



COMMISSION REDUCES PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE BY 24% New Fire Assessment Fee to be Implemented

WINTER SPRINGS RESIDENTS SAY NO TO SERVICE REDUCTIONS: Acting upon feedback received from citizens through a series of Town Hall meetings and the recommendations of a 21-member Citizen Property Tax Reform Committee appointed by the City Commission to study recently enacted property tax legislation, the City Commission has decided to maintain the vision of progress set by a broad base citizen initiative in 1996 and to maintain current service levels designed to accomplish that vision. The 1996 citizen initiative recommended substantial improvements in police, fire, parks and recreation, drainage, and financial management services. It also recommended construction of the Town Center and rehabilitation of certain areas of the older West Side of the City.

The newly adopted legislation could have caused large cuts in these service improvements. The Winter Springs Commission decided to take the issue to the community through the appointment of the Citizen Study Committee and Town Hall meetings. The message from residents all over the City was clearly resonated in the findings of the study committee:

*“The relatively small reductions in property taxes offered by tax reform legislation did not warrant reduction in the quality of life we have chosen for ourselves in Winter Springs, nor reductions in municipal services currently provided by the City.”**

• See **Commission** on Page 2

* Source: Ad Hoc Winter Springs Citizen Property Tax Reform Mitigation Study Committee Final Report, July 16, 2007.

‘Money’ Magazine Ranks Winter Springs 31st Best City in Which to Live

Town Center Key Factor in Ranking

Economic opportunity, good schools, safe streets, things to do, a sense of community and Winter Springs’ new Town Center were some of the factors that ranked Winter Springs the 31st best place to live in the United States, according to the August issue of ‘Money’ Magazine.

Money’s annual listing ranks the top 100 Best Places to Live in the United States based on a range of qualitative factors. Middleton, Wisconsin topped this year’s list while Winter Springs was one of only two Florida cities to be included. Not surprisingly, both of these cities are located in Seminole County. Lake Mary captured the #4 spot.



• See **Winter Springs** on Page 2

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Upcoming Events

- “Hometown Harvest
Celebration”
October 20th, 2007
- Holiday Parade
November 18th, 2007
- Holiday Tree Lighting
November 24th, 2007
- Holiday Pops Concert
December 8th, 2007



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

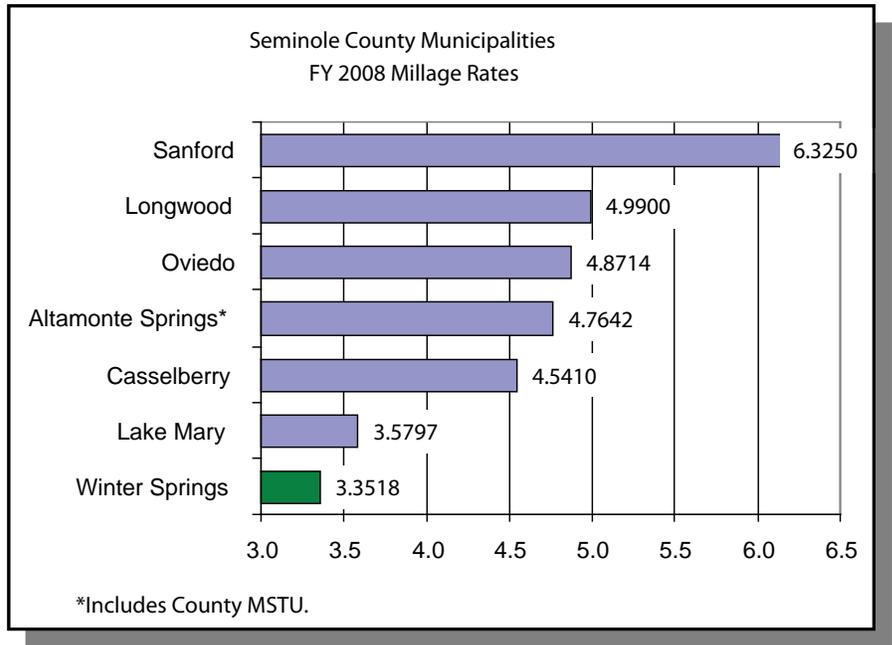
COMMISSION REDUCES PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE • (Con't from page 1)

The City Commission approved a two-pronged strategy to maintain the vision and service improvements established in the 1996 citizen initiative and overwhelmingly supported by citizens on the Property Tax Study Committee and persons attending recent Town Hall meetings. The first prong of this plan is to reduce the property tax millage by 24% from the current 4.4019 mills to 3.3518. This action will give Winter Springs the lowest property tax millage of the seven cities in Seminole County (see chart below) and save taxpayers approximately \$105 per \$100,000 of taxable value.

The second prong of the program is the establishment of a non-ad valorem fire assessment. Revenues from the new non-ad valorem fire assessment will roughly offset the City's loss of property tax revenues. Together, these revenue measures will make it possible for the City to satisfy the intent of the new legislation to reduce property taxes while at the same time making it possible to carry out the wishes of residents to maintain service levels.

Non-ad valorem fire assessment fees are estimated to be between \$175 - \$225 per year for all residential property. Commercial property will be assessed on a square foot basis. Final rates will be determined over the next sixty days.

Non-ad valorem fire assessments have three advantages over property taxes. First, they are fairer because they more accurately allocate the cost of fire services. Second, they can be spent only for fire services and no other municipal services. Thirdly, they protect the City's fire department from future anticipated property tax reduction measures by the Legislature.



WINTER SPRINGS BUDGET DOWN

The FY 2008 \$58.5 million Budget adopted by the City Commission is 5.2% below the FY 2007 budget of \$61.7 million.

The FY 2008 operating millage of 3.2496 mills is well below the level mandated by the State Legislature's property tax reform measures.

	FY 2007	FY 2008
Operating Millage	4.2919	3.2496
Voted Debt Millage	0.1100	0.1022
Total Millage	4.4019	3.3518

WINTER SPRINGS RANKED 31st Best City to Live • (Con't from page 1)

"Winter Springs has it all: great schools, plenty of parks, and, oh yeah, did we mention the sunshine? But for several years, this Orlando suburb lacked the one key ingredient to make it great: a downtown," the article states. The article continued, "Now, the Winter Springs Town Center construction is underway. When completed, the 400-acre mixed-use facility will feature luxury condos, upscale shops, and prime office space. While the center has had its share of controversy, developers and town officials believe it's the final piece in the puzzle to attract more people to settle in Winter Springs."

Previously, Winter Springs was rated the best city in the United States in which to purchase a home, based upon ten quality of life criteria, by MSN Advisory Services. For the full article, please visit: <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2007/>



the City of Winter Springs **COMMISSION REPORT**



During the months of April through September, 2007, the City Commission made it possible for the construction of a stormwater management system to help clean up and protect Lake Jesup by approving a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment on 28.9 acres located just west of DeLeon Street at Howard Avenue. The Commission also approved two (2) Comprehensive Plan Amendments and rezoning on 35.2 acres of recently annexed property located along the western edge of DeLeon Street to "Rural Residential"/"R-C1: Single Family Dwelling District" land use and zoning. Additionally, the Commission approved Comprehensive Plan Amendments updating the City's Water Supply Work Plan and establishing a Public Schools Capital Improvements planning process. The Commission also amended the City's "Minimum Community Appearance and Aesthetic Review Standards" Ordinance for commercial property to include residential property.

The Commission adopted Resolution 2007-02 to support the Seminole County Public School District's initiative to update School Impact Fees; adopted Resolution 2007-03 in coordination with the Council of Local Governments in Seminole County (CALNO) to support issues related to encouraging land developers to participate in the Seminole County Public School District's Voluntary Capacity Mitigation Program; adopted Resolution 2007-16 authorizing the City to receive a Florida Department Of Transportation grant of \$142,000 for landscape improvements located on State Road 434; adopted Resolution 2007-17 honoring Helen Baker for her outstanding service on the Tusawilla Lighting And Beautification District Advisory Committee; adopted Resolution 2007-19 supporting legislative priorities for the Florida League Of Cities; adopted Resolution 2007-20 amending the City's Defined Benefit Pension Plan to provide for an alternative normal retirement benefit; adopted Resolutions 2007-23 and 2007-24 approving Assessment Rolls relating to the Oak Forest Wall and Beautification District and the Tusawilla Lighting and Beautification Assessment Area – Phases I and II for Fiscal Year 2007-2008; adopted Resolution 2007-25 revising the Public Records Policy of the City of Winter Springs; adopted Reso-

lution 2007-27 requesting Seminole County to construct sidewalk facilities on Dyson Drive; adopted Resolution 2007-28 establishing a fee for Aesthetic Review appeals to the City Commission; adopted Resolution 2007-30 supporting the SeminoleWay organization; adopted Resolution 2007-39 opposing an Amendment to the Florida Constitution that would force Voters to decide all changes to a City or County's Comprehensive Plan; adopted Resolutions 2007-29, 2007-40, 2007-41, 2007-43 and 2007-44 to establish and approve the Rolled Back Millage Rate, the Tentative Operating Millage Rate, the Tentative Budget, the Final Operating Millage Rate, the Final Voted Debt Service Millage Rate, and the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008; and adopted Resolution 2007-46 authorizing entering into a Landscape Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Landscape and sidewalk maintenance associated with the West End Center project.

The City Commission appointed the following Committee Members to the Ad Hoc Winter Springs Citizen Property Tax Reform Mitigation Study Committee: Mr. Michael S. Blake, Mr. Mathew Matisak, Ms. Sondra Ahlers, Ms. Ethel Beecher, Mr. Fred G. Curtis, Ms. Kathryn Fairchild, Mr. Mark Fischer, Ms. Cindy Gennell, Mr. Byron Giltz, Mr. Dale Kirby, Mr. Charles Lacey, Mr. Ron Ligthart, Mr. Gerry M. Marino, Mr. Edward Martinez, Jr., Mr. Richard M. Mastroberte, Mr. David W. McLeod, Mr. Terry Patten, Mr. Bill Poe, Mr. Bob Rucci, Mr. Max Swaim, Mr. Rande Thompson, and Mr. Stephen Thompson. The City Commission appointed the following Committee Members to the Districting Committee: Mr. George Colombo, Ms. Linda Collins, Mr. Don Jonas, Ms. Maureen Landgraf, Mr. Ron Ligthart, and Ms. Connie Nadrowski.

The Commission appointed the following citizens to other Committees and Advisory Boards: Ms. Kathryn Fairchild and Mr. David Pritchett, Beautification Of Winter Springs Board; Mr. David McLeod, Board Of Trustees; Ms. Kathy Moghadas, Oak Forest Wall and Beautification District Advisory Committee; Mr. Robert Heatwole and Ms. Karen Paine-Malcolm, Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency; and Ms. Lucy Coker and Ms. Denise Ritchey, Tusawilla Lighting and Beautification District. The Commission re-appointed the following to Advisory Boards and Committees: Ms. Lorry Roero, Beautification of Winter Springs Board; Mr. Tom Waters, Board Of Adjustment; Mr. James Pitts, Code Enforcement Board; Mr. Gregory Roero, Code Enforcement Board; Mr. Jim Wentz, Code Enforcement Board; Ms. Sharon Hotchkiss, Oak Forest Wall and Beautification District Advisory; Mr. Bill Poe, Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency; and Ms. Mary Brook, Tusawilla Lighting and Beautification District Advisory.

The Commission recognized City employees for their Years of Service during the semi-annual Presentation of Employee Awards and presented Proclamations proclaiming the Month of May Elder Law Month and the 12th day of May to support increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Fibromyalgia. Ms. Diane Parker was also recognized for her work with the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Commission adopted Resolutions expressing appreciation to Ms. Ethel Beecher for her service on the Beautification of Winter Springs Board; to Ms. Kathryn Fairchild for her service on the Board of Adjustment; to the Members of the Ad Hoc Winter Springs Citizen Property Tax Reform Mitigation Study Committee; to Ms. Denise Ritchey for her service on the Beautification of Winter Springs Board; to Ms. Linda Tillis for her service on the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency; and to Mr. Brantley Tillis for his service on Tuscawilla Lighting and Beautification District Advisory Committee.

The Commission also presented Resolutions to City employees Robert E. Dallas for his twenty-seven (27) years of dedicated service and Skip Lazlo for his thirty (30) years of dedicated service. In May, 2007 Fire Station 24 was named in Honor of the much respected and loved Fire Chief Timothy J. Lallathin.

COMMISSION APPROVES TUSCAWILLA CELL TOWER IN EXCHANGE FOR CONSERVATION LAND

After several months of deliberation and negotiation, the City Commission approved the construction of a cell tower on Winter Springs Country Club golf course property in exchange for 33 acres of dedicated recreation lands and 8 acres of dedicated conservation lands.

Vertex Communications convinced the City Commission that their proposed site satisfied the legal requirements of the company to prove that their proposed tower site was needed and, based upon engineering data, the best available site to provide additional cell phone service to Tuscawilla.

In return for Commission approval, the Country Club agreed to transfer development rights to build 49 residential units on "Parcel 8" of the Country Club to "Parcel 7", increasing the total number of residential units on "Parcel 7" to 60 units which is still less than the 69 units previously allowed. The development of the residential units on "Parcel 7" would have far less impact on persons living adjacent to the golf course than the construction of the residential units on "Parcel 8".



**PROJECT
UPDATE**

Blumberg Boulevard Nearing Completion . . .





COMMUNITY NEWS

CRIME DOWN 24.5% IN WINTER SPRINGS

The Winter Springs Police Department reported a 24.5% decrease in crime for the period from January through August 2007. Most significant are decreases in the area of aggravated assault, burglary and larceny. In comparison to the first eight months of 2006, aggravated assault dropped from 50 to 42, burglaries fell from 102 to 70 and larcenies declined from 302 to 223.

Chief Daniel Kerr attributes the reduction in crime to the continuous support and active involvement of the community with the police department. The addition of officers in 2006 has also allowed officers time to address issues in the community and participate in problem solving in conjunction with time they must devote to responding to calls for service.



WINTER SPRINGS ADOPTS NEW VOTING DISTRICTS

Based upon the recommendation of the Winter Springs Redistricting Committee, the City Commission adopted new voting districts for the next three years. The new district lines will result in only minor changes to existing district lines. The City Charter requires that voting districts be rebalanced every three years based upon population growth. The new map is available on the City website under Mayor and Commission/City Commission. Hard copies of the map or a CD can be acquired from the Permitting Department counter located in the lobby of City Hall.

EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT UPDATE

Beginning in the next few weeks, the City's website will include regular updates on the status of the State mandated Evaluation and Appraisal Report (E.A.R.). The E.A.R. will assess the City's progress in implementing our Comprehensive Plan and offer suggestions as to how the Comprehensive Plan should be revised. Last February, the City held a Public Workshop to identify important community planning issues. These issues are the primary focus of the assessment.

The City has contracted with Planning Communities, LLC of Orlando to complete this important work. Watch for updates on the City's website. We value your input and look forward to your comments. For more information please contact the Winter Springs Community Development Department – Planning Division at 407-327-5967.





SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Let us know if you are interested in serving on one of the City's Advisory Boards. Current Boards and Advisory Committees are:

- **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. Advisory Boards and Committees typically meet once a month and only require a few hours of your time. If you are interested in serving your community in this way, please contact the Office of the City Clerk to request an application at 407-327-5965, 407-327-5999, or 407-327-5955, or visit our website at www.winterspringsfl.org.



City of Winter Springs

Telephone Directory

an expanded Winter Springs City Hall directory available online at www.winterspringsfl.org

CITY HALL

Billing (water billing, sewer, garbage fees)
 Arborist
 Inspections
 Permits
 Planning
 Zoning
 City Clerk
 Deputy City Clerk
 City Manager
 Computer Services
 Comprehensive Planning
 Occupational License
 Fire Dept. (Non-emergency)
 Mayor/Commission
 Parks/Recreation
 Senior Citizen Center
 Police Dept. (Non-emergency)
 Code Enforcement
 Public Works/Utility

407-327-1800
 407-327-5996
 407-327-5982
 407-327-7596
 407-327-5969
 407-327-5966
 407-327-5963
 407-327-5955
 407-327-5965
 407-327-5957
 407-327-5975
 407-327-5967
 407-327-5964
 407-327-2332
 407-327-5965
 407-327-6599
 407-327-6554
 407-327-1000
 407-327-7975
 407-327-2669

Job Hotline
 Garbage Complaints

407-327-7595
 407-327-7576

PUBLIC SERVICES

Progress Energy
 Waste Pro of Florida
 Brighthouse Networks
 Winter Springs Post Office

407-629-1010
 407-774-0800
 407-645-4701
 800-275-8777

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Keeth Elementary
 Lawton Elementary
 Winter Springs Elementary
 Rainbow Elementary
 Highlands Elementary
 Layer Elementary

407-320-5350
 407-320-6350
 407-320-0650
 407-320-8450
 407-320-6650
 407-871-8050

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

Indian Trails Middle School
 Winter Springs High School

407-320-4350
 407-320-8750

JINGLE BELLS 5K RUN & ELVES WALK

A benefit for Father Flanagan's Girls and Boys Town of Central Florida

Presented by Leadership Seminole Class 15 & 16

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
8:00AM
WINTER SPRINGS TOWN CENTER**

**FREE JINGLE BELLS FOR ALL RUNNERS
SPECIAL PRIZES FOR BEST HOLIDAY COSTUMES
FREE* ELVES RUN FOR KIDS**

(* With New, Unwrapped Toy Donation)

Early registration \$20.00 (before December 12th) \$30.00 from December 13th through day of race.
Reindeer Challenge - one FREE registration with each team of five runners.

**Register online at: www.j7sports.net/leadershiplegacy.htm
CALL: (407) 260-6457 for assistance**

Father Flanagan's Girls and Boys Town in Oviedo is a non-profit, nonsectarian organization that provides abused, abandoned and neglected children with a safe caring and loving environment where they gain confidence and learn skills for a better life.

DO IT FOR THE KIDS!



WELCOME ABOARD!

**New Additions
to the City
of Winter
Springs Staff**

Public Works

Jamie Strother
Derek Whitehead, Jr.
Willice Daniels
Curtis Johnson

Police

Kimberly Delk

Finance

Christine DeVittorio

Parks & Recreation

Bertram Holloway

Information Services

Christopher Wall

Fire

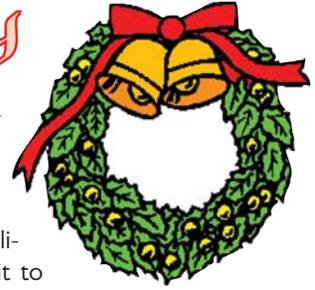
Brian Griggs
Matthew Lallathin

DIXIE STAMPEDE
November 10, 2007

Dixie Stampede gets into the spirit of the season with a special Christmas show for the whole family. This time it's North Pole vs. South Pole! You'll be enchanted as elves serve your yuletide feast and Santa arrives by sleigh. Holiday music, a live nativity scene, and even wise men on camels all say "Merry Christmas", Dixie Stampede style. A fabulous four-course feast is served during the show. COST: \$59.00 per person. Includes: R/T motor-coach transportation-Dinner-Show-Taxes-Gratuity on meal-Driver's gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Sr. Center at 4:00 p.m.



HOLIDAY
LOBBY TOUR
December 1, 2007



Tour some of Orlando's most prestigious hotels, decked out in their holiday splendor. We'll start with a visit to the beautiful Marriott World Center. Bask in the "aloha spirit" as you enjoy a fabulous lunch at the Royal Pacific Resort. Next, we'll visit the magnificent Gaylord Palms, followed by a visit to Disney's Wilderness Lodge and the elegant Grand Floridian. COST: \$66.00 per person. Includes: R/T transportation-Tours-Lunch-Taxes-Gratuity on meal-Driver's gratuity. Bus will depart the Winter Springs Sr. Center at 10:00 a.m.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!

For more information contact: Susie Coffman at 407-327-6554



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

visit us online at www.winterspringsfl.org

