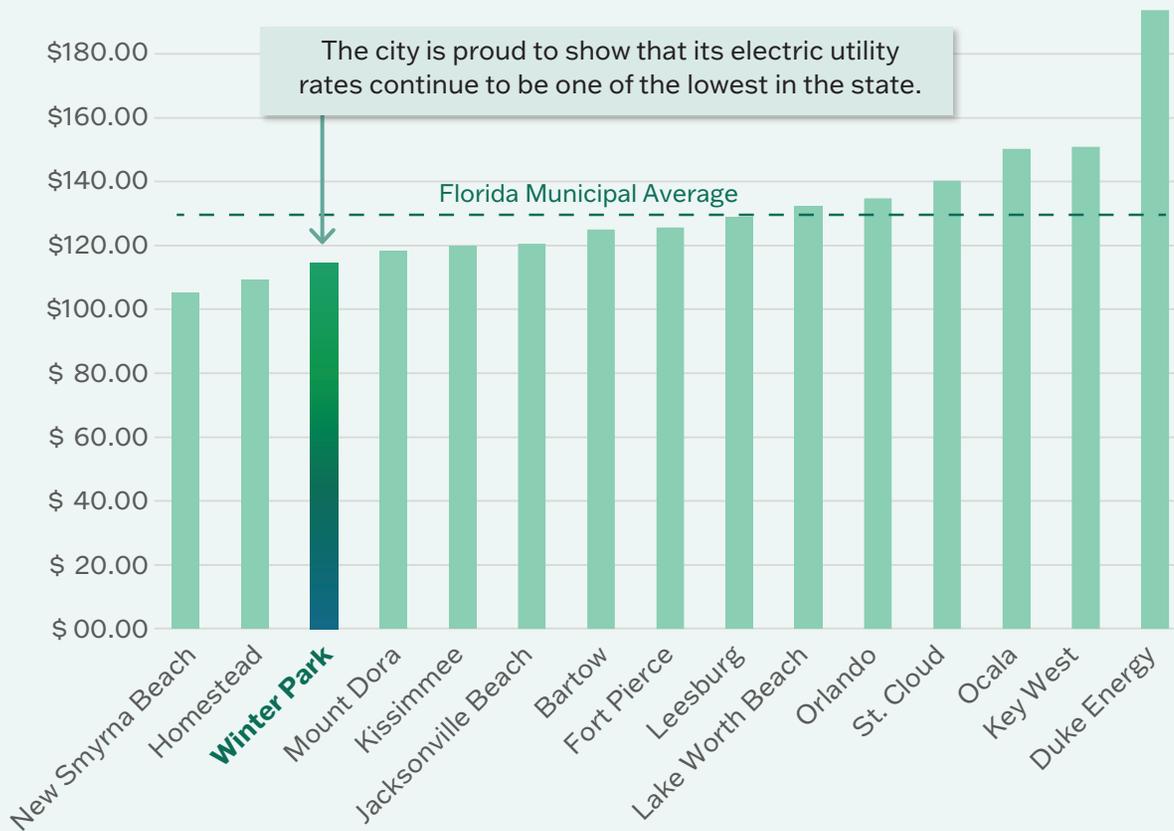
who Run for the Trees & Mother Earth Day Celebration

when race @ 7:30 a.m. | celebration @ 8-11 a.m.
where Ward Park @ 250 Perth Lane
info sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

save thesedates

1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison: December 2025

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



WINTER PARK
farmers' market
 @ **seven oaks park**
march 21
 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

same vendors | same time
 alternate location during
 sidewalk art festival

quick TIP City Hall
CLOSED Memorial Day
Monday 05.25.26

Fertilize wisely & help protect our lakes

- Choose phosphorus-free fertilizer year round.
 - Remember that nitrogen fertilizers must be at least 65% slow release.
 - Use zero nitrogen and zero phosphorus from June 1 to September 30.
 - Limit each application to 1-pound total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet (maximum 3 pounds per year).
 - Do not fertilize 24 hours before an expected storm or heavy rain.
 - When using a broadcast spreader, it must have a spray/deflector shield to keep fertilizers off of paved surfaces.
 - Do not deposit fertilizer or grass clippings on streets, driveways or in storm drains.
 - Keep the curb and gutter area of the street in front of your house clean by sweeping leaves, lawn clippings and other debris off of sidewalks and driveways.
 - Keep fertilizer at least 25 feet from natural bodies of water & clean up any spills immediately.
- access more info @ cityofwinterpark.org/lakes » Fertilize Wisely.**

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ORLANDO FL
ACG



401 South Park Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

city commission



left to
right

Commissioner Craig Russell, Commissioner Marty Sullivan,
Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Kris Cruzada and
Commissioner Warren Lindsey

Commission meetings | 3:30 p.m. | monthly on 2nd & 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 Rene Cranis	407-599-3277
City Information	407-599-3399
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	407-644-1212
Police Non-Emergency	407-644-1313

department directors

Building & Permitting Services Gary Hiatt	407-599-3237
Communications Clarissa Howard	407-599-3343
Electric Utility Jamie England	407-599-3294
Finance Wes Hamil	407-599-3292
Fire-Rescue Chief Dan Hagedorn	407-599-3297
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

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