



CELEBRATION OF SPRING FESTIVAL IN THE PARK



You don't want to miss the Third Annual Winter Springs Celebration of Spring Festival in the Park, March 30, 2008 at Central Winds Park.

More inside.

FIRE ASSESSMENTS

Please see important information regarding fire assessments on pages 2 and 3.



WINTER SPRINGS CRIME RATE DOWN 26.1%



The Winter Springs Police Department is pleased to report that the City's crime rate for 2007 is down a record 26.1% over the prior year. The most significant decreases were in the category of Burglaries which dropped 39% and Larcenies which dropped 27% in 2007.

Police Chief Dan Kerr attributes the reduction in the crime rate to proactive police patrolling and help from the citizens of Winter Springs. The police department appreciates the assistance and cooperation from the community and asks that residents continue to call if they observe any suspicious activity or need the Police Department's assistance in any way.

INSIDE this issue

On the Cover

Celebration of Spring Festival in the Park

Fire Assessments

Winter Springs Crime Rate Down 26.1%



Message from Mayor Bush page 2

City Commission Studying Alternative Methods for Implementing Fire Assessments page 3

Celebration of Spring page 4

Celebration of Spring Event Schedule page 5

Commission Report page 6

City Hall News & Events page 7

Senior's Corner page 8



Upcoming Events

"Eggstravaganza" Egg Hunt
March 22 at Central Winds Park

Celebration of Spring
March 30th at Central Winds Park

2008 Arbor Day Celebration
April 26th
Winter Springs City Hall



The Winter Springs Insider is an official City of Winter Springs publication.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BUSH



Apartment owners are demanding homeowners to continue subsidizing fire protection costs for their apartment complexes in Winter Springs. I don't agree.

Can you believe it? Corporate owners of rental apartment complexes in Winter Springs are demanding that Winter Springs' homeowners continue to subsidize their cost of fire protection services.

There are only two lawful ways the city can finance the cost of its fire protection services: Property Taxes or Fire Assessments. As opposed to property taxes, fire assessments disclose who is actually creating the demand for fire services in a city and their fair share of the cost based upon the demand they create.

The fire assessment study performed by the City's consultants has revealed that apartment complexes have not been paying their fair share of the cost of financing the City's fire department based upon the demand they create for fire services. This finding clearly demonstrates that homeowners in Winter Springs have been subsidizing the cost of the delivery of fire services to apartment complexes through the property tax system.

At the March 10, 2008 meeting of the City Commission, apartment complex owners and the Apartment Association of Greater Orlando played out a carefully orchestrated display of opposition to the fire assessment proposal currently being studied by the City Commission for funding the fire department. Representatives of the Association, complex owners and renter tenants, complete with signs and flashing lapel pins, told the Commission all the reasons why they should not be required to pay their fair share of the cost of fire services in Winter Springs through fire assessments. **Nowhere in their opposition did they reveal the truth of the subsidies their complexes have been receiving from City homeowners through property taxes.**

What is more interesting, and a demonstration of the transient nature of apartment complexes, is that 14 of the 51 persons who signed up to speak do not live in Winter Springs; 41 were not even registered voters in Winter Springs. According to information received by the City, many of the presenters were provided a discount in their rents for showing up and opposing the fire assessments. One renter explained to a City official that he didn't have any idea what the fire assessment was all about, he just wanted to get his \$25 rent discount for showing up.

Although Winter Springs is predominately a single family residential community, there is a place for some rental units in the City. However, owners of apartment complexes who want to locate their complexes in Winter Springs for profit making purposes need to be prepared to pay their fair share of the services they demand, and not expect homeowners of the City to subsidize their for-profit businesses.

In summary, the question before the City Commission is how we will pay for our fire services, through property taxes or fire assessments? As long as we pay through property taxes, the cost of fire services will be unfairly distributed. The fire assessment study prepared by the City's consultants has clearly shown who has been subsidizing who and to what degree. If the fire assessment method is enacted by the City Commission, those who have not been paying their fair share will have to step up to the plate and do so. In my opinion, this is the fairest way for paying for City services.

CITY COMMISSION STUDYING ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR IMPLEMENTING FIRE ASSESSMENTS

The City has two methods by which to finance its fire services, new property taxes or new fire assessments.

Acting on the advice of a 21-member citizen committee and feedback received from residents in three town hall meetings held at three separate locations in the City, the City Commission voted to reduce property taxes by 24% in the fiscal year 2008 budget and to replace those property tax revenues with non-ad valorem fire assessments. The citizen committee's recommendation resulted from an exhaustive review of the City's operations and finances. Their proposal was well received in the Town Hall meetings and little, if any opposition was expressed against the proposal in budget hearings.

Non-ad valorem fire assessments were chosen over property taxes for three reasons:

1. To insulate the fire department from further efforts by the Governor and Legislature to reduce property tax revenues which are currently utilized to fund the fire department, thus preventing state imposed reductions in fire service levels.
2. To create a dependable source of revenue which can be used only for the fire department and no other city service.
3. To provide a more fair distribution of the cost of fire services thus ending the practice of unfair subsidies such as homeowners subsidizing apartment complexes and for-profit commercial and industrial businesses. It also relieves homeowners from subsidizing those homeowners who do not pay a fair share of the cost of fire services.

Fire assessments clearly identify who is subsidizing who and how deep those subsidies are. Fire assessment rates are then applied to reduce or alleviate to the extent possible these subsidies. This results in all classes of taxpayers being charged their fair share of the cost of providing fire services based upon the demand they make upon the City for fire services.

Fire assessments will not generate new revenue for the City, although fire assessment rates will vary according to classes of property. Fire assessments will be priced only to replace the 24% property tax reduction approved in the fiscal year 2008 budget.

During this study process, the City Commission has evaluated several different approaches to implementing fire assessments in order to implement the fairest and least costly possible approach.

The Commission is expected to decide the alternative approach it will provide to the community at the March 28, 2008 Commission meeting.

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Let us know if you want to serve on one of the City's Advisory Boards.

- ❖ Beautification Of Winter Springs Board
- ❖ Board Of Adjustment
- ❖ Board Of Trustees (Pension Plan)
- ❖ Code Enforcement Board
- ❖ Oak Forest Wall And Beautification District Advisory Committee
- ❖ Planning And Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency
- ❖ Tusawilla Lighting And Beautification District Advisory Committee

All Advisory Boards and Committee Members are appointed by the Mayor and City Commission. If you are interested in serving your community in this way, please contact the Office of the City Clerk for more information and to request an application at 407-327-5965, 407-327-5999, or 407-327-5955, or visit the city's website at www.winterspringsfl.org and click on "Boards & Committees."



3rd ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF SPRING FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Featuring the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

March 30, 2008
 Central Winds Park
 4:00 PM to 8:15 PM



Don't miss the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra's 2008 spring program entitled "Spring Training" March 30, 2008 at Central Winds Park.

The Philharmonic is under the direction of Maestro Andrew Lane and features guest vocalist Stephan Jones.



Spring Training Concert Program

Olympic Fanfare Williams/Riggio

Les Toreadors Bizet

Salute to Leroy Anderson Anderson

Clarinet Candy

Lullaby of the Drum

Bugler's Holiday

Casey at the Bat Holcombe

Mr. Jones, narrator

When TV Was Young arr. Wendel

Intermission

Entrance of the Gladiators March Fucik

Chariots of Fire Vangelis/Riley

The Incredibles Giacchino/Bulla/Lane

Salute to the Big Bands arr. Custer

Selections with Mr. Jones:

It Might As Well Be Spring Rodgers

Luck Be A Lady Louesser

It's Been Reel arr. Sims

Highlights from Rocky Conti/Lowden



THE ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

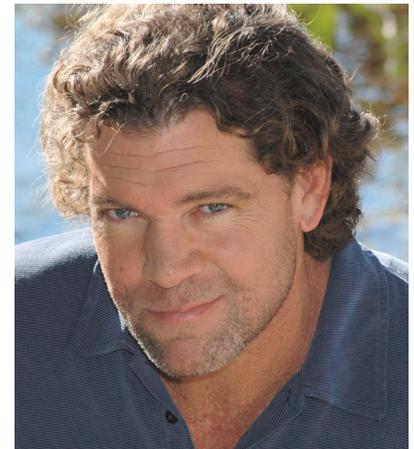


The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra is in its 15th season of fostering and promoting symphonic music through excellence in performance, education and cultural leadership. The Philharmonic appears in over 115 performances each season and features the talents of more than 80 professional musicians from around the globe under the direction of Music Director Christopher Wilkins and Principal Pops & Resident Conductor Andrew Lane.

GUEST ARTIST STEPHAN JONES

Stephan Jones, a twenty-year veteran of the stage, has performed all over the world. Since his relocation to Central Florida, he's appeared with Orlando Shakespeare, the Orlando Rep, and the Vine Theatre companies.

Stephan can most often be seen via his ongoing collaborative relationship with Mad Cow Theatre, located in the heart of downtown Orlando, where past performances range from slovenly sports nut (Oscar: The Odd Couple), to dashing villain (El Gallo: The Fantasticks), to murderous barber (Sweeney Todd). Winter Springs' 2008 Celebration of Spring marks Stephan's debut with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Arts & Food Picnic in the Park.....	4:00 PM
Instrument Petting Zoo.....	4:30 to 5:30 PM
Spring Concert in the Park.....	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Fireworks Spectacular.....	8:00 PM

Sunday, March 30, 2008, Central Winds Park



the City of Winter Springs **COMMISSION REPORT**



During the months of October through mid-February 2008 the City Commission approved ordinances that facilitated a change in the future land use of several parcels of land located within the Tusawilla Country Club to centralize a number of residential units along Winter Springs Boulevard, place a larger acreage of land into a conservation overlay area, and allow for the construction of a cell tower to mitigate issues with cell phone reception in the Tusawilla area. Additionally, the Commission changed the zoning of four small parcels of land along Florida Avenue and Lake Lucerne Circle to allow their inclusion as part of the Winter Place residential development; approved a much needed text amendment to the City's Code of Ordinances to add a methodology for density calculations for a mixed use residential PUD furthering the City's efforts to implement Smart Growth policies where possible; approved a text amendment to the Town Center Code to update the list of permitted uses to reflect a small list of new uses not contemplated when the code was written but which clearly belong in a traditional neighborhood type development such as the Town Center; approved a procedural modification by allowing streets and

alleys to be vacated or abandoned by resolution; and adopted the new FEMA flood map, released in September of 2007, as the basis for determining flood elevations and flood zones.

Additionally, the Commission adopted Resolution 2007-47 to Revise the City's Recycle Bin Policy for residents of Winter Springs; adopted Resolution 2007-48 supporting "Pet Rescue of Judy's" petition to the ABC Television Network's Extreme Makeover – Home Edition Program to construct a new pet rescue facility in Seminole County, Florida; adopted Resolution 2007-49 authorizing the City to issue retirement badges to retired police officers in order to serve the public purpose of commemorating and honoring their prior service to the City; adopted Resolution 2007-50 indicating the City's election to use the property tax rolls to collect proposed fire assessment fees in fiscal Year 2009; adopted Resolution 2007-51 amending and revising the City's schedule of fees for various Parks and Recreation facility uses, activities and labor services; adopted Resolution 2007-52 amending the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget; adopted Resolution 2007-53 vacating a 73 square foot portion of Blumberg Boulevard right-of-way; adopted Resolution 2007-55 authorized retired City firefighters to retain their official badge in order to serve the public purpose of commemorating and honoring their prior service to the City; adopted Resolution 2007-56 authorizing the temporary suspension of prohibition of parking vehicles on any roadway for public purposes and Resolution 2008-01 authorizing the Police Department to conduct a nine month study on the effects of on-street parking on certain roads within the City; adopted Resolution 2008-02 amending Section 27 of the City Personnel Manual related to Military Leave; adopted Resolution 2008-04 establishing oversized vehicle restrictions on Blumberg Boulevard; adopted Resolution 2008-05 finding a public purpose for the production and dissemination of educational information regarding the proposed January 29, 2008 Amendment to the Florida Constitution; adopted Resolution 2008-09 adopting a Social Security number policy and written statement addressing the City's collection and use of Social Security numbers, certifying compliance with Section 119.071(5), Florida Statutes to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives; adopted Resolution 2008-10 approving the inclusion within the Seminole Economic Enhancement District and the US 17/92 Corridor Redevelopment Plan as a Brownfield/S.E.E.D (Seminole Economic Enhancement District) for the purpose of environmental remediation, rehabilitation and economic redevelopment.

The Commission presented Resolutions of Appreciation to Mr. Guy DeMaio for his service on the Board Of Trustees, Ms. Denise Ryser for her service on the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency, and Mr. David Pritchett for his service on the Beautification of Winter Springs Board.

The Commission appointed Ms. Cara Lynn Roesner to the Beautification Of Winter Springs Board and Judy Converso to the Oak Forest Wall and Beautification District Advisory Committee.

The Commission recognized City of Winter Springs Employees for their Years of Service during the semi-annual Presentation of Employee Awards.

The Senior Center Grand Opening Celebration was held on Sunday, November 25, 2007 at the City of Winter Springs Senior Center. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Utility and Public Works Compound Operations Building was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. A Dedication Ceremony naming Winter Springs Fire Station 24 in Honor of respected former Fire Chief Timothy J. Lallathin was held on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

CITY HALL NEWS AND EVENTS

ARBOR DAY 2008

Join us on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 AM until noon for the City of Winter Springs Annual Arbor Day Celebration at City Hall. There will be open forum clinics on Tree Selection (Right Tree in the Right Place), Tree Care, Going Green At Home (My Role In Water Conservation!), and a Special Tree Giveaway to each Winter Springs household attending. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, download a registration form from the City's website: www.winterspringsfl.org and fax back to (407) 327-6695 or drop off the completed form at City Hall, Building Department, at the front counter (Attn: Arbor Day Clinic). Stop by and help make our City a better one, one tree at a time. For more information contact the Urban Beautification Services Arbor Division at: (407) 327-5982 or visit us on the web.



"EGGSTRAVAGANZA" EGG HUNT

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 22nd as the City of Winter Springs, Covenant Community Church and Magic 107.7 FM present the Annual Magic 107.7 FM Easter Egg Hunt at beautiful Central Winds Park in Winter Springs. This Egg Hunt is Seminole County's largest "Egg Hunt" with over 18,000 eggs to hunt, over 25 booths including moon-walks, cotton candy, snow cones, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny, raffles to win great prizes and Easter Basket Competitions. Make or decorate an Easter Basket and bring it with you. After your hunt, drop by the Judging Tent for our judges to admire your creation. Awards will be presented at Noon, at the stage area. The Egg Hunts begin at 9:30 AM and run until 12:30 PM for Toddlers to Grade 5. There is no cost to participate in the hunts, basket competitions, booths or parking. Bottled water, soda and hot dogs will be sold to satisfy your appetite and raffles will be held to win great prizes.



SPRING BREAK AND SUMMER CAMPS

The City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department is currently offering registration for this year's Spring Break Camp for campers age 6-11. Camp will run March 31 to April 4 from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM daily at the Winter Springs Civic Center. Camp fees are \$65 for Winter Springs residents and \$80 for non-residents. Camp Sunshine Summer Camp registration will take place on Saturday, April 19th at the Winter Springs Civic Center between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Space is limited. Camp for elementary age campers will run June 9 through August 8 from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM weekdays at the Winter Springs Civic Center. Camp Fees are \$85 per week for Winter Springs residents and \$100 per week for non-residents. Camp for middle school age campers will run June 9 through August 8 from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM weekdays at New Covenant Church. Camp Fees are \$85 per week for Winter Springs residents and \$100 per week for non-residents. For more information please call 407-327-6593.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CITY'S STAFF

UTILITIES

Shawn Dorn
Mark Sacala

FIRE

Ryan Kotrch
Phillip Pershing
Joshua Servi
Michael Gagliano, Jr.

CITY CLERK

LaDonna Slayter

POLICE

Richard McLaren
Wayne Wagner
Jorge Melendez II
Michelle Lennertz-Hanlin

PARKS & RECREATION

Vicente Rosa
Elizabeth Abitante

INFORMATION SERVICES

Randy Arcebedo
Joel Davila
Greg Ungar

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

If you missed this year's Dancing Under the Stars, you missed a great event. Make plans now to be there next year!



RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES' TENURE WITH THE CITY

25 YEARS

Robert Beck

20 YEARS

Joanne Dalka
Robert Cable
Forrest Askew
Pete Wiggins

15 YEARS

John Bailes
Jeff McCall
James Reilley

10 YEARS

Darrell Brewer
Bradley Dula
David Smith

5 YEARS

Nicole Scott
Thomas Padgett
Howard West
Valerie Jenkins
Drew Neubrand

TARPON SPRINGS

April 12, 2008

Join us as we head to Tarpon Springs – the “Sponge Capital of the World”. Enjoy fabulous Greek lunch then set sail from the historic sponge docks for a 90 minute cruise, hosted by a professional eco-naturalist. Cruise down the Anclote River where you’ll learn about the area and the seafaring industries it has spawned over the years. You’ll glide across Tarpon Bayou and discover the abundance of life found in Florida’s estuaries. A trip out of the mouth of the river follows and sets the stage for an encounter with dolphins, birds and manatees. Once back on land, stroll the sponge docks and browse the many shops and attractions in this quaint Greek fishing village. **COST: \$62.00 per person.** Includes: R/T motorcoach transportation, lunch, cruise taxes, gratuity on meal and driver’s gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Senior Center at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast stop en route.



STERLING CASINO + DIXIE CROSSROADS

May 17, 2008 & July 12, 2008

Join Lady Luck aboard Sterling Casino as she sails from Port Canaveral for 5 hours of sun and fun - “Vegas style”. Try your luck in the casinos or enjoy the many other shipboard activities such as live music and dancing. Win or lose, you’re sure to



have fun! Then, it’s on to the world famous Dixie Crossroads for a sumptuous dinner. **COST: \$46.00 per person.** Includes: R/T motorcoach transportation, cruise, unlimited finger food deli buffet, port charges/taxes, complimentary cocktails to gaming participants, dinner, gratuity on meal, and driver’s gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Senior Center at 9:00 a.m.

SHOP ‘TIL YOU DROP

June 14, 2008

Wear your comfortable walking shoes as we’re hunting for bargains. We’ll start at the luxurious Mall at Millenia - not many bargains here, but a great place to window shop and enjoy lunch on your own. Now that we’re primed and well fed, we’re ready to tackle Orlando’s newest craze – IKEA, 309,000 sq. ft. of home furnishing fun. With 48 inspirational room settings and more than 10,000 items all under one roof, the possibilities for furnishing your home are endless! **COST: \$27.00 per person.** Includes: R/T motorcoach transportation and driver’s gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Senior Center at 9:00 a.m.



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!

FOR MORE QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT: SUSIE COFFMAN AT 407.327.6554



City of Winter Springs

Telephone Directory

CITY HALL	407-327-1800:
Billing (water, sewer, garbage fees)	407-327-5996:
Arborist	407-327-5982:
Inspections	407-327-7596:
Permits	407-327-5969:
Planning	407-327-5966:
Zoning	407-327-5963:
City Clerk	407-327-5955:
Deputy City Clerk	407-327-5965:
City Manager	407-327-5957:
Computer Services	407-327-5975:
Comprehensive Planning	407-327-5967:
Occupational License	407-327-5964:
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency)	407-327-2332:
Mayor/Commission	407-327-5965:
Parks/Recreation	407-327-6599:
Senior Citizen Center	407-327-6697:
Police Dept. (Non-emergency)	407-327-1000:
Code Enforcement	407-327-7975:
Public Works/Utility	407-327-2669:
Job Hotline	407-327-7595:
Garbage Complaints	407-327-7576:



The City of Winter Springs
1126 East State Road 434
Winter Springs, Florida 32708

visit us online at www.winterspringsfl.org

