



PROPERTY TAX REFORM

THE PROPERTY TAX REFORM SHELL GAME

After increasing your local property taxes for schools over 17% last year, the Governor and Legislature plan to increase your local property taxes for schools again this upcoming year by another 7.4% while demanding local governments reduce their property taxes, a move that could cause deep cuts in Police, Fire, Recreation, Senior Services, and other municipal services. Fortunately, not all Legislators are signing on.

See **AN HONEST LOOK AT PROPERTY TAX REFORM**, page 2.

CITY APPOINTS PROPERTY TAX REFORM COMMITTEE

On March 19, 2007, the City adopted Resolution 2007-15 establishing a 21-member citizen advisory committee to make recommendations to the City Commission regarding the City's most appropriate response to property tax reform legislation proposed by the Governor and Legislature.

The purpose of the committee is to review adopted legislation and recommend to the Commission which city services should be reduced or eliminated, if any, to offset revenue reductions mandated in the new legislation.

WINTER SPRINGS-SCHOOL BOARD FUELING AGREEMENT TO SAVE CITY BIG BUCKS

The City Commission approved on December 11, 2006 an interlocal agreement with the Seminole County School Board that allows the City to utilize the School Board's fueling facilities at their Consolidated Services property on S.R. 434 in Winter Springs. This agreement will allow the City to avoid \$100,000 in capital outlay to replace an aging underground fuel storage tank and dispensing system and reduce fuel costs by an estimated \$18,000 annually.



Currently, the City uses approximately 100,000 gallons of gasoline and 20,000 gallons of diesel annually for the 130+ pieces of City owned vehicles and equipment.

INSIDE this issue

On the Cover

Property Tax Reform

Winter Springs - School Board
Fueling Agreement



An Honest Look at page 2
Property Tax Reform

Commission Report page 8

State of the City..... page 9
From the Mayor

Xeriscape Info and page 13
Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report

Celebration of Freedom ... page 14
Star-Spangled Showcase

Announcements page 15

Back Page page 16



Upcoming Events

"Celebration of Freedom"
July 4th at Central Winds Park



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

Wednesday, July 4, 2007
Central Winds Park
4:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Bring the Family and Watch
as we LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!

More on Page 14

AN HONEST LOOK AT PROPERTY TAX REFORM

We all agree that Florida's Property Tax System is broken and that curative measures need to be carefully and comprehensively examined and discussed at all levels of government. Winter Springs has been recognized for its leadership in the current property tax debate. Along with some other local government officials, Winter Springs has been leading the way in emphasizing to the Governor and the Legislature that local governments must be part of the solution and that current proposals being considered by the Legislature will cause local governments to consider making very deep cuts in local government services in order to off-set the major tax cuts being considered by the Legislature. Importantly, Winter Springs presented the Governor and Legislature a simple plan that would immediately offer an estimated 50% reduction in property taxes while giving the Governor and Legislature time to thoughtfully and thoroughly formulate changes that would fix the property tax system once and for all.

Unfortunately, despite the good faith efforts of Winter Springs' and other local governments to offer real solutions, it appears from reading the newspapers and listening to the nightly news sound-bites that Tallahassee lawmakers are more interested in using demagoguery to falsely accuse local governments of wasteful spending than considering genuine proposals to fix the problem. As things stand today, it appears that a golden opportunity will be missed for state and local government leaders to form a partnership to adopt and implement constructive and acceptable levels of property tax reforms that not only offer tax relief, but maintain crucial services to the public. Disappointingly, it appears at the moment that the Governor and some leaders of the Legislature will choose a path of dividing state and local government. Through a relentless dissemination of misinformation and serious omissions, state officials are painting local governments as the source of the problem and using local governments as the scapegoat for the failures of state government to address the real problems of our property tax system. The underlying problem of our property tax system was created by state policy decisions that occurred over many, many years. Winter Springs and the other residents of the State of Florida deserve property tax reform. However, true reform requires a comprehensive and inclusive look at the property tax system at both the state and local level. Moreover, property tax reform should protect locally generated revenue from being shipped to Tallahassee for distribution back to local governments based on some state imposed bureaucratic formula. Local citizens should maintain control over their tax dollars by holding their locally elected officials accountable for establishing acceptable levels of services such as police, fire, senior assistance, parks and recreation programs, water, sewer, beautification projects, and other locally acceptable services.

What Is Wrong With Our Property Tax System?

In short, it seems to be widely accepted that the Save Our Homes initiative has created fundamental unfairness in our tax system. If you have lived in the same home for the past 15 years, you have had small increases in your property taxes due to the Save Our Homes initiative compared with new home buyers. The Save Our Homes initiative, adopted in 1992, has created a privileged class of taxpayers because it shifted a disproportionate share of the tax burden to new buyers of residential properties, rental property, and commercial property. For example, there are numerous examples around the State of Florida where two families living side by side are paying vastly different property taxes, but the two families receive the same level of services. In other words, the two families are paying different amounts for the same level of service. This discriminatory impact is now being challenged in the courts and it is too early to tell how the courts will view it. Another unintended consequence of The Save Our Homes initiative is that people are being trapped in their existing homes. For many, the tax discrepancies created by Save Our Homes has made it too expensive to move and give up the Save Our Homes savings earned on existing homes. In other words, in many cases, families just can not afford to move to a new home because moving would result in a huge increase in property taxes on family budgets.

What Do We Need To Do To Fix It?

There are many ways to accomplish real property tax reform and there are no shortages of ideas. The following idea would reduce property taxes by 80% or more without reducing local government services.

1. Features of the Save Our Homes initiative that cause property taxes to be assessed unevenly and unfairly across all classes of property need to be eliminated.
2. Alternatives to property taxes need to be identified to fund school districts, which are the major beneficiaries of property taxes.
3. The removal of special interest exemptions from existing state sales taxes could be utilized to fund almost, if not, all unfunded state mandates imposed on local governments and schools.
4. The "shell game" of the state imposing unfunded mandates on local governments, while at the same time reducing local government revenue opportunities, in order to reduce state budgets needs to be eliminated once and for all.
5. A local option one-cent sales tax authorized in each county to replace an equal amount of property taxes would reduce local property taxes by an estimated 50%.
6. The state must honor the constitutional concept of home rule by allowing local governments to determine level of local services which are acceptable at the local level, not at levels decided by uninformed state officials. Who knows more about local needs than local citizens and local officials?

What Has Really Caused The Increase In The Consumption Of Property Taxes Generated Over The Past Six Years By Local Governments And Schools?

State officials have relentlessly taken the position that irresponsible local government officials have taken advantage of a windfall in property tax revenues that has been generated by a dramatic increase in property values over the past six years. A factual examination of this position does not support the rhetoric coming from state officials.

There are five major causes for the unusually high increase in the consumption of property taxes. They are: (1) unprecedented increases in school costs; (2) unprecedented increases in local government costs; (3) unfunded state mandates; (4) growth, and (5) the public's demand and desire for improved local services.

1. Unprecedented School Costs. The property tax issue cannot be understood unless the public understands how schools are financed in Florida. Once understood, it becomes clear that state officials are involved in a "shell game" through which the State has abdicated its responsibility for adequately funding public schools by shifting a large portion of that responsibility to local property taxpayers.

First: Local governments are responsible for funding local services. Property taxes are set aside by the State Constitution to help fund local services.

Second: Education is a State responsibility.

Third: Article VII of the Florida Constitution prohibits the State from levying property taxes. Therefore, schools are to be funded from revenue sources other than property taxes.

Fourth: The State forces local taxpayers to pay for a large portion of schools through a clever "shell game" incorporated in Florida Statutes 1011.71(1). This Statute requires local School Boards to levy a property tax, the rate of which is established by the State, in order for School Boards to be eligible to receive State funds. This local property tax is called the Required Local Effort. The rate of property taxes required to satisfy the Required Local Effort is set by the State.

In addition to the Required Local Effort, the State further relieves itself of funding education by authorizing local School Boards to levy and collect three additional property taxes: a discretionary local tax, a capital outlay tax, and a voter approved tax.

In summary, in order to relieve itself of its obligation to fund education, the State has provided, by state law, up to 10 mills of local property taxes as follows:

1. Required Local Effort – rate set by the State.
 2. Discretionary Local Millage – rate set by local School Boards up to a maximum set by the State.
 3. Capital Outlay Millage – set by local School Boards up to a maximum of 2 mills.
 4. Voter Approved Millage.
- Total = 10 mills.

In Seminole County, school property taxes are levied as follows:

Required Local Effort	5.0010 mills
Discretionary Millage	0.7520 mills
Capital Outlay Millage	2.0000 mills
Voter Approved Millage	<u>0.0000 mills</u>
Total	7.7530 mills

This year, the Governor and Legislature increased your local property taxes for schools by more than 17% through the aforementioned school tax system. For the upcoming year, the Governor and Legislature are planning to raise property taxes for schools an additional 7.4%. At the same time, the Governor and some Legislators are demanding local governments to drastically reduce city and county taxes. If these plans are approved, the reduction in city and county property tax revenues could cause large reductions in Police, Fire, Emergency Medical, Recreation, Senior and other vital city and county services.

In conclusion, 7.7530 mills of property taxes, representing 44% of your local property tax bill, are being collected to pay for schools, when these school services should be paid from revenue sources other than property taxes.

Significant cost increases in the operation and construction of schools have also occurred as a result of the 2002 Consti-

tutional Amendment mandating class size reductions

These two factors have caused schools to consume the majority of new property tax dollars generated by the growth in property tax dollars over the past six years.

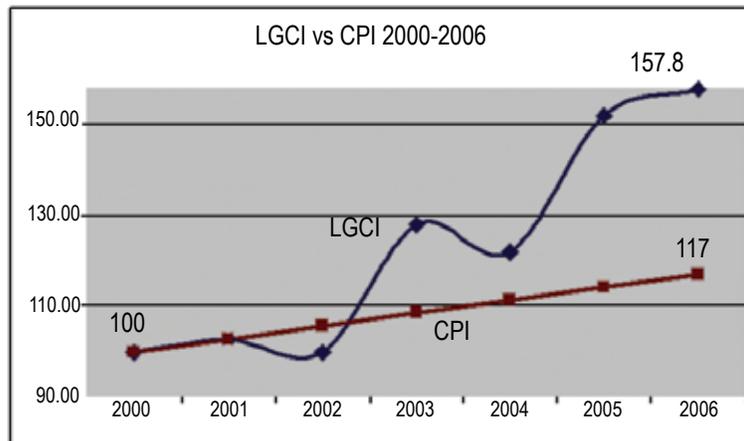
As a result of these factors, it is no wonder why schools are the largest user of property taxes in the State of Florida. However, notwithstanding this fact, it is amazing that the tax reform proposals announced by the Governor and Legislature this year have exempted schools from reductions in property taxes. Further, school boards have also been immune from the harsh criticism frequently levied by state officials upon local governments during the tax reform debate. No wonder. If state officials accused School Boards of being irresponsible stewards of property tax dollars, as they have local city and county government officials, state officials would in essence be criticizing themselves because they have a major hand in setting, and most often increasing, schools tax rates through the Required Local Effort requirements mentioned above!

2. Unprecedented Local Government Costs. The unprecedented increase in the cost of goods, services, and infrastructure that has occurred over the past six years for local governments has caused local governments to offset these costs with the increase in property tax revenues. Most often this offset has occurred rather than reducing levels of services to the public. It is no surprise that the largest increase has occurred in the purchase of construction materials and labor due to supply shortages, construction demands, and infamous natural disasters especially in Florida and the area in and around New Orleans. Generally, construction costs have risen from \$50 per square foot to \$200 per square foot since 2002. Further exacerbating the cost increase on local government have been the unprecedented increases in fuel and petroleum products, electricity, and property and health insurance.

Studies performed by Fishkind and Associates, a premier independent economic research firm in Florida, concluded that the cost of maintaining county government services at constant levels since 2002 increased 58%. A similar study performed by the Florida Department of Transportation concluded that their costs increased 60% over the past six years. The cost increases shown in these studies reflect similar increases experienced by Winter Springs and other cities.

Why have these local government costs increased so much when the Consumer Price Index has increased only about 17% over the same period? As shown in the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), developed by Fishkind and Associates, Inc., there are vast differences in the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Whereas the CPI measures consumer household costs, the LGCI measures the costs of the types of purchases made by local governments in Florida. Growth in these types of local government items commonly outpaces the growth in the CPI.

As shown in the chart below, the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) has grown three times faster than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The LGCI has increased 58% over the past six years while the CPI has increased only 17%.



Source: Fishkind & Associates, Inc. and the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

State officials have refused to acknowledge the reality of these extraordinary increases in the cost of local government simply because the real data does not support their erroneous claims of irresponsible spending on the part of local government officials.

3. Unfunded State Mandates on Local Governments. Political decisions made voluntarily by the Florida Legislature have had dramatic impacts on the cost of local governments in Florida. According to the Florida Association of Coun-

ties, local governments pay more than \$1 billion annually for these State responsibilities. For example, mandated increases in health insurance coverage caused by relentless lobbying and enormous campaign contributions of public employee unions have caused worker's compensation costs to increase more than 30%. The Florida Legislature's retreat from funding the State system of Juvenile Detention Centers and the State Prosecutorial System has caused local governments to pick up the cost of running both systems. The State Prosecutorial System includes the State Attorney's offices, Public Defender's offices, and Circuit and County Court system throughout the state.

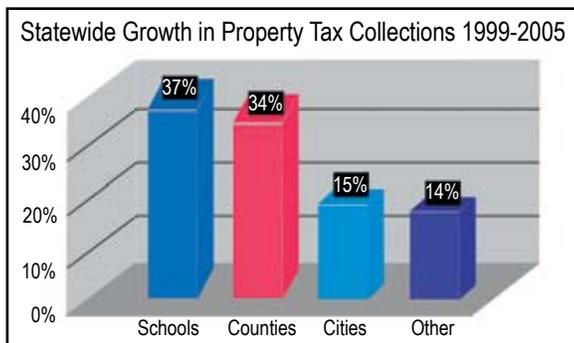
4. **Local Government Growth.** The Fishkind study concluded that 17% of new dollars generated in the past six years have been consumed by the delivery of services to new residents and businesses across the State. In Winter Springs, growth has consumed an estimated 12% of new dollars generated over the past six years, well within our capacity to fund if not for the unprecedented increases in costs, unfunded State mandates, and demands and desires for improved local services.

5. **Local Government Improved Services.** Citizen demands for new and higher levels of service consumed the remaining portion of new revenues generated over the past six years.

By far, the majority of these improvements have occurred in public safety. The rapid increase in crime and new threats of terrorism has compelled local governments to make unprecedented improvements in law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services to deal with the explosion of violent crime, home invasions, gangs, school security, and the capacity of public safety systems to respond to catastrophic events of terrorism and storms. During the tax reform debate, state officials have been totally indifferent to the additional public safety demands placed on local governments.

How Have New Property Tax Revenues Generated Over The Past Six Years Been Spent Statewide?

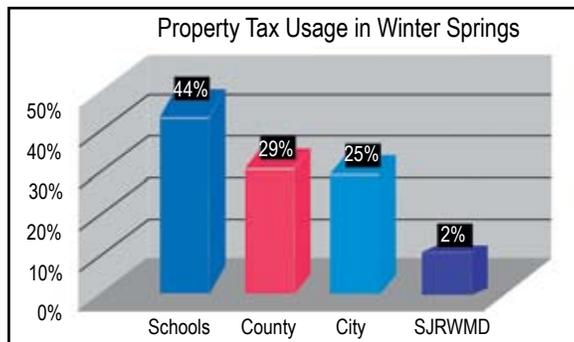
According to the Fishkind study, cities consumed only 15% of new property tax revenues generated statewide.



Once again, given these property tax revenue statistics, it is at least interesting, if not disingenuous, for the Governor and Legislature to eliminate school districts from the tax reform debate. However, when it is understood that the Legislature indirectly sets property taxes for school districts by imposing the Required Local Effort, it becomes obvious why school districts have been exempted from property tax reform proposals submitted by the Governor and Legislature. Further, it explains why state officials have hypocritically drawn the public's attention away from school district budgets by aiming inflammatory and unfounded tax and spend rhetoric against cities and counties.

Where Do Winter Springs Residents' Property Taxes Go?

As shown below, Schools consume the largest part of your property tax bill, followed by Seminole County, Winter Springs and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

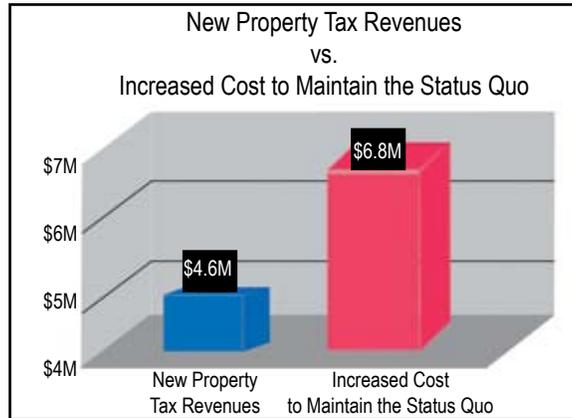


How Have New Property Tax Revenues Generated Over The Past Six Years Been Spent In The City Of Winter Springs?

The \$4.6 million dollars in new property tax revenue generated over the past six years has gone to help pay for the \$9.5 million dollar increase in expenses incurred in the General Fund over the past six years as follows:

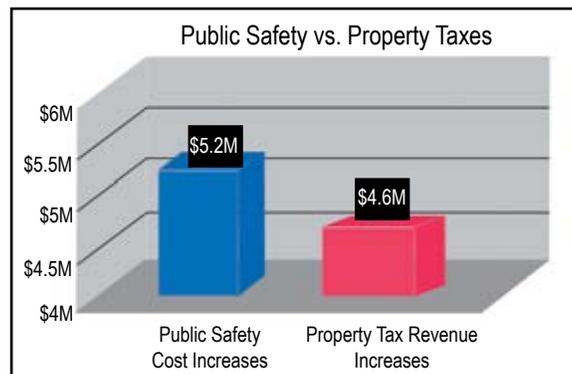
•Increased cost to maintain the status quo (LGCI)	\$6.8M
•Increased cost to service new growth	\$1.4M
•Increased cost of improved services	\$1.3M
Total	\$9.5M

As shown below, the \$4.6 million dollar increase in property tax revenues generated over the past six years has not been sufficient to cover the increases in costs necessary just to maintain services at status quo levels.

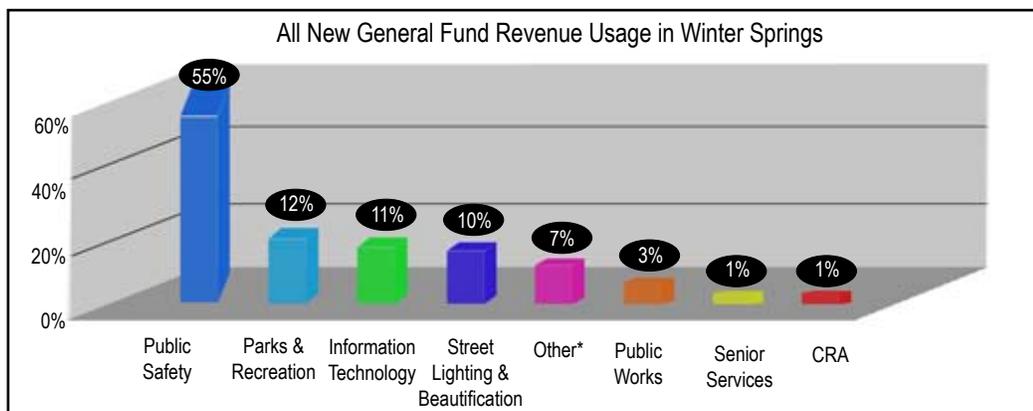


What Portion Of New Property Tax Revenues Generated Over The Past Six Years Have Been Utilized To Pay For Public Safety (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical) Services?

Since property tax revenues are utilized to help fund all services paid for by the City's General Fund, it is difficult to answer this question. However, as shown below, new property tax revenues generated over the past six years are not sufficient to pay for cost increases incurred by Public Safety services over the past six years.



What City Services Has The Growth In Property Tax Revenues Generated Over The Past Six Years Helped To Pay for?



* Other includes General Administration and Planning.

Public Safety

- To hire new police officers. To hire new firefighters to open the City's third fire station and to employ an additional fire inspector.

Parks & Recreation

- To purchase 36 acres of new park lands. To renovate and overhaul all City parks. To fund new Community events including the 4th of July, Spring Concert in the Park, Fall Hometown Harvest, and Christmas Holiday Celebration.

Information Technology

- To modernize and upgrade telephone and information technology.
- To computerize and make public documents available to the public via the Internet.

Street Lighting & Beautification

- To expand and improve street lighting for public safety and beautification.
- To initiate a new corridor beautification program to improve the aesthetics of major roadways in the City.

Senior Services

- To renovate the Senior Center and to add free bus services for seniors to attend senior events.

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

- To fund the 17-92 CRA Improvement District.

What Do The Legislative Proposals Mean To The Citizens Of Winter Springs And The City Of Winter Springs?

There are numerous proposals being considered. Therefore, it is almost impossible to predict. We know that the reform package proposed by the Governor and House of Representatives could cause draconian cuts in all municipal services. We know that the depth of reductions in property tax revenues and related property tax savings will have a direct effect on Winter Springs' ability to continue providing the level of services we enjoy in our city, unless new types of revenue are approved to offset these reductions. If property tax reform was not enough, there are also legislative proposals being considered that would limit cities and counties from generating additional revenues from other sources such as impact fees and special assessments.

At the end of the legislative session, the City will be in a much better position to evaluate the impact that the session will have on the City's budget and the provision of municipal services. In fact, the City Commission has adopted a formal procedure to comprehensively study the impacts. The City Commission has created a twenty-one (21) member committee made up of Winter Springs' residents. The Committee's task will be to evaluate the reforms adopted by the Legislature, study the potential impacts of such reforms, and make a recommendation to the City Commission on an acceptable course of action for the City to take to address the reforms.

Who Benefits The Most From The Legislative Proposals On Property Tax Reform?

One of the House proposals would replace all property taxes with a 2.5 percent increase in the Florida sales tax. Legislators say that this proposal would provide property tax relief to all Floridians.

The reality is that Floridians living the shortest time in the most expensive homes will get the vast majority of the benefit. Benefits for longtime homeowners, whose taxes are already capped under the Save Our Homes amendment, or who live in moderately priced homes, will pale in comparison.

For example, it has been reported that the average Floridian would receive approximately \$2,300 in annual tax savings while wealthy homeowners such as Pro Golfer Greg Norman would receive approximately \$130,000 in annual tax savings. House Speaker Marco Rubio, the architect of the House plan, would receive approximately \$12,000 in tax savings.

How Much Study Has Been Brought To Bear On The Merits Of These Property Tax Reform Proposals?

Considering the huge implications of changes in our property tax system, one would think that state officials would have preformed a careful analysis of the financial impacts of the numerous alternatives available for resolving the problems of our property tax system prior to the considering the adoption of any legislation. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be the case. In fact, one of the Governor's first actions after taking office was to dismiss the Florida Property Tax Reform Committee whose purpose was to provide state officials with objective analysis and informed recommendations for reforming the State's property tax system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Florida's property tax system is broken and needs to be fixed. Comprehensive and thoughtful solutions are needed in order to avoid serious and unintended adverse consequences on the State's tax system and on local governments. Rather than being branded as a scapegoat by state officials, Winter Springs has attempted to be part of the solution by offering tax reform proposals that offer immediate property tax relief without reducing valuable local services

Continued bottom of page 8



the City of Winter Springs **COMMISSION REPORT**



During the months of January, February and March 2007, the City Commission approved the annexation of a parcel of land located at 282 West State Road 434, East of Barrington Estates, equaling approximately 1.76 acres, approved the adoption of a small scale FLUM (Future Land Use Map) Amendment changing the Future Land Use Map designation of this parcel from (Seminole County) "Suburban Estates" to (City of Winter Springs) "Commercial", and approved the rezoning of this parcel from "A-10" Agricultural (Seminole County) to "C-1 Neighborhood Commercial" (City of Winter Springs); approved the adoption of a small scale FLUM (Future Land Use Map) Amendment changing the Future Land Use Map designation of an 8.8 acre parcel of land, located on the north side of State Road 434, east of the entrance to Barrington Estates and 600' west of DeLeon Street from (Seminole County) "Rural-3" to (City of Winter Springs) "Conservation" and (City of Winter Springs) "Commercial" with "Conservation Overlay" and approved the rezoning of this parcel from "A-3" Agricultural to "C-1 Neighborhood Commercial";

approved the amendment of Section 19-97 and Section 19-100 of the City Code regarding the imposition of utility late fees and reinstatement fees and new deposits for delinquent utility accounts; approved the amendment of Section 20-451 of the City Code regarding Telecommunication Towers and Antennas; and approved the adoption of a large scale Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment which creates Future Land Use Element Policy 1.8.4, establishing an eastern annexation boundary for the City, which prevents the City from expanding the City boundary beyond DeLeon Street.

In further action, the Commission authorized the City Manager to enter into highway maintenance Memorandum of Agreements with the Florida Department of Transportation for the maintenance of State Road 434 and State Road 434 Town Center District Medians; approved a resolution supporting issues forwarded by the Florida League of Cities during the 2007 Legislative Session; approved a resolution restating the City Commission's support for the Public Conservation Easement over and under the land commonly known as The Winter Springs Golf Course; authorized City staff to submit grant applications for the 2007 Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program; authorized the extension of the maturity date on the Capital Improvement Revenue Note, Series 2004, made certain amendments to the loan agreement, authorized changes to the list of Capital Improvements associated with this note to include the Senior Center Expansion and Therapy Pool, and authorized funding for note; determined the necessity and public purpose for the Robert Family Lane Roadway improvements located within the Town Center and determined the necessity and public purpose for acquiring, by eminent domain, Fee Simple ownership of designated parcels of real property in Winter Springs, Florida; an approved the establishment of Ad Hoc Winter Springs Property Tax Reform Action Study Committee. The City Commission appointed former City Commissioner Mr. Michael S. Blake to the Board of Trustees and Mr. Roberto Carlos Acevedo to the Beautification Of Winter Springs Board.

Friends of Leash Optional Parks presented a commemorative check in the amount of \$4,000.00 toward irrigation for the new dog park site. The City Commission approved the Senior Center Expansion with the Official Groundbreaking on March 18, 2007. The Mayor presented Commission Resolutions to Mr. Michael S. Blake for his distinguished public service and contributions as a member of the City of Winter Springs City Commission, and to Mr. Robert Nippes and Mr. Byron Giltz for their service on the Board of Trustees.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM, continued from page 7

that Winter Springs residents demand and enjoy. Despite having significant merit, Winter Springs' proposal, like other proposals submitted by cities and counties, received no serious consideration from the Legislature. The problems associated with the State's property tax system are not a result of irresponsible spending on the part of local governments. Economic studies have indicated that cities and counties have experienced dramatic increases in the cost of delivery of local government services, a compelling need to strengthen public safety, and numerous un-funded state mandates. Furthermore, constitutionally mandated class-size reductions have caused extensive increases in spending by schools and local governments. To off-set these increased costs, the Legislature has indirectly raised property taxes by compelling school districts to raise property taxes through the Required Local Effort to fund schools. Winter Springs' residents, and the other residents of the State of Florida, deserve real solutions that will comprehensively fix the property tax system. Such solutions should come from a partnership forged at ALL levels of state and local government. The solutions must provide significant property tax relief while at the same time preserve the ability of cities and counties to continue to provide high quality local services to their residents. Regardless of the outcome in Tallahassee, Winter Springs is ready to address the impacts of property tax reform. The City Commission has created a Committee made up of twenty-one (21) upstanding residents of Winter Springs with diverse backgrounds. This Committee has started the process of studying the potential impacts on the City and will offer recommendations to the City Commission on how best to address the impacts.



Mayor John F. Bush

Commissioners



Rick Brown



Donald A. Gilmore



Joanne M. Krebs



Sally McGinnis



Robert S. Miller

City Manager



Ronald W. McLemore



Summary of Department Accomplishments

Individual Excellence

- The Mayor, City Attorney, and City Clerk were selected finalists in the Florida League of Cities "Cities of Excellence Awards" for their respective positions.

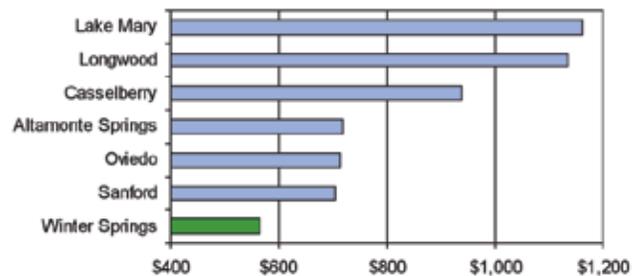
City Clerk

- The Office of the City Clerk and the Information Services Department, with the assistance of other City departments completed significant work on the "MCG Laserfiche" system.

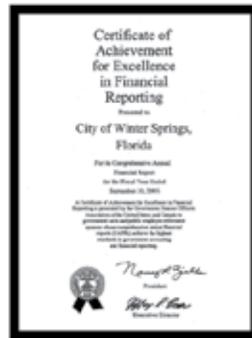
Finance Department

- Reduced the FY 2007 Ad Valorem Millage Rate by 7.3%, maintaining Winter Springs' second lowest millage rate among the seven cities in Seminole County.
- As shown in the chart, Winter Springs spends less General Fund dollars per capita than any of the seven cities in Seminole County.

FY 2006 Budgeted Per Capita Spending



- Upgraded Bond Rating. Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its rating on the City of Winter Springs Improvement Bonds, series 1999 and 2003, from 'A' to 'A+', reflecting the growing strength of the City's economy and conservative fiscal policies and practices.



- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Received Certification of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's Annual Financial Report for the Year ending September 30, 2005 (awarded in 2006). This marks the sixth year in a row the City has received this prestigious award.

Fire Department

- Received and implemented a State grant to upgrade the hurricane durability of City Fire Stations.

General Services Department

- Facilitated hiring of Third Party Pension Advisor to the City's Defined Benefit Pension Plan.
- Initiated Customer Service Audit and Training in several City Departments.
- Performed a TIF Feasibility Study to examine the feasibility of creating a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in the Winter Springs Town Center.

Information Services

WiFi Project.

- Took first steps in implementing a citywide WiFi system by employing a communications consultant to perform required financial and rate studies.



Records Management.

- Held several monthly citizen training classes to teach them how to use the City's new document search tool on the City's web site.

Web Site Upgrade.

- Revamped city web site, www.winterspringsfl.org, while implementing new CMS (Content Management System). Eliminated clutter while simplifying State Of The City pages, making site easier to navigate and faster to load.

Improved Lines of Communications.

- Filled the position of City Operator to improve telephone communications.
- Implemented eAlerts, an electronic alert system to notify residents who have signed up about various emergency situations.



- Implemented Winter Springs Police Department internal website offering Police Officers quick access to essential forms of communication.
- Upgraded the City's financial software (Munis) to the most recent version.
- Updated the City's land-based management software (KIVA) to the latest version.

- Streamlined permitting processes.
- Created three web-accessible reports that provides our citizens and homeowner associations with up-to-date information about inspection statuses, permits applied for and those that have been issued within each neighborhood association.

Police Department

Re-Accreditation.

- The police department was awarded re-accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The department received initial state accreditation in 2003 and National/International accreditation in 2004. Being



an accredited agency holds the Winter Springs Police Department to a high quality of standards and expectations. It is our commitment to maintain this level of performance and continue to deliver the quality of service our citizens have come to expect.



Utilities/Public Works

Infrastructure

- Completed re-construction of Gary Hillery Drive improving appearance and eliminating one of the City's worst, longstanding drainage problems.



- Substantially completed re-construction of Orange Avenue as the first phase of the Town Center collector road network improving traffic circulation to the north Town Center area and Central Winds Park.

- Completion of S.R. 434 Village Walk – medians for improved traffic safety, traffic signal mast arms, street lighting and landscaping.
- Commenced construction of the new Utility/Public Works Facility which will meet our operational needs through buildout and relocate City equipment and vehicles out of residential areas. (Northern Way & Flamingo Avenue).
- Authorized Phase I of the three phase Winter Springs Boulevard reconstruction plan, Phase I of which will be completed by January 2007.
- Completed City Hall Expansion plans.
- Acquired FDOT approval of the Town Center Traffic Circulation and Access Management Plan for S.R. 434.
- The City resurfaced 1.1 miles of streets.

Town Center.

- Constructed a new traffic signal at S.R. 434 and Doran Drive improving traffic circulation and Town Center access.
- Completed plans for the Blumberg Boulevard Median Beautification and Trail Expansion Project to be completed by July 2007.
- Completed North Tuskawilla Road stormwater improvements enhancing water quality of Lake Jesup.

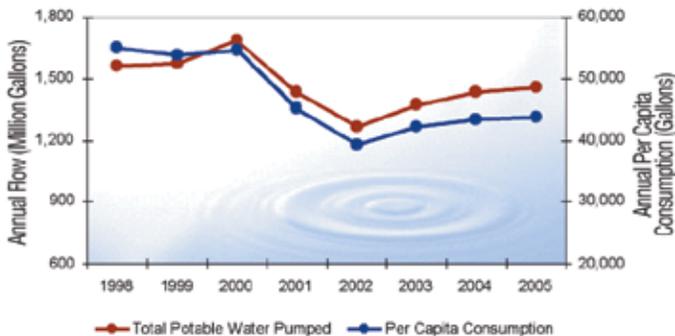


Interdepartmental.

- Facilitated an interlocal agreement with Seminole County for solid waste disposal resulting in a \$3 per ton savings over the County's normal disposal rate.
- Participated in the establishment of a countywide mosquito control program.
- Completed the FEMA Map Modernization process updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps, maintaining flood insurance at current levels.
- Completed an interlocal agreement with the County for active participation and involvement with the state and other local agencies in the TMDL process to improve water quality of Lake Jesup.
- Formalized an interlocal agreement with the School Board to utilize their vehicle fueling facilities, significantly reducing the cost of fuel for City vehicles.

Utility.

- Completed Potable Well #4, the last potable water supply well needed for the City.
- Submitted the Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for withdrawing from Lake Jesup to augment the reclaimed water system and continue to reduce potable consumption.
- Submitted the Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for groundwater withdrawals for the City potable water supply.
- For 2006, the City's groundwater withdrawal was 370,000,000 gallons less than we were permitted for in 2006 by the SJRWMD. Historical usage as follows:



- Continued to work with the Countywide Water Supply Technical committee to evaluate regional alternative and solutions to the ground water supply.
- Reduced withdrawal of ground water through the expansion of the City's reclaimed water system.

Community Development

- Issued 3,549 permits representing a total value of \$78,915,424.
- Performed 14,913 inspections.



- Passed an Ordinance providing the Commission with the authority to reduce the density of new development below the maximum stated in the Comprehensive Plan when warranted and exercised that authority on subsequent development projects.
- Settled a long standing lawsuit with Seminole County setting the eastern Annexation Boundary Line of the City at DeLeon St.
- Successfully acquired Tusawilla voter approval to implement the Tusawilla Lighting and Beautification Assessment District Phase II Lighting Improvement Plan.
- Upgraded the use of information technology [GIS, Kiva, Laserfische, Pictometry and Live Local] to improve data collection, research, project tracking, file maintenance and document storage.
- Adopted a Proportionate Share Mitigation ordinance as required under new state legislation to fund State roads.



State Of The City

- Participated with the Seminole County Planning and Technical Advisory Committee to prepare an Interlocal School Concurrence Agreement.
- Participated with other municipalities and the County on the Joint Services task force and the Workforce Housing Study Committee.
- Completed small area study of Soldiers Creek.
- Completed East Rural Area Study and Report.
- Completed aesthetic reviews for numerous projects both in the Town Center and throughout the City.
- Continued to define and implement the document scanning process.
- Refined the staff review process to utilize the City's land based management software program (KIVA) as the central database for comments and communications.
- Implemented a new, content-neutral sign code to be consistent with recent court decisions.
- Established new, objective lot split criteria to accomplish compatibility with surrounding properties.
- Approved final engineering and development agreement for Sonesta Point.
- Approved final engineering and development agreement for Town Center Phase II-A.

Parks & Recreation

- Acquired the "Grand Award" of Excellence for Central Winds Park, the Professional Grounds Management Society's highest award.
- Acquired a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to fund improvements to the Trottwood Park, including a much requested splash playground.





Parks & Recreation *Continued*



- Acquired Commission approval of a permanent dog park site on the Central Winds Park expansion property adjacent to 434 & the Cross Seminole Trail.
- Acquired \$855,000 in CDBG grants from Seminole County to expand the Senior Center including a new enclosed Therapy Pool which will be completed and open in December 2007.
- Completed the largest ever annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Trotwood Park.
- Successfully completed the Scottish Highland Games with over 10,000 attending, the July 4th Celebration of Freedom with the largest crowd ever, the Holiday Festivals attracting more than 2,000 people to the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Town Center and more than 3,500 to the Second Annual Holiday Concert in the Park with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and the largest ever 25th Annual Winter Springs Holiday Parade.
- Successfully organized and completed two new events, the first Celebration of Spring Concert at Central Winds Park with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hometown Harvest Festival in the Town Center. Both drew crowds close to 5,000.
- The very popular Torcaso Park splash playground more than doubled in attendance attracting more than 27,000 participants by year's end.
- Youth activities including Football, Cheerleading, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Tennis, Golf, Wrestling, Tumbling, Tae kwon do, and Summer Camps involved 80,000 youths.
- Adult activities including Football, Tae kwon do, Soccer, Yoga, Ballroom and Latin Dancing involved 17,000 adults.
- Senior activities including Lunches, Bingo, Socials, and Trips attracted more than 30,000 participants.
- The growing senior bus service provided much needed transportation to 2,005 senior riders through out the year.



The State of the City is in Excellent Condition!

- Our City services are award-winning.
- Our officials continue to follow our positive plan for growth and opportunity
- The Commission and Staff have become regional leaders, reaching out to our neighbors and county to solve tough issues.
- The City is actively protecting the value of our citizens' investments in their property and businesses

Winter Springs is a very good place to live, work, shop or play... Come Join Us!

Catch the Mayor's State of the City Address on SGTV!

- Thursday, May 17 at 10:30am
- Saturday, May 19 at 3:30pm



WATER WISE!

Winter Springs Leads the Way in Xeriscape™ Landscaping Use



Our water supply is one of our most precious resources. Growing demands on our potable water supply have necessitated the use of conservation measures to ensure the availability of water for future generations.

The City has long been cognizant of the need for water conservation and has instituted various measures in this regard, from conservation water rate structures to landscape irrigation regulations for the use of alternative water sources via expansion of our reclaimed water system. These measures have proven effective as evidenced by the fact that the City's use of groundwater was 370,000,000 gallons less than we were permitted for in 2006 by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Additionally, the use of Xeriscape™ landscaping has received a great deal of promotion in recent years. Xeriscape™ landscaping is a combination of seven common sense principles that save water while creating a lush and colorful landscape whose natural requirements are appropriate to the local climate and environmental conditions.

The City of Winter Springs, through our Urban Beautification Division, has been utilizing Xeric and conservation landscape plantings in our projects to increase public awareness of the need for conservation. Examples are City projects on George Street, Chokecherry, Northern Way and Winter Springs Boulevard, Cross Seminole Trail, Fisher Road, SR 434 in the Village Walk and the City's new Public Works facility.

The City Code and Comprehensive Plan require 50% of installed landscaping be Xeriscape™ and native plant materials, requires all landscaping for telecommunication towers to be Xeriscape™ tolerant and encourages the use of low water vegetative ground cover other than turf in the Winter Springs Town Center.

In short, Winter Springs has taken the lead in water conservation by utilizing the seven principles of Xeriscape™ landscaping and will continue to seek additional methods to conserve potable water. Working together, we can ensure the protection of this and other valuable natural resources for generations to come

** Xeriscape is a trademark held by Denver Water, Denver, CO, and is used here with permission.*

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

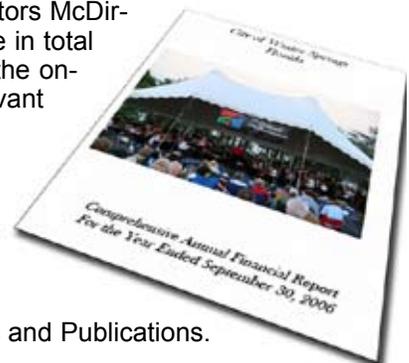
The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended September 30, 2006 was presented at the City Commission meeting of April 9, 2007 by City Auditors McDirmitt, Davis, Puckett & Company, LLC. The report showed a \$10,281,787 increase in total asset value and a \$1,051,868 reduction in total outstanding debt, demonstrating the ongoing financial strength of the City as well as the City's compliance with all relevant accounting standards.

The City also received, for the sixth year in a row, the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2005 CAFR. This prestigious award recognizes excellence in financial reporting by state and local governments.

The City's 2006 CAFR is available on-line at www.winterspringsfl.org under Forms and Publications. For more information, contact Michelle Greco, Finance Director at (407) 327-5960.

Xeriscape™ Principles

1. Plan and Design for water conservation and beauty from the start.
2. Create practical turf areas of manageable sizes, shapes, and appropriate grasses.
3. Select low water plants and group plants of similar water needs together.
4. Use soil amendments like compost or manure as needed by the site and the plant types used.
5. Use mulches such as wood chips to reduce evaporation and to keep soil cool.
6. Irrigate efficiently with properly designed systems and apply the right amount of water at the right time.
7. Properly maintain the landscape by mowing, hand weeding, pruning and the use of minimal fertilization.



the annual
**Winter
Springs**

Wednesday July 4, 2007

Central Winds Park

4:00pm to 11:00pm

State Road 434 - Winter Springs

**Celebration of
Freedom 07**

**Bring the Family
and Watch as we
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!!!**

**Shuttle Bus Service Will Be Available
"Sorry" No Fireworks, Cooking Devices or
Pets Allowed to Enter Shuttle Bus or Park.**

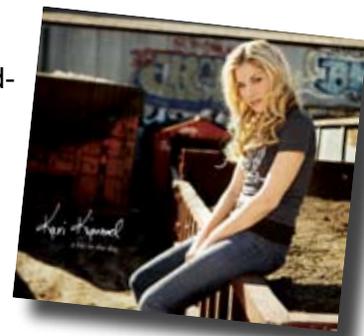
- 4:00 pm: Gates Open
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm: The Star Spangled Showcase sponsored by Washington Mutual. A competition of local singers performing live for GREAT prizes!
- 5:00 – 8:45 pm: The Fantastic Winter Springs Rotary Club Kids Area with Games, Climbing Wall, Bounce Houses, Dunk Tank and Much More! Concession Vendors will be on hand featuring GREAT FOOD and DRINKS
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm: Main Stage Featuring the "Hardest Working Band in Country Music"



Little Texas

and Winter Springs national recording artist and songwriter

**Kari Kimmel
and
the Kari Kimmel Band**



- 9:00 – 9:15 pm: Independence Day Ceremony
- 9:15 – 9:45 pm: Fireworks Spectacular Choreographed to Music
- 9:45 – 11:00 pm: Post-Fireworks Sock Hop



The Star Spangled Showcase is Winter Springs' version of American Idol. This program seeks to discover the best singer in Winter Springs through auditions on either May 5th or 12th at the Winter Springs Civic Center.

The top 5 singers will perform in the finals at the Celebration of Freedom on July 4th. There will be great prizes for the finalists of this competition! If you would like audition for the Showcase, please be contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (407) 327-6593.

The Star Spangled Showcase is sponsored by Washington Mutual of Winter Springs.

CAMP SUNSHINE

The City of Winter Springs is currently offering registration for Camp Sunshine for the weeks of May 29th through August 17th for children entering 1st through 5th grades as well as a Middle School Camp for children entering 6th through 8th grades. There will be plenty of activities for campers such as field trips to water parks, movie theatres, bowling, roller and ice skating as well as arts and crafts, sports and a variety of social activities to occupy the summer time. The Camps will take place for the elementary ages at the Winter Springs Civic Center (400 North Edgemon Ave) and middle school ages at the New Covenant Church (800 Tuskawilla Road). The hours of the camp are from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Camp enrollment fee is \$80 per week for residents and \$90 per week for non-residents. If you would like to enroll your child, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at (407) 327-6593.

COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANIZATION BASKETBALL

The Community Youth Organization of Winter Springs is once again sponsoring a youth basketball program for the upcoming summer. The program will be held at Torcaso Park on North Moss Road for boys and girls ages 6 to 18 years old. The program will begin on June 4, 2007 and run through July 28, 2007. The hours of the program will be weekdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The C.Y.O. Basketball Program provides many benefits for our community. First, we give parents a safe environment for their children to learn and play the game of basketball. Second, we give the children in our community a chance to meet and interact with the police officers from the Winter Springs Police Department. Finally, we teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and the fundamentals of basketball.

This will be our tenth year of hosting this program. The staff is looking forward to another great year and we know your children will enjoy themselves and learn the game of basketball at the same time. If you have any questions on this program, feel free to contact Cpl. Allison Swain or Capt. Jim Wilkins at (407) 327-1000.

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1st ARE YOU PREPARED?

Your Family Disaster Supply Kit should include:

Water - One gallon per person per day. Keep at least a three-day supply. (2 qt. for drinking, 2 qt. for cooking & sanitation).

Food - Three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Do not forget the special needs of infants or persons on special diets.

First Aid Kit - Common supplies like bandages, tape, scissors, aspirin, etc.

Tools & Supplies - Cooking and eating supplies, non-electric can opener, flash light with extra batteries, battery powered radio with extra batteries, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, bleach, personal hygiene items, and a plastic bucket with a tight lid with plastic garbage bags & ties (for personal sanitation uses).

Clothing & Bedding - Sturdy shoes, rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, hat, work gloves, sunglasses.

Special Items:

For Baby: formula, diapers, bottles, toy

For Children: favorite stuffed animal, small toys and games, books

For Adults: medication, glasses or contacts lenses, Important Papers



For more information please visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org



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	407-327-6554
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

PUBLIC SERVICES

Progress Energy	407-629-1010
Waste Pro of Florida	407-774-0800
Brighthouse Networks	407-645-4701
Winter Springs Post Office	800-275-8777

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Keeth Elementary	407-320-5350
Lawton Elementary	407-320-6350
Winter Springs Elementary	407-320-0650
Rainbow Elementary	407-320-8450
Highlands Elementary	407-320-6650
Layer Elementary	407-871-8050

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

Indian Trails Middle School	407-320-4350
Winter Springs High School	407-320-8750
South Seminole Middle School	407-320-1350
Oviedo High School	407-320-4050

House of Blues Gospel Brunch

June 10, 2007

Feed your body and soul at this musical celebration. Live gospel acts and a delicious all-you-can-eat Southern-style buffet featuring such items as gourmet omelets, buttermilk biscuits & country gravy, carved prime rib, shrimp, corn bread and white chocolate banana bread pudding. Say "Hallelujah and pass the biscuits!" Cost: \$53.00 Per Person. Includes: R/T motorcoach - Admission - Brunch - Taxes - Gratuities



Sterling Casino + Dixie Crossroads

July 14, 2007

Join Lady Luck aboard Sterling Casino as she sails from Port Canaveral - "Vegas style". Try your luck in the casinos or enjoy shipboard activities such as live music and dancing. Then, it's on to the world famous Dixie Crossroads for a sumptuous dinner. Cost: \$44.00 Per Person. Includes: R/T motorcoach - Cruise - Finger Food - Coctails to Gaming Participants - Dinner - Gratuities



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!

FOR MORE QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT: SUSIE COFFMAN AT 407.327.6554

WELCOME !

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS STAFF

POLICE

Marjorie Murrah
Chantel Strange
Charles Quick
Patrick Nelson
Garfield Armogan

FINANCE

Deanna Davis
Doris Madruga

UTILITIES

Jeffrey Kretschmer
Eric Mundy

PARKS & RECREATION

Bernard Rybicki
David Gullige

INFORMATION SERVICES

Phil Simmons

CITIZEN DOCUMENT SEARCH CLASSES

The Information Services Department and the City Clerks Office will be holding Document Search classes for Winter Springs Residents on May 31, 2007, July 26, 2007 and October 30, 2007 at 6:30 through 8:30 pm at City Hall.

Contact us at 407-327-6563 or email classes@winterspringsfl.org to register or for more information.



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

visit us online at www.winterspringsfl.org

