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Communications

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# PRESS RELEASE

## City announces annual holiday events lineup

**WINTER PARK, FL (November 12, 2024)** 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. To see a full lineup of all the upcoming holiday festivities, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events](https://cityofwinterpark.org/holiday-events).

Downtown Winter Park will start sparkling with lights as the Park Avenue District's **Christmas on Park** season begins **Thursday, November 14**. This year, Park Avenue District's holiday décor will reflect the spirit of a Winter Park Christmas by honoring our city's history and embracing the timeless charm of our downtown. The District aim to create a multi-sensory experience that brings the magic of the holidays to life for both residents and guests. Festive décor will sparkle along Park Avenue with over 150,000 lights, wreaths on lamp posts, a cathedral of lights in Central Park, a children's carousel beginning November 29, and so much more. For more information about Christmas on Park please access [parkavedistrict.com](https://parkavedistrict.com).

On **Thursday, November 21**, Friends of Hannibal Square present the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Taste of Hannibal Square**. From 5 to 8 p.m., you can enjoy dining with tasting plates from local restaurants while you listen to live music on West New England Avenue. Tasting plate tickets can be purchased in advance via Eventbrite or at the event. In partnership with Winter Park's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), proceeds will benefit the Hannibal Square Heritage Center. For more information, please access [iluvhannibalsquare.com](https://iluvhannibalsquare.com).

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art will offer free admission on Fridays in December, including **Friday, November 29 and December 6, 13, 20 and 27**, 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, Christmas Eve will offer free museum admission from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with live music from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, please access [morsemuseum.org](https://morsemuseum.org).

The City of Winter Park and The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art continue a holiday tradition with the **46<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Park, Thursday, December 5**. 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](https://morsemuseum.org/programs-events/christmas-in-the-park).

– more –

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On **Friday, December 6**, 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 & Mrs. 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](tel:407-644-8281) or access [winterpark.org](http://winterpark.org).

Presented by the CRA and produced by Enzian Theater, **Popcorn Flicks in the Park**, featuring **Home Alone**, will take place in Central Park, **Friday, December 6**, at 7 p.m. Bring your 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 7**, Park Avenue comes to life at 9 a.m., with the **72<sup>nd</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. 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 on **Saturday, December 7**, Leadership Winter Park will host the **Annual Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast**, at the Central Park Main Stage from 7 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy pancakes, sausage and beverages for just \$7 per person. Proceeds benefit the Winter Park Improvement Foundation to provide scholarships for adult and youth leaders enrolled in 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 8**, at 6 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 **Wednesday, December 11**, 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, explore the trucks, and meet Firefighter Claus! For more information, please call [407-599-3317](tel:407-599-3317).

On **Thursday, December 12**, from 5 to 8 p.m., you can wear your favorite holiday sweater and head to Hannibal Square Heritage Center for the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Light Up Hannibal Square**. Take a free photo with Santa Claus, enjoy a holiday concert by international vocalist MariaOlivia and band from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and support local artists by shopping for holiday gifts at the mini-market. The holiday lights countdown will begin at 6 p.m. For more information, please email [bchandler@crealde.org](mailto:bchandler@crealde.org).

**Wreaths Across America** will be at Palm and Pineywood cemeteries **Saturday, December 14**, at noon, to remember and honor veterans by the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the markers of our country's fallen heroes. To order a wreath or volunteer to participate, please access [bit.ly/PalmWreaths](http://bit.ly/PalmWreaths) or [bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths](http://bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths).

– more –

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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 at 1 p.m., **Saturday, December 14**. 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).

**The Great American Big Band** will be bringing the sounds of Christmas to the Central Park Main Stage at 7 p.m., **Saturday, December 14**. 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 [greatamericanbigband.com](http://greatamericanbigband.com).

The **AdventHealth Orchestra** will be bringing the festive sounds of Christmas to the Central Park Main Stage at 5 p.m., **Sunday, December 15**. Pack a blanket or a lawn chair and bring your family and friends to enjoy seasonal classics like *The Nutcracker*, *Greensleeves* and *Sleigh Ride* at this free concert in downtown Winter Park. For more information please email [Merita.Ross@AdventHealth.com](mailto:Merita.Ross@AdventHealth.com) or access [adventhealth.com/adventhealth-orchestra](http://adventhealth.com/adventhealth-orchestra).

Chabad of Greater Orlando will present **Chanukah on the Park Wednesday, December 25**, at 5 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).

On **Thursday, December 26**, 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 in advance and at the event. For more information, please access [equitycouncilcorp.org](http://equitycouncilcorp.org).

If you are visiting Winter Park this holiday season and wondering where to park, please access the city's [parking page](#) to plan ahead. In addition, the CRA is providing extra holiday parking that will open later this week at the corner of East New England and South Knowles avenues for those visiting downtown Winter Park. Many of the city's holiday events will require road closures. To stay informed, 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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