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Communications

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# PRESS RELEASE

## City announces annual holiday events lineup

**WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (November 16, 2023)** The City of Winter Park is preparing to welcome a flurry of cheerful events this holiday season. Don your holiday apparel and gather with loved ones to experience these annual Winter Park traditions. Please access [cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events](http://cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events) to see a full lineup of all the upcoming holiday festivities.

The city will start sparkling with light as the **Hometown Holidays** season begins **Wednesday, November 22**. This theme will include seasonal greenery, colorful holi-balls, warmly lit snowfalls glistening in the trees, hanging baskets, life-sized holiday greeting cards for that perfect “Instagrammable” moment photo op, cheerful street banners, and so much more. Festive décor will sparkle along Park Avenue and West New England Avenue into Hannibal Square as well as Morse Boulevard and Orange Avenue. Central Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Shady Park will also be adorned with whimsical decorations along the way. Merchants throughout the downtown Winter Park area will participate in the holiday season with their **Hometown Holiday Window Showcase** to complement the holiday theme.

The City of Winter Park and The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art continue a holiday tradition with the **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Park Thursday, November 30**. The two-hour program begins at 6:15 p.m. in Central Park, creating the beautiful backdrop for the lighting of turn-of-the-century Tiffany windows as the Bach Festival Choir, Brass Ensemble and Youth Choir perform in concert on the main stage. For more information about the event, please access [morsemuseum.org/programs-events/christmas-in-the-park](http://morsemuseum.org/programs-events/christmas-in-the-park).

On **Friday, December 1**, from 5 to 9 p.m., the festivities continue as the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and the City of Winter Park host **Winter on the Avenue**. This holiday street party will feature an array of activities including the **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**, presenting the city’s holiday tree in Central Park, a symbolic Menorah lighting, Santa Claus, Popcorn Flicks in the Park, live music, snow slides from the Parks & Recreation Family Fun Program, s’mores from the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department, and so much more. For additional information, please call 407-644-8281 or access [winterpark.org](http://winterpark.org).

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Presented by Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency and produced by Enzian Theater, **Popcorn Flicks in the Park**, featuring **Frosty's Winter Wonderland** and **The Muppet Christmas Carol**, will take place in Central Park, **Friday, December 1**, at 7 p.m. Bring a small group of family and friends, and don't forget to pack a blanket, picnic or snacks. For more information, please call [407-599-3342](tel:407-599-3342).

On **Saturday, December 2**, Park Avenue comes to life at 9 a.m., with the **71<sup>st</sup> Annual Winter Park "Ye Olde Hometown" Christmas Parade**, hosted by the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce. This family-friendly occasion showcases holiday-themed floats, Santa Claus and well-known local figures as they make their way down the avenue on an adjusted route. The parade begins at Canton Avenue and will travel down Park Avenue ending at the intersection of Lyman and Park avenues. For more information, please call [407-644-8281](tel:407-644-8281) or access [winterpark.org](http://winterpark.org).

Before and during the Christmas Parade **Saturday, December 2**, Leadership Winter Park will host the **Annual Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast**, at the Central Park Main Stage from 7 to 10 a.m. Enjoy pancakes, sausage and beverages for just \$7 per person. Proceeds benefit the Winter Park Improvement Foundation in its efforts to develop adult and youth leaders through Leadership Winter Park programs. For more information and to purchase tickets, please access [winterpark.org](http://winterpark.org).

A special **Holiday Pops** concert, performed by the **Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra**, will take place **Sunday, December 3**, at 5 p.m., on the Central Park Main Stage. Bring your blanket and a picnic for a concert program of holiday favorites that will be sure to put everyone in the spirit of the season. This free concert is made possible by the Charlotte Julia Hollander Trust. For more information, please call [407-599-3342](tel:407-599-3342).

On **Monday, December 4**, from 5 to 7 p.m., bring the kids to the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department's Station 61, 343 W. Canton Avenue, for a **Santa Shift Open House**. Enjoy cookies and coloring, try on gear, explore the trucks, and meet Firefighter Claus! For more information, please call [407-599-3317](tel:407-599-3317).

On **Friday, December 8**, from 6 to 8 p.m., you can don your favorite holiday sweater and head to Hannibal Square Heritage Center for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Light Up Hannibal Square**. Take a free photo with Santa Claus, enjoy the Cupcake Challenge sponsored by Dress for Success, and support local artists by shopping for holiday gifts at the mini-market. The holiday lights countdown will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, please email [bchandler@crealde.org](mailto:bchandler@crealde.org).

The holiday festivities move from our city streets to Lake Virginia as the **Winter Park Holiday Boat Parade**, sponsored by the Winter Park Rotary Club, sets sail **Saturday, December 9**, at 6 p.m. Family and friends can gather in their backyards on Lake Virginia or in Dinky Dock Park to see the impressive boat and dock holiday decorations created by residents and local business sponsors. To register a boat in the parade, please access [winterparkboatparade.com](http://winterparkboatparade.com). For more information, please call [407-256-6369](tel:407-256-6369).

Chabad of Greater Orlando will present **Chanukah on the Park Sunday, December 10**, at 5:30 p.m., in Central Park. The event will include entertainment, kids' activities, food and a grand menorah lighting. For more information, please access [chabadorlando.org](http://chabadorlando.org).

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Enjoy the rich sounds of Christmas as tuba, euphonium, sousaphone and baritone players of all ages gather to perform a FREE concert from the Central Park main stage beginning at 1 p.m., **Saturday, December 16**. Brought to you by the city's Natural Resources & Sustainability Department, Winter Park's annual **Merry TUBACHRISTMAS** has become a must-see on the holiday list of things to do. Registration for musicians is \$10 and begins at 9 a.m., with rehearsal from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Performers, please bring a folding chair and music stand. For more information, please call [407-599-3463](tel:407-599-3463).

**Wreaths Across America** will be at Palm and Pineywood cemeteries **Saturday, December 16**, at noon to remember and honor veterans through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. To order a wreath by Friday, December 1, or volunteer to participate, please access [bit.ly/PalmWreaths](https://bit.ly/PalmWreaths) or [bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths](https://bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths).

**Orlando Big Band** will be bringing the sounds of Christmas to the Central Park Main Stage at 7:30 p.m., **Saturday, December 16**. Grab your chairs, pick up food from your favorite restaurant, and enjoy a holiday concert under the stars. This performance is sponsored by the Winter Park Rotary Club. For more information, please access [orlandobigband.com](http://orlandobigband.com).

On **Tuesday, December 26, 2023**, from 5 to 9 p.m., the Equity Council Corp. is hosting its annual **Kwanzaa Celebration** at the Winter Park Community Center, sponsored by the city's Parks & Recreation Department. Enjoy food, drumming, special dance and musical performances, and support black-owned businesses by shopping the SOKO Marketplace. This year's celebration will commence with the lighting of the Black Candle and focus on the Kwanzaa principle of Umoja (Unity). Tickets available at the event. For more information, please access [equitycouncilcorp.org](http://equitycouncilcorp.org).

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art will offer free admission on Fridays in December, including **Friday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29**, from 4 to 8 p.m., and feature live music from 5 to 8 p.m., for its **Holiday Friday Nights at the Morse**. In addition, free museum admission and live music will be featured on Christmas Eve from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, please access [morsemuseum.org](http://morsemuseum.org).

To wrap up the holiday season with a bright red bow on top, the City of Winter Park will proudly host the **Annual Pop-Tarts® Bowl Parade of Bands Thursday, December 28**, at 11 a.m., as a prelude to the Pop-Tarts® Bowl game on Thursday evening at 5:45 p.m., at Camping World® Stadium. College bands will march through downtown Winter Park and perform a "Bandastic Game Day Preview" in Central Park. For more information, please access [poptartsbowl.com](http://poptartsbowl.com).

If you are visiting Winter Park this holiday season and wondering where to park, please access the city's [parking page](#) to plan ahead. Many of the city's holiday events will require road closures. To stay informed of these closures, please access our [Closures & Construction](#) page.

Also remember, SunRail® will drop you off at the Winter Park Train Station next to Central Park, making it the perfect mode of transportation to come shop the avenue or attend our weekday holiday events. To check the train schedule or purchase a ticket, please access [sunrail.com](http://sunrail.com).

**The City of Winter Park wishes everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!**

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