



# Utilities Advisory Board Regular Meeting

## Agenda

**September 23, 2025 @ 12:00 PM**

City Hall Commission Chambers  
401 S. Park Avenue

### welcome

Agendas and all backup material supporting each agenda item are accessible via the city's website at [cityofwinterpark.org/meetings/](http://cityofwinterpark.org/meetings/) and include virtual meeting instructions.

### assistance & appeals

Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office ([407-599-3277](tel:407-599-3277)) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

"If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, a record of the proceedings is needed to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." (F.S. 286.0105).

### please note

Times are projected and subject to change.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of August 5, 2025 1 Minute

**3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker**

**4. Action Items**

**5. Non-Action Items**

- a. IRP Roadmap Update 10 minutes
- b. Update on electric budget and rates 10 minutes

**6. Staff Updates**

- a. Electric Utility - Jamie England  
Monthly Electric Utility Update (July)
- b. Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi 5 Minutes
- c. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil 5 minutes
- d. Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard  
Electric Utility 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Media Coverage  
Winter Park Update newsletter – September-November 2025 issue  
September Utility Bill Insert

**7. Board Comments**

**8. Upcoming Agenda Items**

**9. Adjournment**



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 2.a

**item type**

Approval of Minutes

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by**

**approved by**

**subject**

Minutes of August 5, 2025

**motion | recommendation**

**background**

**alternatives | other considerations**

**fiscal impact**

**attachments**

1. UAB-min-2025-08-05 DRAFT



# Utilities Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**August 5, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

City Hall Commission Chambers  
401 S. Park Avenue

## **Present**

Alison Yurko, Michael Poole, Kathryn Sutton, Leon Huffman, Christopher Warshaw, Todd Weaver (Virtual)

## **Absent**

## **Staff Present**

Director of Electric Utility Jamie England, Director of Finance Wes Hamil, Deputy Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities Jason Riegler, Electric Utility Engineer Manager Mourad Belfakih, Integrated Resources Program Manager Lisa Vedder (Virtual), Utility Services Manager Ann Newhouse, Administrative Coordinator Lisa Vicente

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm.

Introduction of new board member Christopher Warshaw

## **2. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve the minutes of June 24, 2025

Mr. Poole requested the addition of "*Mr. Hamil agreed that the city would not submit a pro forma to a bonding company showing negative cash flow*" and "*...relative to 2026, due to the expiration of the Covanta contract*"

**Motion made by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes with the amendments, seconded by Mr. Poole. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

## **3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker**

## **4. Action Items**

- a. Proposed FY 2026 utility budgets and rate increases

Ms. Sutton opened the floor for public comments before the discussion of the proposed FY 2026 utility budgets and rate increases.

Hattie Bryant, 1240 S Pennsylvania, read a prepared statement (on file with the city clerk's office) stating her opposition to a rate increase.

Mr. Hamil provided the updated water and wastewater tables to ensure that revenues and expenses aligned, resulting in a balanced budget approved at the previous

meeting. Mr. Hamil presented the proposed FY 2026 electric utility budget, including the rate increase, and explained the rationale for a 15.7% rate adjustment. It was noted that non-fuel rates have not increased since 2019. Mr. Poole stated that the commission approved a near penny (.009%) rate increase in 2022 to cover service line costs, and he has not heard that it was not implemented. Mr. Hamil will follow up confirming the rate increase was rescinded and will clarify that \$600K was refunded to customers who paid discounted rates for underground service lines.

Mr. Hamil presented Scenario one, pay-as-you-go pro forma, explaining a 40% non-fuel cost increase due to uncertainty with bulk fuel costs after contracts with OUC (2026) and FMPA (2027) expire. Mr. Poole noted undergrounding has been an elective capital, and this would be the first rate increase to fund it. He asked if the customer charge would rise; Mr. Hamil confirmed it would. Mr. Poole discussed a cost-of-service study showing \$1.99M allocated to customers, yet the city collected \$2.6M-\$2.9M over three years, suggesting that raising the customer charge without a study is unnecessary. Mr. Hamil stated that the funding from the customer service charge went to undergrounding.

Mr. Poole stated:

- Undergrounding capital rose from \$35M to \$52M in 3-4 months.
- Undergrounding costs increased by \$1.5M this year due to service lines.
- Estimated spending is \$400K this year, with a budget of \$8.1M. Reducing it by \$400K would leave \$7.6M, a \$1.6M increase.
- CIP budget increased by \$2M; Capital Other by \$600K. Total capital spending up by \$4M.

He cannot justify this spending and 15% rate increase when, based on the calculations, rates are expected to rise at least another 50% over the next five years.

Mr. Hamil explained that if rates are not increased, the undergrounding target date of 2030 might be delayed. The completion timeline could be extended to prioritize lower rates. Mr. England emphasized that undergrounding was a commitment. He also noted that starting and stopping the large-scale construction project could affect its overall completion.

Mr. England addressed the rise in capital expenditure over a short period. He discussed the need for vehicles, personnel, substation upgrades, and infrastructure camera surveillance. The infrastructure and personnel needed to respond effectively is lacking, indicating a resource issue. The \$9.2M increase in underground capital expenditure includes service conversion work. Last year, the overrun was \$1.5M, attributed to unfunded underground service work. The \$400K expenditure will fund work to connect customers whose service lines, approved in 2022, are still overhead, ensuring they are undergrounded by 2030 with the completion of the undergrounding project. Mr. England further explained that the 'completeness on the miles of Underground performed' chart covers primary and secondary lines, not service line connections.

Mr. Poole reviewed Mr. Hamil's internal spreadsheet sent for his assessment. He questioned the purchase power costs included in the budget. He observed that non-fuel rates are variable and are expected to rise by nearly \$2.7 million, while fuel costs—being passed through fully—are set to increase by 15%. Since fuel charges are 100% pass-through, they should not be incorporated into the base rate calculation. Mr. Hamil agreed that the fuel cost is consistent.

Mr. Poole observed that fuel rates rose from 13.1 to 15.8, leading to the discussion about increasing rates. However, the rate increases are actually due to capital expenditures, not fuel. Mr. Hamil acknowledged that non-fuel costs are increasing but are balanced by higher revenues, so they do not affect profits. He explained that two-thirds of the rise is due to extra capital spending and that keeping 2025 levels would necessitate a 4.63% increase in non-fuel rates. Mr. Poole stated that raising capex from \$3.75M to \$4.8M would only need about an additional million dollars, rather than a 15% rate hike that could bring in an extra \$5M in revenue. He clarified that the calculations were solely to justify a 2030 deadline for the undergrounding project, not to justify rate increases.

Ms. Yurko presented three key points: firstly, the cost of undergrounding does not become more economical; secondly, there is unequivocal equity in completing the underground project; and thirdly, ratepayers are being asked to pay higher rates to subsidize a benefit that they have all received. The rationale for the rate increase is justifiable. Mr. Poole stated that revenue will need to be increased to cover the cumulative amount over the next five years, approximately \$12 million. As a result, rates will need to be raised by 50 to 60% within that time frame.

Mr. Hamil explained that, with the bond option, he accelerated some capex due to available funding and intended to highlight its benefits. Small increases were planned for subsequent years after FY 2026. Mr. Poole noted that if Scenario one (pay-as-you-go model) stayed unchanged, but bonding was included, Scenario two would show positive cash flow. Since Scenario two indicates a deficit, you would not obtain funding from a bonding underwriter. Mr. Hamil stated that if you remove the accelerated capex that was added, then there would be positive years in the early period, providing the opportunity to either reduce rates or fund capital. Over a 20-year bond, it's clear that the total payment will be higher in the bonding scenario. Mr. Poole acknowledged that borrowing money always incurs extra costs, but it doesn't mean rates need to increase. The cost will be distributed among all future residents who benefit from the undergrounding. Mr. Poole mentioned that avoiding loans is a staff concern. The utility is valued at \$200M, with only \$35M in debt.

Ms. Sutton explained there are two choices: the first is to approve the budget with the proposed rate increase, understanding that this increase is mainly due to capex spending—particularly on underground projects—by 2030, which is an arbitrary deadline. The second option is to proceed with a bond issue, recognizing that there are still questions about the analysis's details, but it remains a viable alternative and could serve as a reason not to approve a rate increase at this moment.

Mr. Hamil suggested a third option: extending the deadline for completing the underground work and lowering the rate increase to another amount. Ms. Sutton requested a reasonable timeframe to complete the undergrounding, including the service conversion to the homes. Mr. Poole advised that the timeline would be extended by one more year to 2031. There would be no rate increase because expenditures will be reduced this year, next year, and the following year on capex. Deficits are approximately \$12 million over the next five years, carrying the deficits into subsequent years. Mr. Hamil mentioned that a rate increase will be necessary because operating costs will have grown. Additionally, there will be a scaled-back undergrounding budget for fiscal 2026. Mr. Huffman advised borrowing the money, obtaining the capex, and completing the entire project, including the service lines.

Mr. Poole mentioned that, according to Mr. England, with bonding, it would take about 3 years to complete only the primary and secondary lines. Mr. Weaver inquired whether staff agrees that if we don't choose scenario one, adding a single year would be accurate. Mr. England confirmed that, if capital budgets remain unchanged, it would extend the timeline by at least one year.

Ms. Sutton asked Mr. Hamil to clarify the purpose of the vote. He outlined three options: first, approving the current budget with a 15.7% rate increase starting October 1, 2025; second, keeping the rate increase at zero and delaying the undergrounding project; third, taking out a loan for undergrounding, which would avoid immediate rate increases but result in higher costs over time due to interest on the debt.

Mr. Weaver proposed a fourth option to lower the bond amount and reduce the rate increase. Mr. Poole and Mr. Hamil agreed that the possibilities are endless. Mr. Poole stated he will oppose any plan that raises rates. Ms. Sutton asked if the board could acknowledge that undergrounding is a priority for both the city and the residents. Mr. Weaver agreed it makes sense to distribute the costs and avoid disruptions to the scheduled plan. He withdrew the fourth option.

**Motion made by Ms. Yurko to approve the budget and the rate increase in accordance with the staff recommendation; Motion was not seconded.**  
**Motion made by Mr. Poole to recommend to the City Commission to look at doing a bond to fund the undergrounding project and leave rates as they are; seconded by Mr. Huffman. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-1 vote.**

## **5. Non-Action Items**

- a. Financial report for the nine months ended June 30, 2025
- b. Cost of Service & Rate Study

Project Manager Craig Shepard from Leidos Engineering discussed the Cost-of-Service Study and Rate Design for the Electric Utility. The study begins with the 2026 budget, using its outcome to adjust and determine the test year revenue requirements. Additionally, the analysis will project the next five years, relying on the initial budget as a reference. Assumptions can be adjusted for different scenarios. The main goal of a

Cost of Service (COS) analysis is to determine each class's contribution to the overall cost. As part of this initiative, we will conduct a net energy metering analysis, undertake research and analysis on industry practices, administer a stakeholder survey, and perform a comprehensive review prior to making any recommendations regarding potential changes. If deemed necessary, we will revise rates in accordance with city policies, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Public Service Commission. Our aim is to proactively prepare for any forthcoming legislation that may involve the PSC directly determining your rates.

This analysis will review your fuel adjustment policy, capital improvement plan, funding, and EV charger rates. Communication occurs biweekly with the city. Most costs are purchase power, other O&M, capital, minimal debt service and general fund transfers. COS allocations are split between demand (fixed), energy (variable), and customer-related. From the COS results, we'll identify revenues by customer class and their percentage differences. Currently, revenues are mostly variable, but costs are about 75% fixed. Rate design should cover fixed costs. The budget for this study is not to exceed \$109,000 over six months (September-February). The results will provide a defensible basis for electric rates and future planning. Mr. Poole suggested that Mr. England or Mr. Hamil forward the last completed COS study to the board members.

- c. IRP Roadmap Update

## **6. Staff Updates**

- a. Electric Utility - Jamie England
- b. Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi
- c. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil
- d. Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard

## **7. Board Comments**

Mr. Poole's comments were inaudible until he reached his third point, which was a request to discuss what transpired between the 12 to 18 months after Ms. Vedder was hired in October 2023, specifically focusing on strategies to expand residential solar power and EV programs. Ms. Sutton suggested moving this item to the September agenda. Ms. Vedder mentioned that her update covers net energy metering. Additionally, Mr. Poole announced a Commission work session scheduled for August 14 to review net metering and the Cost-of-Service study.

## **8. Upcoming Agenda Items**

Mentioned in the previous item

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Approved by the board on  
/s/ Bahiyah Layton, Board Coordinator



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 5.a

**item type**

Non-Action Items

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by**

Jennifer Vicente, Administrative Coordinator

**approved by**

Jamie England, Director of Electric Utility

**subject**

IRP Roadmap Update

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. Roadmap Status Report 08052025 v2

# IRP Roadmap Update

August 5, 2025



# Background on IRP

## CWP Sustainability Action Plan Initiative

- SAP Calls for 100% Electricity from Renewables
- Quanta Retained to Conduct Feasibility Study or Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in 2022
  - Used a Production Cost Model to Forecast the Cost of Power Supply Under Different Fuels & Technologies Portfolios
  - Defined Roadmap to 89% De-carbonization of Supply at Competitive Rates through 2042 & potentially 100% by 2050

# Roadmap Next Steps - Quanta

## Financial

CWP IRP Goals Set

Program Manager

TOU, DR, EE Programs

CWP Utility Bill Financing

Implement Rate Changes

## Studies

Set CWP IRP Goals

Set Interim Supply Milestones

EE & DR Program Studies

CWP Electrification Plan

## Technology

Analysis of Warehouse Rooftop PV installation

Conduct and Update Technology Maturity Assessments

## Purchases

Prioritize Utility-scale Renewable Purchases Over Solar on City Rooftops

- Short Term (next 3 mo.)
- Mid Term (next 18 mo.)
- Long Term (next 48 mo.)



Short



Mid



Long



# Roadmap Next Steps - Update

## Financial

CWP IRP Goals Set

Program Manager Hired

TOU, DR, EE Programs

CWP Utility Bill Financing

NEM Rate Redesign

Implement Rate Changes

## Studies

Cost of Service & Rate Study

Set Interim Supply Milestones

CWP IRP Updates

EE & DR Program Studies

Fleet Electrification Study

City Solar Hosting Study

Solar Penetration Study

DG & EV Hosting Study

Grid Modernization Roadmap

## Technology

Analysis of Warehouse  
Rooftop PV installation

Conduct and Update  
Technology Maturity  
Assessments

## Purchases

Prioritize Utility-scale  
Renewable Purchases Over  
Solar on City Rooftops

- Short Term (next 3 mo.)
- Mid Term (next 18 mo.)
- Long Term (next 48 mo.)



Short



Mid



Long

Original  
Timeline  
from 2023

July 2023 to December 2023

January 2024 to June 2025

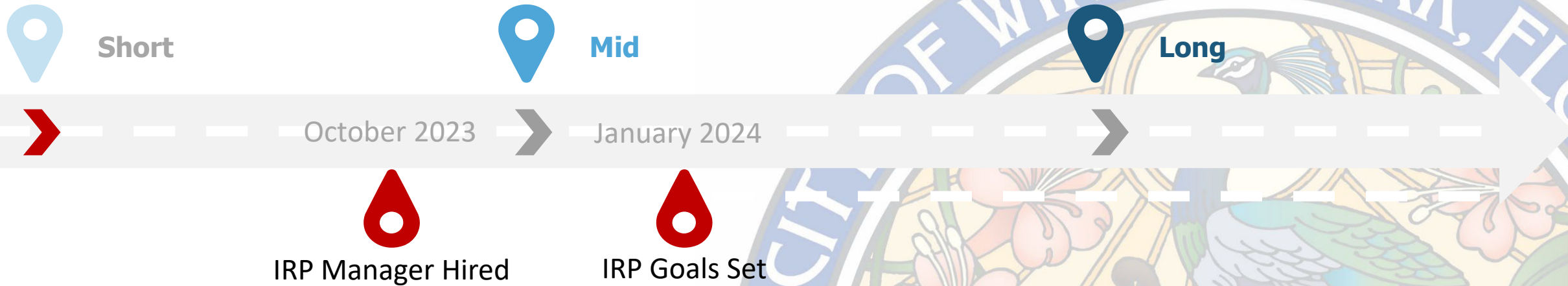
July 2025 to June 2027

# Roadmap (Short-term)

**Primary focus:** Alignment, definition, goal setting/validation

**Timeframe:** July 2023 – December 2023

Actions	Projects	Status
Define clear target for CWP's clean energy supply.	Establish multiple interim targets for renewable contributions before 2050	Completed January 2024
Start CWP IRP program.	A program manager will likely be needed to coordinate all aspects of reaching the goal	Completed October 2023



# Roadmap (Mid-term)

**Primary focus:** Customer DR/energy efficiency, solar expansion with storage

**Timeframe:** January 2024 – June 2025

Actions	Projects	Status
Prioritize more utility-scale renewable purchases over solar on city rooftops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize utility-scale renewable purchases over solar on city rooftops.</li> <li>Complete a study of all CWP assets for solar/storage incorporation and prioritization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing since Q1 2024.</li> <li>Moved to long-term to align with critical path &amp; resource considerations.</li> </ul>



Short



Mid



Long



February 2024

June 2024



Commenced Utility Scale Renewable Procurement Efforts



City Solar Array Production Tracking

# Roadmap (Mid-term)

**Primary focus:** Customer DR/energy efficiency, solar expansion with storage

**Timeframe:** January 2024 – June 2025

Actions	Projects	Status
Develop TOU, DR and EE programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete load research study for input to TOU, DR and EE programs.</li> <li>Develop forecasts of load impacts on future appliance and end-use electrification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved to long-term due to required meter upgrades, supporting technology, resources, and funding.</li> <li>Moved to long-term pending load study.</li> </ul>



Short



Mid



Long



February 2024

June 2024



Commenced Utility Scale Renewable Procurement Efforts



City Solar Array Production Tracking

# Roadmap (Mid-term)

**Primary focus:** Customer DR/energy efficiency, solar expansion with storage

**Timeframe:** January 2024 – June 2025

Actions	Projects	Status
Explore CWP utility bill financing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a CWP-specific EV adoption study.</li> <li>Explore City financing for customer rooftop solar and storage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved to long-term.</li> <li>Moved to long-term pending NEM rate redesign and implementation.</li> </ul>
Update resource plan using new data.	Complete a revised IRP with a technology maturity assessment once EE and DR programs and load research are complete.	Moved to long-term pending study EE and DR study completion.



Short



Mid



Long



February 2024

June 2024



Commenced Utility Scale Renewable Procurement Efforts



City Solar Array Production Tracking

# Roadmap (Mid-term)

**Primary focus:** Customer DR/energy efficiency, solar expansion with storage

**Timeframe:** January 2024 – June 2025

Actions	Projects	Status
Complete EV adoption study.	Complete an EV adoption study better to quantify the expected impacts of EV adoption in CWP.	Moved to long-term.
Analyze warehouse rooftop PV installation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the need for individual building monitoring</li> <li>Create a roadmap for monitoring and control.</li> <li>Engage in discussions with vendors to develop an understanding of software in the marketplace.</li> </ul>	Completed 2024 & ongoing. All City-owned arrays are currently tracked, monitored, and reported on.



Short



Mid



Long



February 2024

June 2024



Commenced Utility Scale Renewable Procurement Efforts



City Solar Array Production Tracking

# Roadmap (Long-term)

**Primary focus:** Implementation of Programs (EE, TOU)

**Timeframe:** Next 48 Months by June 2027

Actions	Projects	Status
Implement EE, DR, TOU and NEM changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create and implement TOU rates with energy costs and demand rates that represent actual energy and demand costs.</li> <li>NEM rate structure changes: credit for any excess production should reflect only the actual TOU wholesale energy value to CWP; may be negative with future solar saturation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A – Future effort</li> <li>Moved to Mid-term. Currently in process, included in COS and Rate Study scope.</li> </ul>



Short



Mid



Long



3Q 2025 – 2Q 2026



NEM Rate Redesign

# Roadmap (Long-term)

**Primary focus:** Implementation of Programs (EE, TOU)

**Timeframe:** Next 48 Months by June 2027

Actions	Projects	Status
Update IRP and technology maturity assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a roadmap for technology upgrades such as DERMs to support CWP.</li> <li>Create a roadmap for the implementation of CWP-owned Battery Storage for resiliency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A – Future effort</li> <li>N/A – Future effort</li> </ul>
Create plan for CWP vehicle electrification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a study and plan for the electrification of all CWP- owned vehicles.</li> </ul>	N/A Future effort



Short



Mid



Long



3Q 2025 – 2Q 2026



NEM Rate Redesign

# Roadmap Efforts to Date

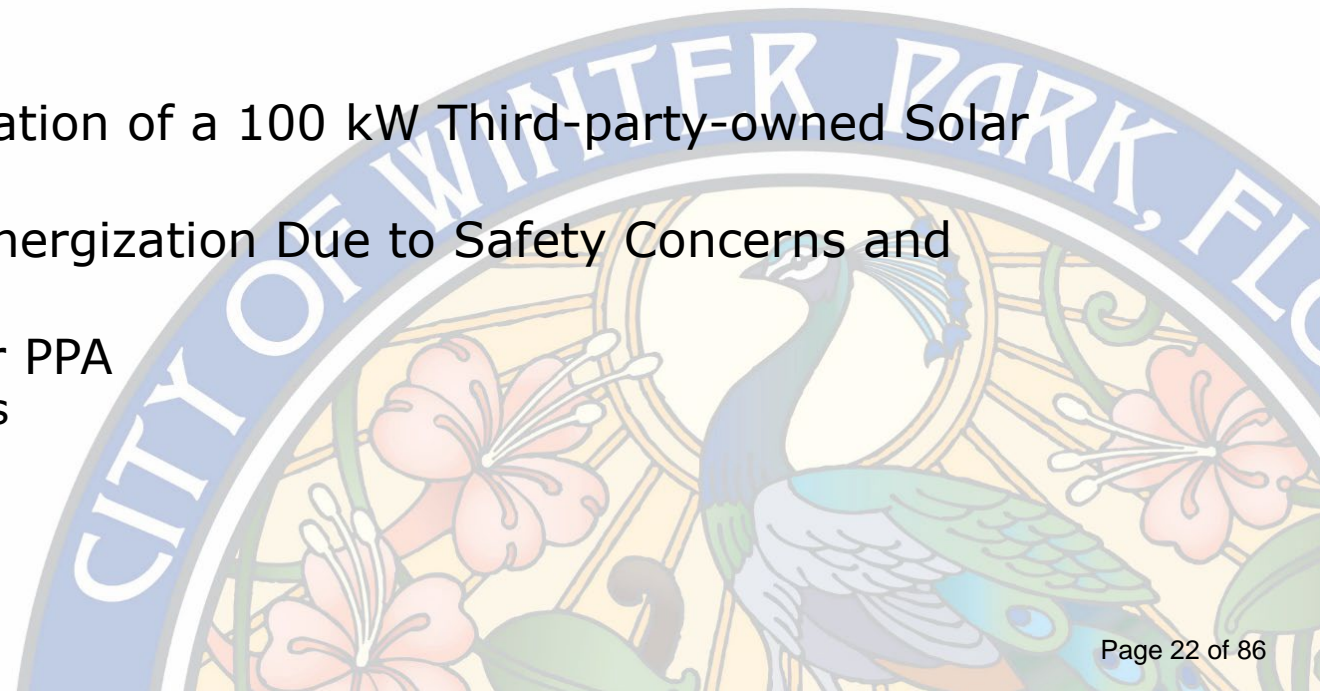
## Analysis

- Conducted Public-Facing EV Charger Usage Analysis & Rate Study
- Quantified Impact of NEM Rate Structure on Revenues & Fixed Cost Recovery
- Created Model to Extract NEM Data From Utility Billing Database
- Commenced Tracking and Reporting of City Power Supply by Fuel Source and Supplier

# Roadmap Efforts to Date

## Non-Utility Scale Solar

- City Solar Arrays
  - Competitively Procured Preventative Maintenance and Cleaning Contracts
  - Created Data Extraction Models for Monthly Production Reporting
  - Implemented Monthly Production Monitoring
- City Solar PPA Termination
  - Investigated Performance Degradation of a 100 kW Third-party-owned Solar Array Mounted on City Property
  - Arranged for Inspection and De-energization Due to Safety Concerns and Hazard Risks
  - Negotiated Termination of 20-Year PPA
    - Avoided Over-market Power Costs
    - Avoided Litigation & Damages



# Roadmap Efforts to Date

## Utility Scale Solar PPAs

- Negotiated Amendments to Two Greenfield Utility-scale Solar PPAs via FMPPA Avoiding termination of Both Projects Initially
  - Increased CWP Off-take of One PPA
  - Second PPA Subsequently Terminated by Developer
- Began Monitoring Production of First Utility Scale Solar FMPPA Project – Rice Creek

# Roadmap Efforts to Date

## Utility Scale Solar – Rice Creek

- Origis Energy – Owner, Builder, & Operator
- One of the Largest Municipal-backed Solar Projects in US
  - 213,000 Panels
  - 75 MW
  - 12 Municipal Participants
  - COD: December 30,2024

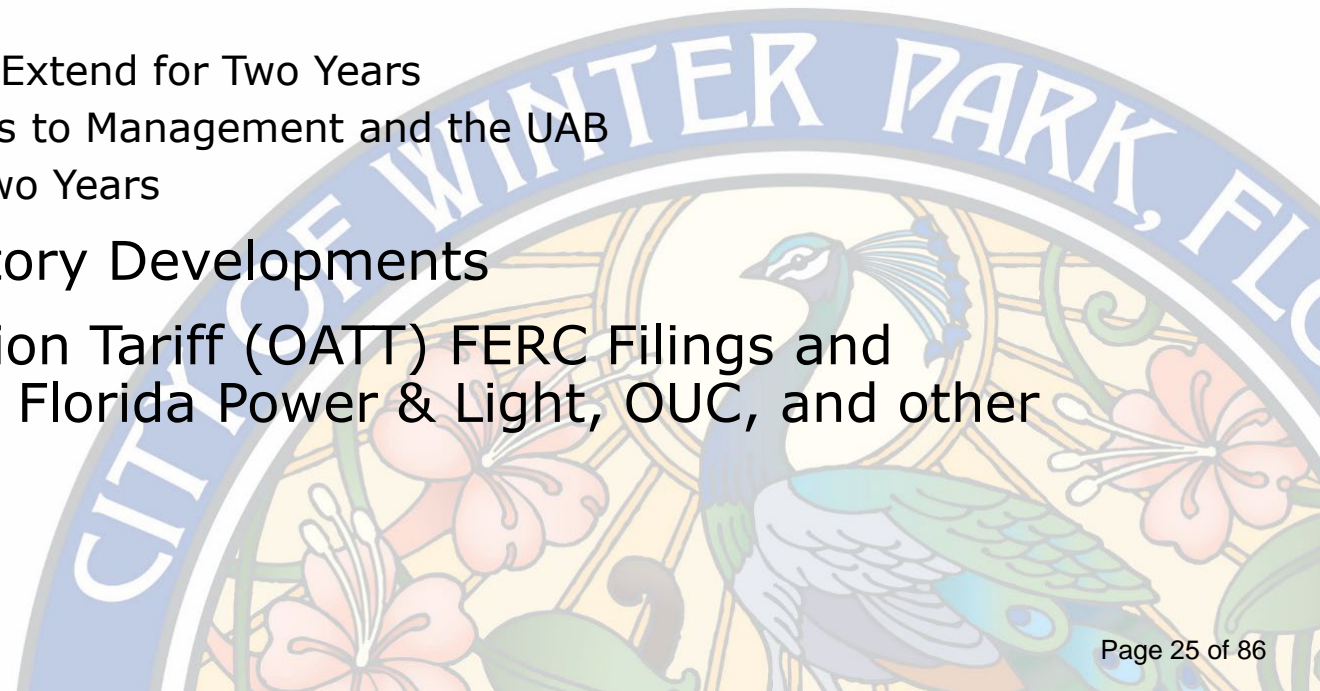


Putnam County Near Palatka

# Roadmap Efforts to Date

## Bulk Power Supply

- Held Exploratory Discussions for Bulk Power Supply Post Expiration of Current Contracts
  - To Date Multiple Discussions with Five Potential Suppliers
  - Preliminary Pricing Exploration
- Covanta (ReWorld) PPA
  - Analyzed Impact of Exercising Option to Extend for Two Years
  - Presented Options and Recommendations to Management and the UAB
  - Estimated Savings of Up to \$5 M Over Two Years
- Monitored Federal & State Regulatory Developments
- Monitored Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) FERC Filings and Proceeding for Duke Energy of FL, Florida Power & Light, OUC, and other Regional Transmission Providers



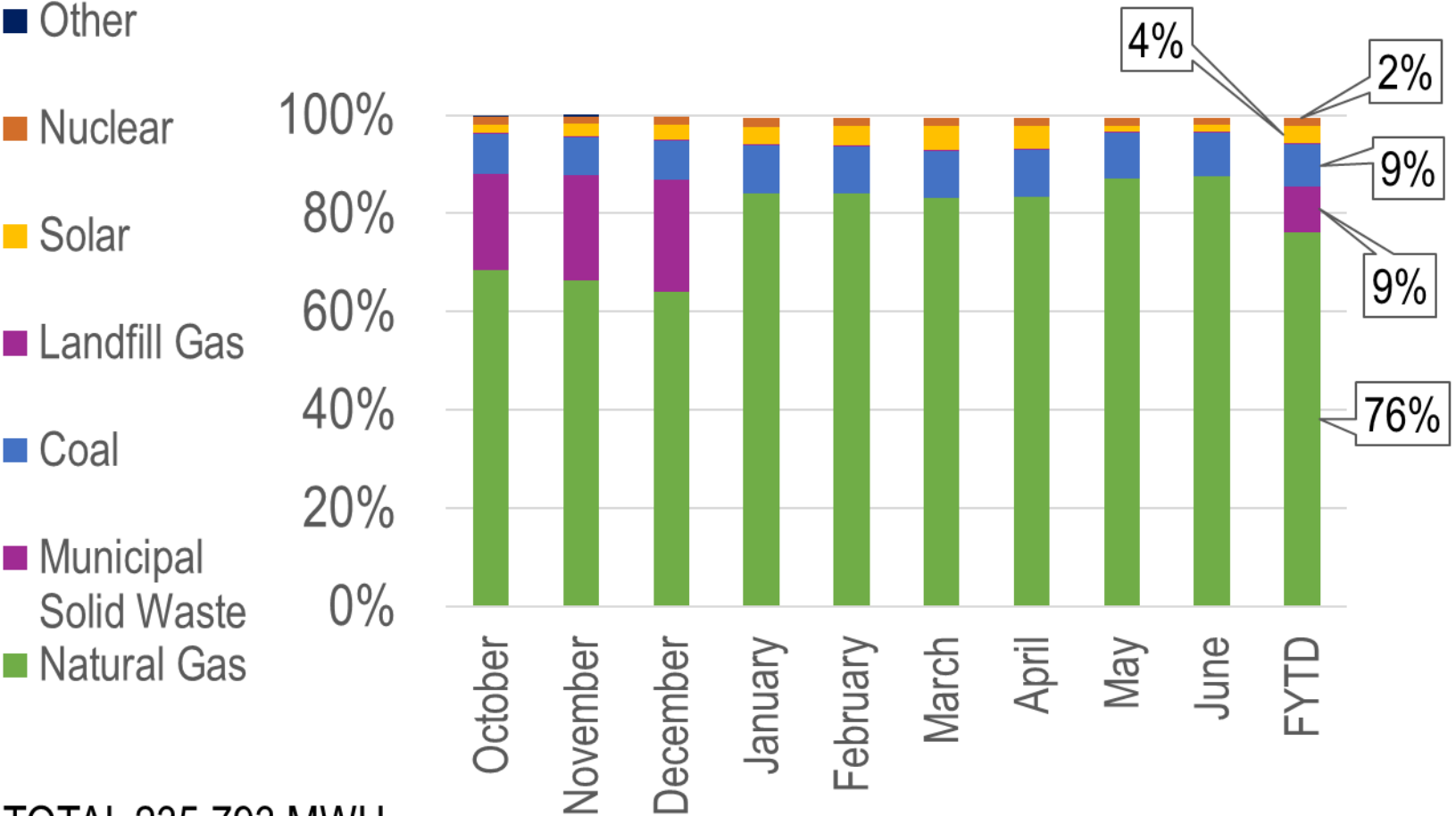
# Roadmap Efforts to Date

## General

- Commenced Monthly IRP Status Updates to City Management
- Created Models to Analyze CWP Load Curve
- Created Models to Track Bulk Power Supply
- Initiated Procurement Efforts for Cost of Service and Rate Study

# Power Supply Portfolio

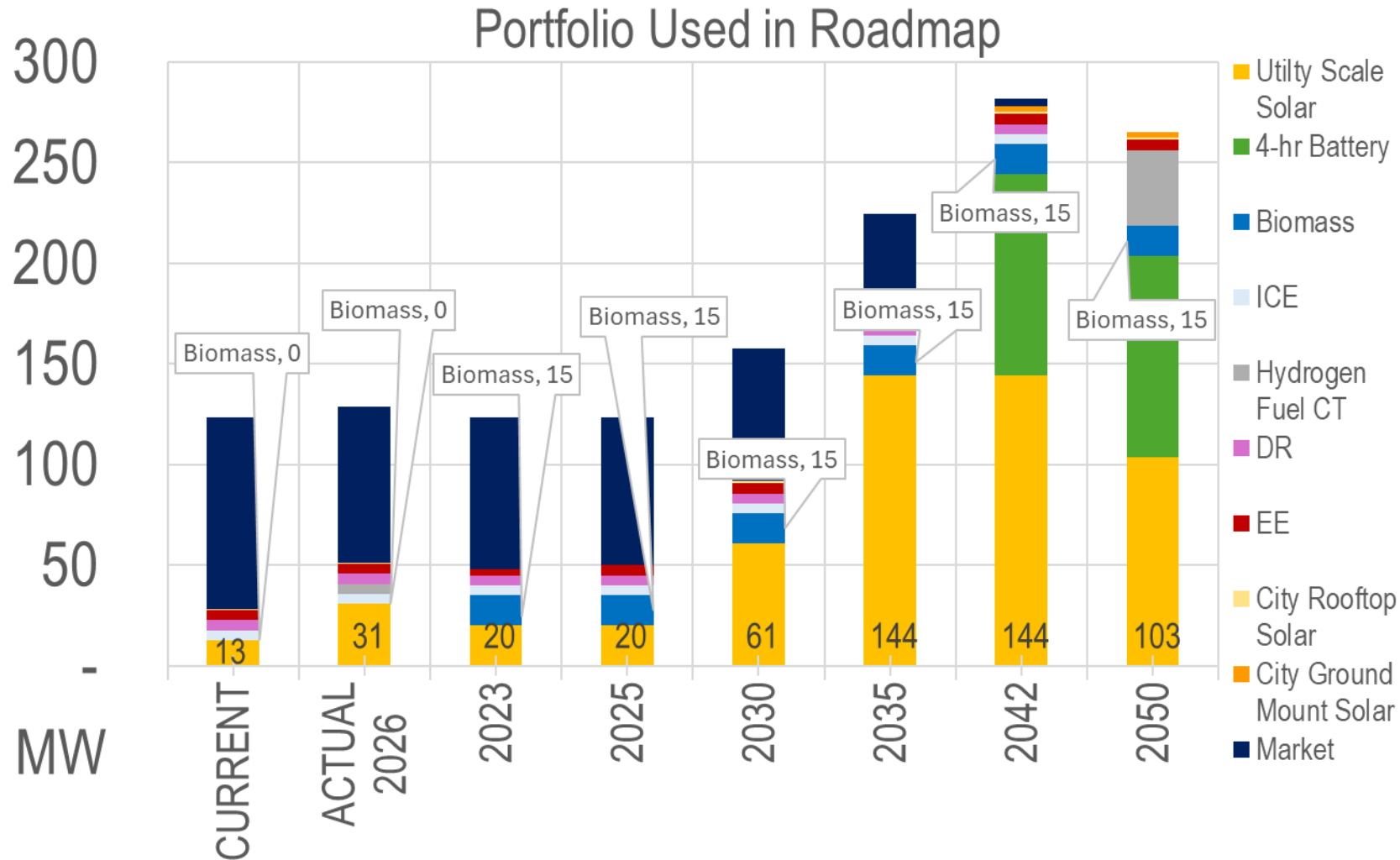
## FY 2025 CWP EMISSION PROFILE



TOTAL 235,793 MWH

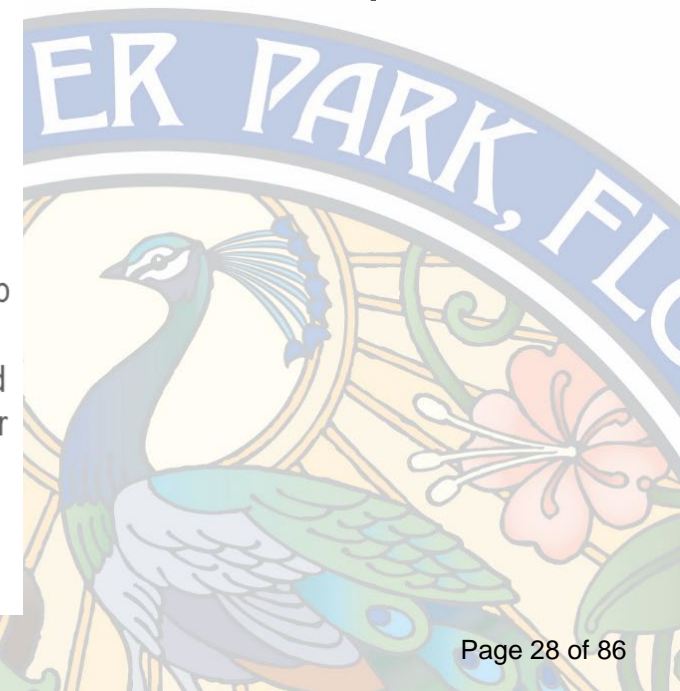


# Power Supply Portfolio



## Current City of Winter Park Renewable Goals

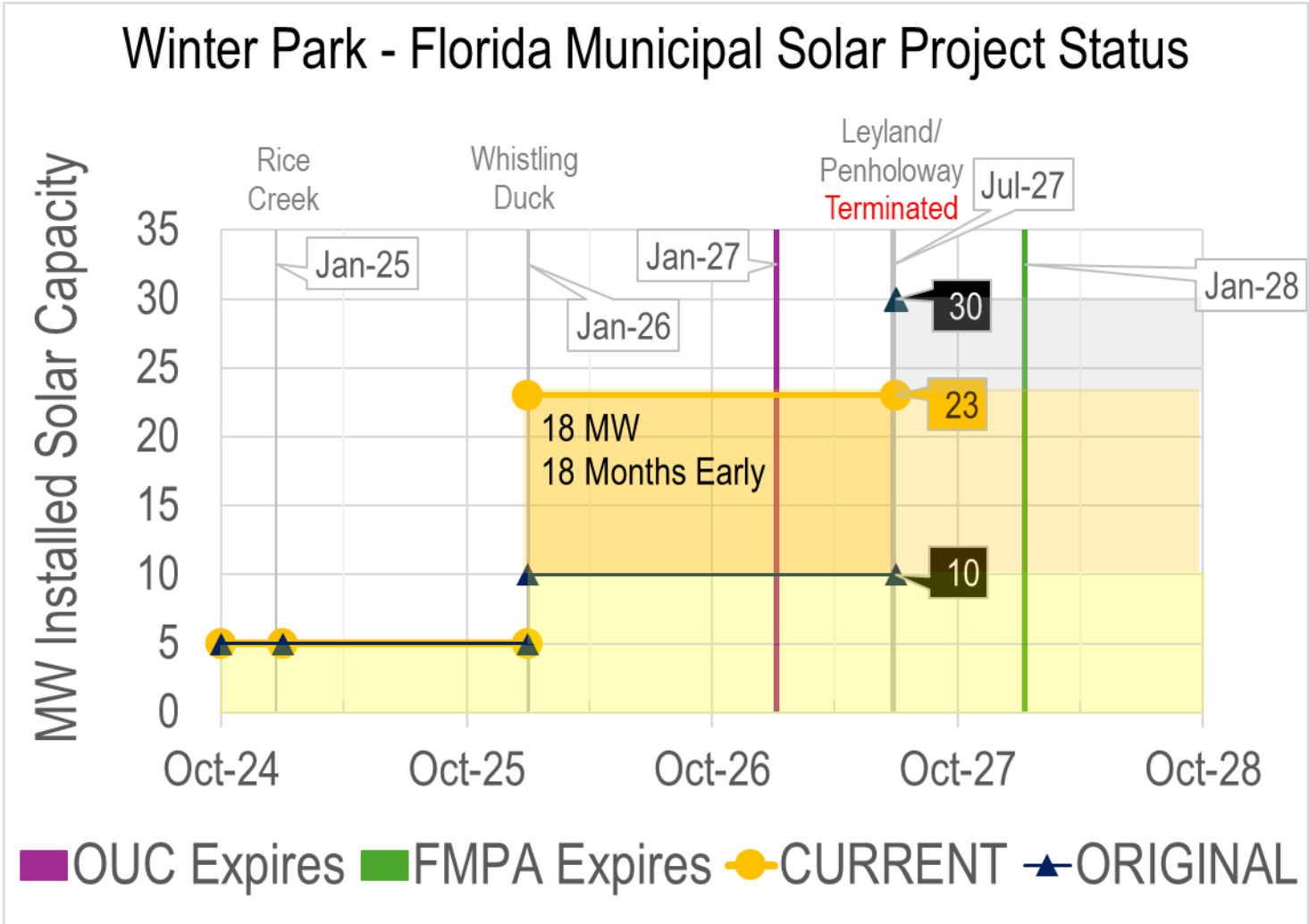
- 80% by 2035
- 89% by 2042
- 100% by 2052



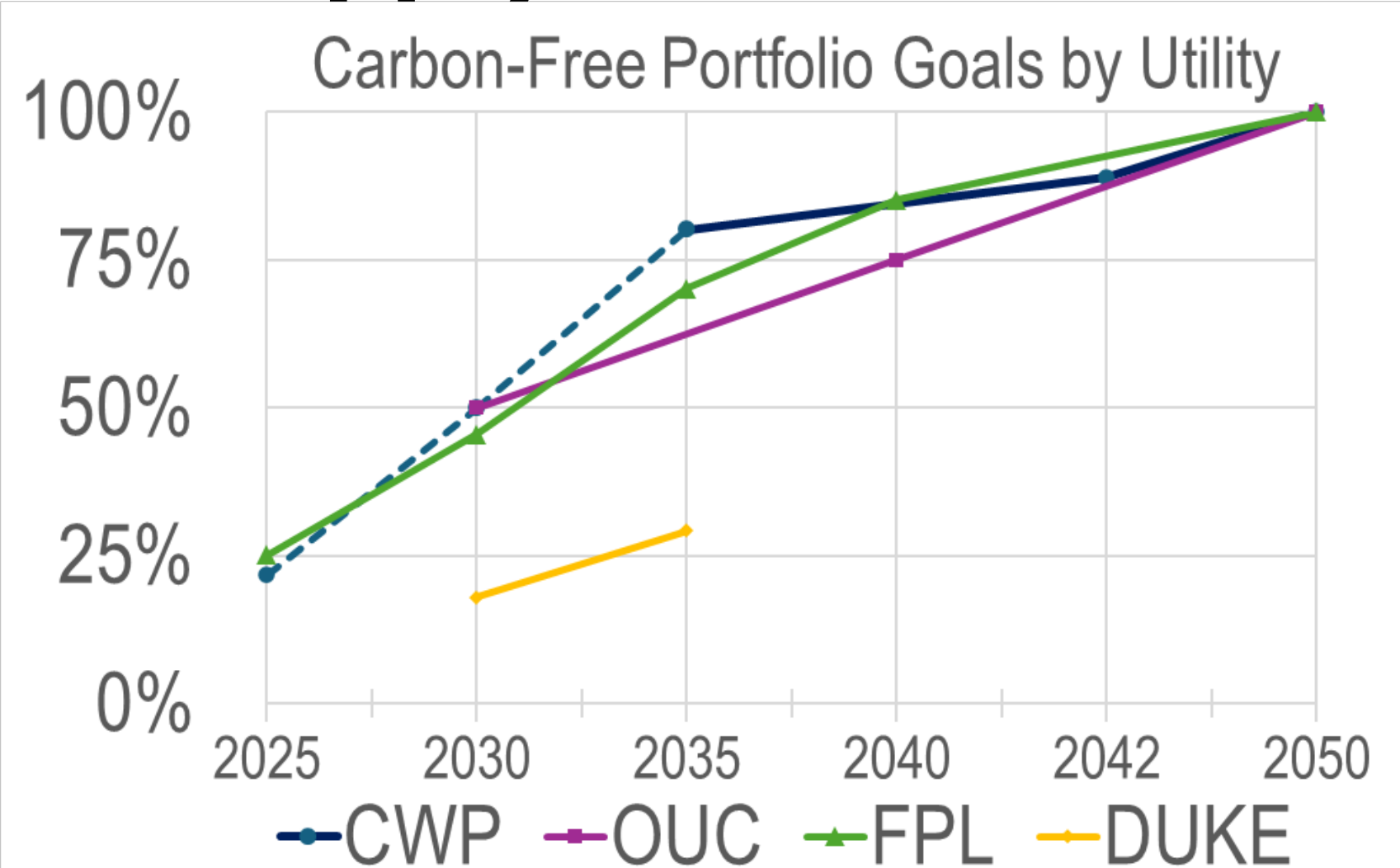
# Power Supply Portfolio

## Current Solar Portfolios

- 271.5 MW OUC
- 88 MW FMFA



# Power Supply Portfolio



# Q&A





**item type**

Non-Action Items

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by**

Wes Hamil, Director of Finance

**approved by**

Bahiyyah Muhammad-Layton, Board  
Coordinator

**subject**

Update on electric budget and rates

**motion | recommendation**

No action is necessary. This item is informational.

**background**

The initial budget presented to the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) included a 15.7% increase in non-fuel rates including the monthly customer charge. The UAB did not approve this increase or the proposed budget and recommended to the city commission that it consider a bond issue to finance some of the electric utility's capital needs.

The city commission discussed the topic at a work session with UAB members Michael Poole and Todd Weaver present on August 14 and the commission recommended staff work with Michael to develop scenarios for consideration. City Manager Randy Knight and Finance Director Wes Hamil met with Michael to review capital requirements and funding options.

Four scenarios were developed for the commission's consideration at its August 28 work session. All included counting inventory on hand as a source of funding for undergrounding (Michael Poole suggestion) and deferring undergrounding residential service lines in neighborhoods in which the secondary lines had already been placed underground. Here are the scenarios presented:

1. Keep schedule to complete undergrounding of secondary lines by 2030 without issuing bonds. This scenario required a 7.44% increase in FY 2026 to non-fuel energy rates.
2. Issue bonds to finance the undergrounding of secondary lines. This scenario did not require any increase in rates
3. Extend the time to complete undergrounding to 2032. This scenario required a 6.75% increase in non-fuel energy rates.
4. Issue \$30,500,000 in bonds to complete undergrounding by 2029. This scenario required a 5.61% increase in non-fuel energy rates.

After review of the options, the consensus of the commission was to support a 3% increase in

non-fuel energy rates and ask the UAB to study capital requirements and timing.

At its September 10 commission meeting, the city commission voted 3-2 to support a 7.44% increase in non-fuel electric rates with no change to the monthly customer charge. Formal approval of fees and the budget will occur at the commission's September 24 meeting. With the reduction in fuel rates that was implemented September 1, total electric bills with a 7.44% increase in non-fuel energy charges would be as follows:

	August 2025 Total Electric Bill Before Fuel Adjustment	October 2025 Total Electric Bill After Fuel Adjustment and 7.44% Non-Fuel Increase	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
Residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month	137.98	127.25	(10.73)	(7.78%)
Residential customer using 1,300 kWh per month (average residential usage for Winter Park)	184.51	171.18	(13.33)	(7.22%)

Staff will be working with the UAB in the coming months to address future capital requirements and priorities. These can also be part of the electric cost of service study being undertaken.

**alternatives | other considerations**

**fiscal impact**

**attachments**

1. Update on Electric Budget for FY 2026

**WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY METRICS**  
**July 31, 2025**

	<b>FY 2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>FY 2025 Original Budget</b>	<b>FY '25 YTD Budget Thru 07/31/25</b>	<b>FY '25 YTD Actual Thru 07/31/25</b>	<b>FY'24</b>	<b>FY'23</b>	<b>FY'22</b>
<b><u>Technical Performance</u></b>							
Net Sales (kWh)	430,000,000	425,000,000	344,000,000	355,460,191	442,604,845	431,907,895	426,896,301
Average Revenue/kWh	0.1251	0.1144	0.1131	0.1130	0.1058	0.1128	0.1374
Average Fuel Revenue/kWh	0.0368	0.0309	0.0305	0.0322	0.0249	0.0338	0.0543
Wholesale Power Purchased (kWh)	452,631,579	447,368,421	362,286,316	370,413,262	452,792,728	449,588,203	441,535,441
Wholesale Power Cost/kWh	(0.0547)	(0.0483)	(0.0478)	(0.0497)	(0.0458)	(0.0500)	(0.0715)
Wholesale Power Fuel Cost/kWh	(0.0350)	(0.0293)	(0.0290)	(0.0291)	(0.0253)	(0.0295)	(0.0517)
Gross margin	0.0704	0.0661	0.0653	0.0633	0.0601	0.0628	0.0659
Sold vs. Purchased kWh Ratio	95.00%	95.00%	94.95%	95.96%	97.75%	96.07%	96.68%
<b><u>Revenues and Expenses Directly Related to Sales of Electricity:</u></b>							
Electric Sales:							
Non-Fuel	37,953,372	35,526,793	28,421,434	28,741,888	35,812,854	34,114,339	35,467,317
Fuel	15,828,879	13,111,781	10,489,425	11,440,033	11,028,350	14,616,579	23,193,200
Purchased Power :							
Fuel	(15,828,879)	(13,111,781)	(10,494,670)	(10,770,142)	(11,446,754)	(13,244,557)	(22,847,530)
Non-Fuel	(4,637,259)	(4,503,000)	(3,608,366)	(3,849,159)	(5,555,707)	(5,578,689)	(5,469,341)
Transmission Power Cost	(4,285,697)	(4,000,000)	(3,201,600)	(3,805,589)	(3,722,347)	(3,655,004)	(3,267,418)
<b>Net Revenue from Sales of Electricity</b>	<b>29,030,416</b>	<b>27,023,793</b>	<b>21,606,224</b>	<b>21,757,031</b>	<b>26,116,395</b>	<b>26,252,668</b>	<b>27,076,228</b>
<b><u>Other Operating Income (Expenses):</u></b>							
Other Operating Revenues	486,000	373,880	311,567	(26,520)	196,786	575,232	195,608
General and Administrative Expenses	(3,065,593)	(2,956,985)	(2,480,019)	(2,489,434)	(2,714,116)	(2,556,093)	(2,951,681)
Operating Expenses	(7,350,985)	(7,039,868)	(6,091,023)	(5,925,785)	(5,590,531)	(5,181,130)	(4,399,349)
Total Other Operating Income (Expenses)	(9,930,578)	(9,622,973)	(8,259,476)	(8,441,739)	(8,107,860)	(7,161,990)	(7,155,422)
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>19,099,838</b>	<b>17,400,820</b>	<b>13,346,748</b>	<b>13,315,291</b>	<b>18,008,535</b>	<b>19,090,678</b>	<b>19,920,806</b>
<b><u>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):</u></b>							
Investment Earnings	92,616	68,167	56,806	20,028	246,649	191,021	(466,657)
Principal on Debt	(3,465,000)	(3,340,000)	(2,783,333)	(2,783,333)	(3,225,000)	(3,125,000)	(3,010,000)
Interest on Debt	(1,215,983)	(1,341,553)	(1,117,961)	(1,065,933)	(1,719,170)	(1,581,498)	(1,716,182)
Miscellaneous Revenue	40,000	35,000	29,167	11,970	14,729	332,720	26,877
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	5,000	40,000	33,333	465	4,335	42,041	34,843
Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAC)	300,000	500,000	416,667	663,986	566,779	738,756	637,294
Capital (including the costs of improvements paid for by CIAC revenues)	(4,158,655)	(2,200,000)	(2,208,658)	(2,403,467)	(1,597,483)	(1,598,440)	(2,183,061)
Reimbursement of Hurricane Irma recovery costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	415,905
Reimbursement of Fairbanks Distribution Line Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY METRICS**  
July 31, 2025

	<b>FY 2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>FY 2025 Original Budget</b>	<b>FY '25 YTD Budget Thru 07/31/25</b>	<b>FY '25 YTD Actual Thru 07/31/25</b>	<b>FY'24</b>	<b>FY'23</b>	<b>FY'22</b>
Undergrounding Fairbanks Distribution Lines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Residential Service Conversions	-	-	-	-	(270,254)	-	-
Undergrounding of Power Lines	(9,200,000)	(8,149,680)	(6,928,012)	(3,959,479)	(9,064,588)	(7,216,804)	(5,131,414)
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	<b>(17,602,022)</b>	<b>(14,388,066)</b>	<b>(12,501,992)</b>	<b>(9,515,764)</b>	<b>(15,044,004)</b>	<b>(12,218,205)</b>	<b>(11,377,366)</b>
<b>Income Before Operating Transfers</b>	<b>1,497,816</b>	<b>3,012,754</b>	<b>844,756</b>	<b>3,799,527</b>	<b>2,964,531</b>	<b>6,872,474</b>	<b>8,543,440</b>
<b>Operating Transfers In/Out:</b>							
Transfers from Water and Sewer Fund	193,221	192,750	160,625	160,625	177,527	166,590	154,458
Transfer to Water and Sewer Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to General Fund	(2,968,171)	(2,689,085)	(2,240,904)	(2,218,088)	(2,595,037)	(2,807,464)	(3,227,172)
Tranfers for organizational support	(130,528)	(124,111)	(103,426)	(103,426)	(117,619)	(130,058)	(112,247)
Tranfers to capital projects	(542,500)	(392,308)	(326,923)	(326,923)	(142,308)	(196,923)	(137,500)
<b>Total Operating Transfers</b>	<b>(3,447,978)</b>	<b>(3,012,754)</b>	<b>(2,510,628)</b>	<b>(2,487,812)</b>	<b>(2,677,437)</b>	<b>(2,967,855)</b>	<b>(3,322,461)</b>
<b>Net Change in Working Capital</b>	<b>(1,950,162)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,665,872)</b>	<b>1,311,715</b>	<b>287,094</b>	<b>3,904,619</b>	<b>5,220,979</b>
<b>Other Financial Parameters</b>							
Debt Service Coverage				3.46	3.69	3.90	3.97
<b>Fuel Cost Stabilization Fund Balance:</b>							
Beginning Balance				1,519,000	1,869,187	(118,810)	(274,023)
Fuel Revenues				11,414,484	11,096,567	15,232,554	23,002,744
Fuel Expenses				(10,770,142)	(11,446,754)	(13,244,557)	(22,847,530)
Ending Balance				2,163,342	1,519,000	1,869,187	(118,809)
<b>Current year change in fuel stabilization fund</b>				<b>644,342</b>	<b>(350,187)</b>	<b>1,987,997</b>	<b>155,214</b>

**CITY OF WINTER PARK  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
ELECTRIC SERVICES FUND**

Department	Description	Funding Source	Estimated 5 Yr. Cost	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Electric Services	Routine Capital improvements including: renewals, replacements, and other improvements required to provide service and improve the reliability of the electric system	Electric System Revenues	6,962,295	1,260,000	1,323,000	1,389,150	1,458,608	1,531,538
Electric Services	Undergrounding of Electric Lines	Electric System Revenues	50,835,808	9,200,000	9,660,000	10,143,000	10,650,150	11,182,658
Electric Services	Substation Upgrades	Electric System Revenues	2,214,655	314,655	400,000	450,000	500,000	550,000
Electric Services	Decorative Street Lighting	Electric System Revenues	750,000	-	150,000	175,000	200,000	225,000
Electric Services	Service Conversion	Electric System Revenues	-					
Electric Services	Building 14 Renovation	Electric System Revenues	150,000	150,000				
Electric Services	Building 4 Renovation		200,000	200,000				
Electric Services	Substation Transformer Replacement	Electric System Revenues	4,299,000	833,000	833,000	833,000	900,000	900,000
Electric Services	Bulk Meter Replacement	Electric System Revenues	2,910,000	565,000	575,000	580,000	590,000	600,000
ITS	Information Technology Infrastructure Upgrades (50% General Fund, 25% Water and Sewer Fund and 25% Electric Services Fund)	Electric System Revenues	550,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	125,000	125,000
Public Works	Facility replacement account funding (replacement of flooring, roofing, air conditioning, painting, & other capital needs) (65% General Fund, 25% Water and Sewer Fund, and 10% Electric Fund)	Electric System Revenues	515,577	92,500	100,000	100,000	107,692	115,385
<b>Totals</b>			<b>69,387,335</b>	<b>12,715,155</b>	<b>13,141,000</b>	<b>13,770,150</b>	<b>14,531,450</b>	<b>15,229,580</b>
<b>Totals by Funding Source:</b>								
Electric System Revenues			22,607,143	12,715,155	13,141,000	13,770,150	14,531,450	15,229,580



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.a

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by****subject**

Electric Utility - Jamie England

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

None



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.a

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by**

Jamie England, Director of Electric Utility

**subject**

Monthly Electric Utility Update (July)

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. July 25 UAB

# Monthly Electric Utility Update (July)

## Miles of Undergrounding performed

- Project J: 2.72 miles (98.9% complete)
- Project L: 9.57 miles (98% complete) Reconfigure existing loop
- Project O: 6.91 miles (47.1% complete)
- Residential Service Conversions (RSC) Last month: 58
- **Residential Service Conversions (RSC) This month: 25**
- RSC YTD: 997
- RSC LTD (beginning FY23): 1435

## **TOTAL for FY 2025 – 4.52 miles**

- Total Citywide Project Miles- 127.5
- Total Miles Completed Last Month – 103.88
- **Total Miles Completed – 104.18**
- Percentage Completed Last Month – 81.5%
- **Percentage Completed This Month- 81.7%**
- Total miles remaining- 23.30

## OH/UG Budget update

2025 Undergrounding budget - 8.149 M

## Notes of Interest

- Project O conduit 80% & 3K' million installed
- Project K conduit projected start, October
- Park Ave streetlight (Whipple/NY- 2700 kelvin)
- Hometown Connect next phase coordination
- RFP Engineering Design overflow
- OMS/GIS
- Meter replacement program (mesh vs. cellular)
- Submersible XFRM program (BOA)
- Office design (building 4 &14)
- Multiple community events/volunteering in scheduling

## **Issues/Concerns**

- 1000 MCM 12-month + lead time (Southwire)
- 42K 1000 MCM June order delayed (October-November)
  - Consent agenda – piggyback contract (1000MCM improve lead-time 50 wks)
- Elastimold 1000 MCM distribution splices 12- months
  - 3M resolution (training last week)

## **2025 Goals**

- Zero personal injuries within work group
- Zero controllable vehicle accidents within work group
- Mileage goal undetermined due to supply issues



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.b

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by**

**approved by**

**subject**

Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi

**motion | recommendation**

**background**

**alternatives | other considerations**

**fiscal impact**

**attachments**

None



## Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.c

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by**

Bahiyyah Muhammad-Layton, Board Coordinator

**subject**

Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil

**motion | recommendation**

No action is necessary

**background**

The attached performance measurements are presented to keep the board informed of the status and trends of important data points for the Water and Wastewater and Electric Utilities.

**alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. Utility Monthly Performance Measurements- Black and White

# Utility Monthly Performance Measurements

These measures are used as management tools to evaluate performance in key areas and draw attention to those that may require further investigation. This report organizes the performance measurements by service type.

## Electric Utility

Service Type	Measure	Goal	May	June	July	On Target
Efficiency	Rate Comparison to Duke	<100%	67.68%	66.43%	78.31%	Met Goal
	Rate Comparison to Municipal State Avg	<105%	98.08%	95.06%	98.44%	Met Goal
Financial	Rolling 12 month kWh	430 (FY25)	446,253,748	442,684,489	445,290,670	Met Goal
Operational	Heart of Florida United Way Emergency Utility Assistance Program: Assistance provided to customers		\$2,890	\$2,116	\$4,239	
	Heart of Florida United Way Emergency Utility Assistance Program: Available balance		\$4,713	\$2,597	\$20,006	
	Heart of Florida United Way Emergency Utility Assistance Program: Number of customers approved for assistance		8	6	11	
	Underground System Complete (%)		81.4%	81.5%	81.7%	
Reliability	SAIDI (in minutes)	< 60 minutes	8.48	5.93	2.64	
	Outage Occurrences		28	24	11	

## Both

Service Type	Measure	Goal	May	June	July	On Target
Customer Service	Total calls to customer service queue:		5,060	5,066	5,383	
	Customer hangup without selecting a queue		1,094	1,094	1,125	
	Turn on/off service		877	738	784	
	Billing info		1,554	1,551	1,774	
	Pay utility bill		706	724	756	
	Report power outage		327	446	384	
	System error and flow disconnect		69	69	78	
	Demolition		23	30	21	
	Commercial garbage		104	91	81	
	Transfer to water and wastewater		306	323	380	
	On-line application for start/stop service		184	326	345	
	Average wait time for customers selecting a queue		1m50s	2m29s	7m2s	
	Abandoned call % for customers selecting a queue		8%	11%	N/A	
	Number of disconnects for non-pay		87	90	142	

## Financial

Service Type	Measure	Goal	May	June	July	On Target
Financial	Accounts receivable/billed revenue for past twelve months	<8%	6.16%	6.93%	6.73%	Met Goal
	Average cost of purchased power per kWh – FYTD – Fuel		\$0.0287	\$0.0289	\$0.0291	
	Average cost of purchased power per kWh – FYTD – Non-Fuel	<\$0.03	\$0.0194	\$0.0210	\$0.0206	Met Goal
	Average revenue per kWh-FYTD-Fuel		\$0.0297	\$0.0311	\$0.0322	
	Average revenue per kWh-FYTD-Non-Fuel		\$0.0812	\$0.0808	\$0.0808	
	Bad debt expense/billed revenue – FYTD	<0.25%	0.18%	0.19%	0.27%	Below Goal
	Debt service coverage ratios - W&S - FYTD	>1.5	2.92	2.62	2.67	Met Goal
	Debt service coverage ratios - Electric - FYTD	>2.75	3.15	3.25	3.46	Met Goal
	Percentage of utility accounts receivable over 60 days past due		7.26%	6.61%	5.78%	
	Utility accounts receivable over 60 days past due – all accounts		\$493,362	\$499,114	\$427,697	
	Utility accounts receivable over 60 days past due – inactive accounts only		\$237,344 (858 accts)	\$271,080 (1,055 accts)	\$183,593 (1,033 accts)	
	Fuel cost stabilization fund (minimum balance trigger point for adjustment is \$1,050,000 and maximum balance trigger point is \$1,750,000)	\$1,400,000 target balance	\$1,492,343	\$1,877,150	\$2,163,342	Balance is above max trigger point, fuel rates reduced 09/01/25

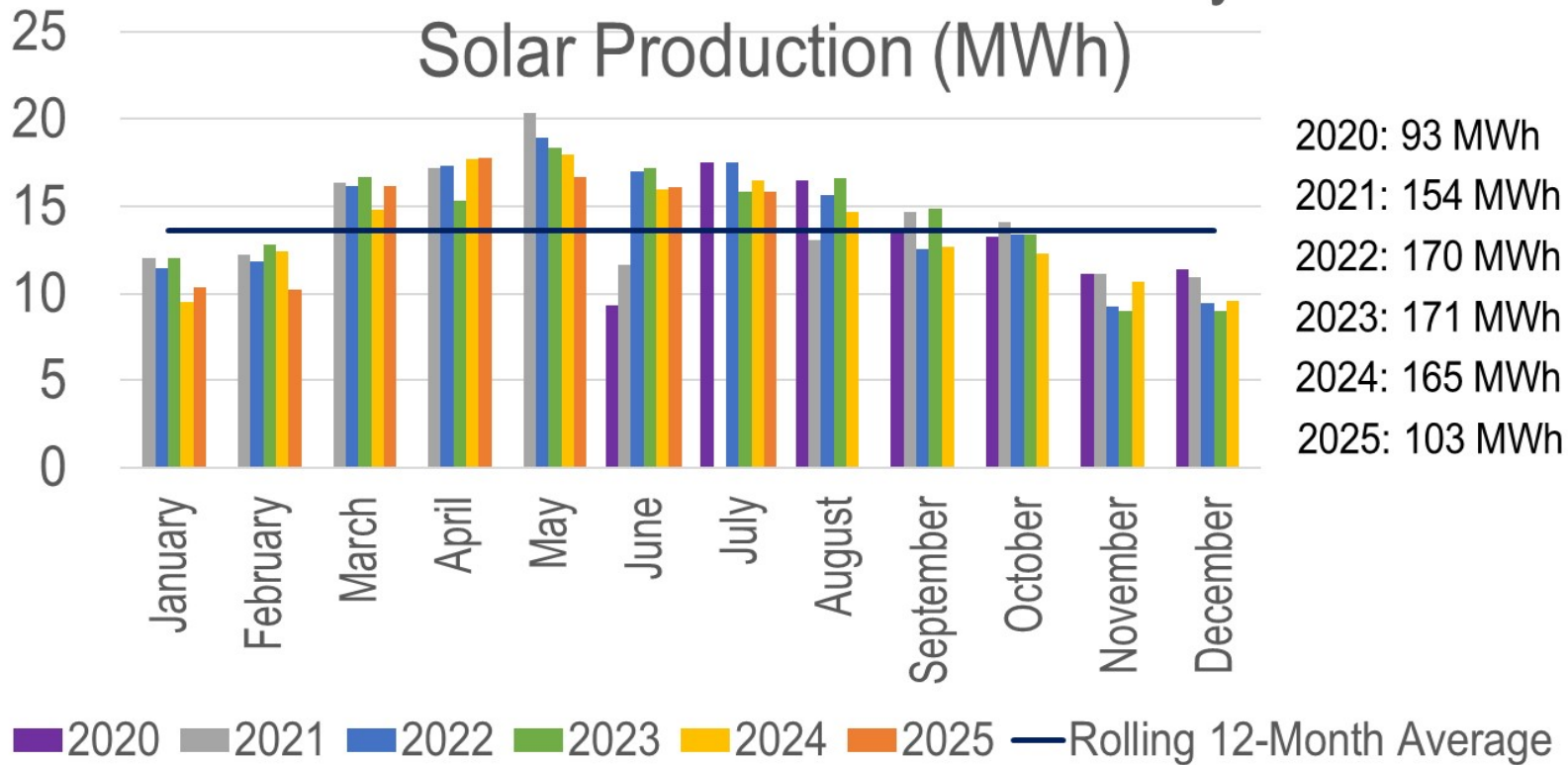
## Water Sewer Utility

Service Type	Measure	Goal	May	June	July	On Target
Environment	Count of Rebates Processed		4	0	6	
Operational	Average % Water meters reporting	>98.5%	96.02%	95.65%	95.67%	Below Goal
	Count of Wastewater Incidents	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Wastewater Incident Overflow in 1,000s Gallons	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Water pumped compared to CUP allocation	<12.4 mgd	N/A	N/A	N/A	

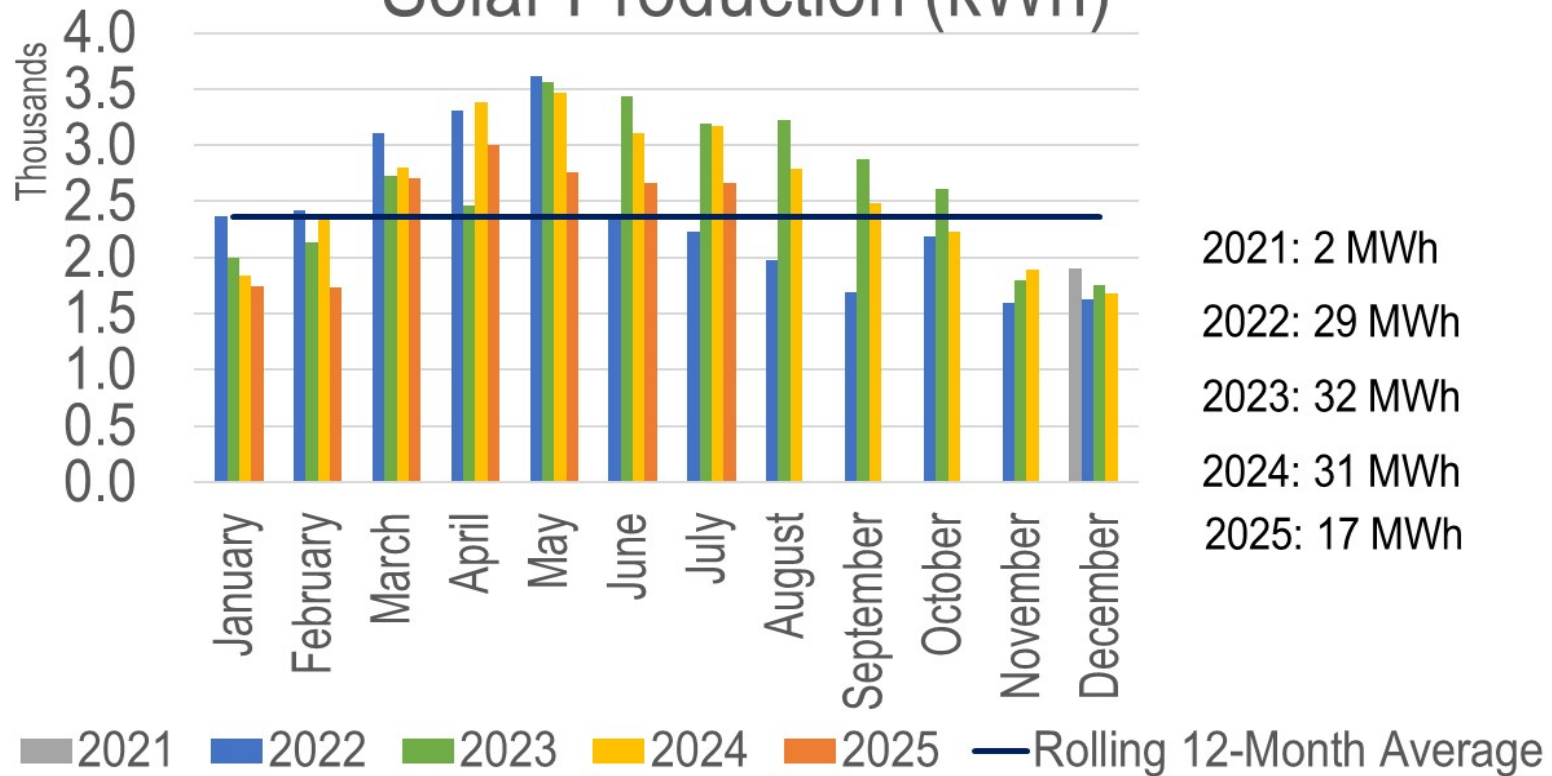
\*FMPA and FMEA data often lag 1 or 2 months.

Index Key- the monthly data text is colored green when the change from the previous month is an improvement, and red when it is not. The On Target column is highlighted comparing the most recent monthly data to the Goal: Red if below, Yellow if Near, Green if Above.

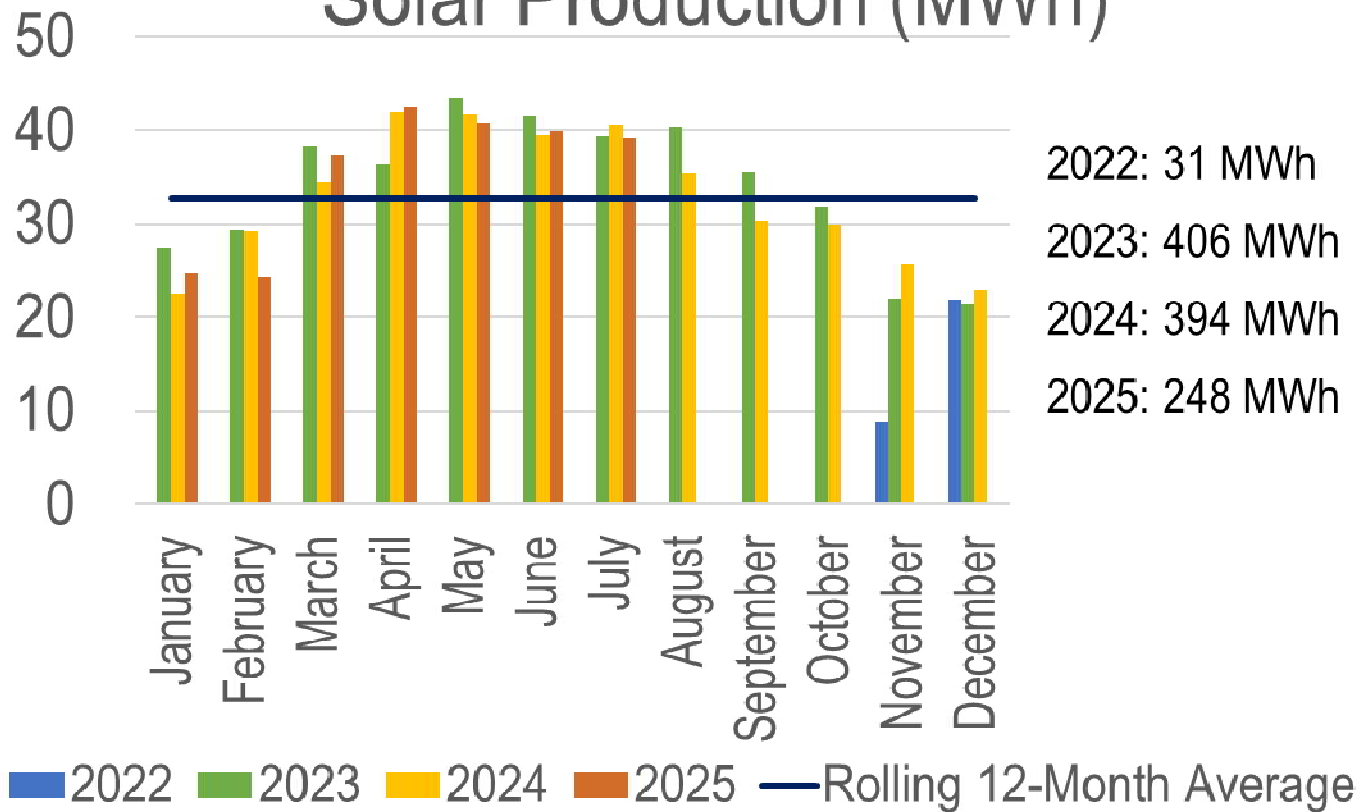
# Aloma Water Treatment Facility Solar Production (MWh)



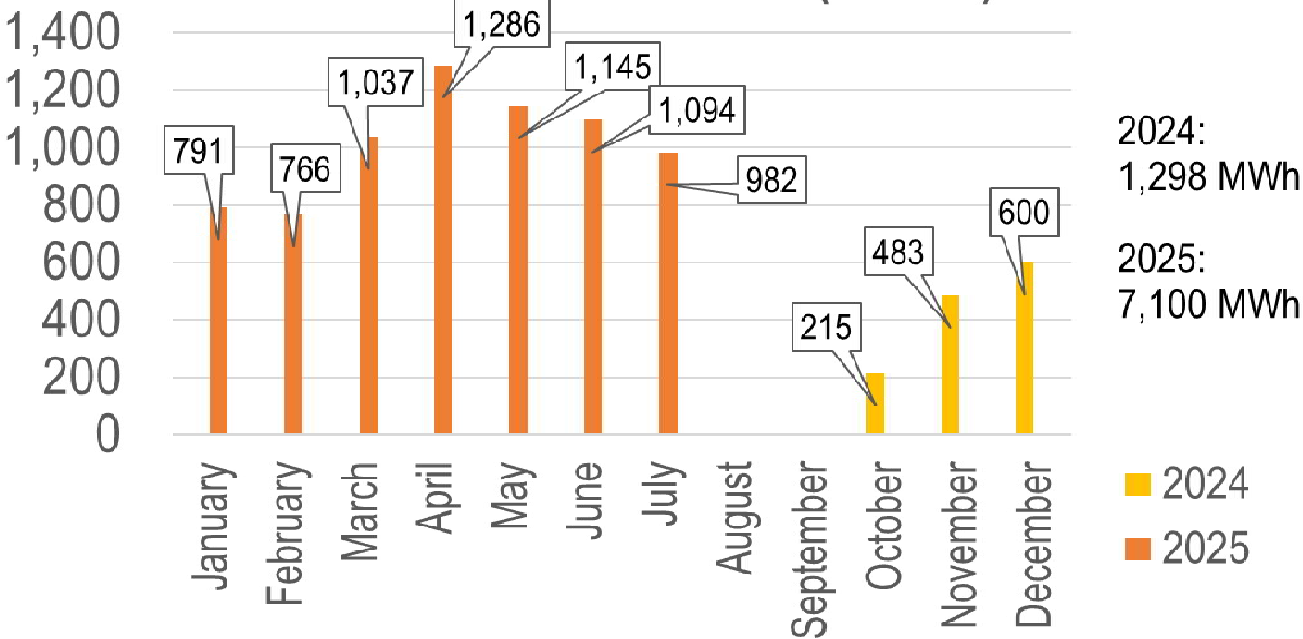
# WP Library & Event Center Solar Production (kWh)



# WP Electric Warehouse Solar Production (MWh)



# Rice Creek - FMPA Solar 2 Solar Production (MWh)





# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.d

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by****subject**

Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

None



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.d

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by**

Jennifer Vicente, Administrative Coordinator

**approved by**

Jamie England, Director of Electric Utility

**subject**

Electric Utility 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Media Coverage

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. Media Coverage Packet



401 South Park Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789

407-599-3343 • [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org)

**Communications**

## *20th Anniversary* CELEBRATION EVENT



Saturday

**June 14** 2025  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

4 Rivers Smokehouse  
activities | giveaways

**Winter Park Farmers' Market**

150 North New York Avenue  
Winter Park, Florida

*please rsvp by* Friday, May 30 | 407-599-3294 or [msmith@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:msmith@cityofwinterpark.org)

### **Media Coverage Links:**

Public Power Magazine

- [https://www.publicpower.org/system/files/documents/Elevating-Service\\_July-Aug2025\\_Public-Power-Magazine.pdf](https://www.publicpower.org/system/files/documents/Elevating-Service_July-Aug2025_Public-Power-Magazine.pdf)
- <https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/fulfilling-promises-20-years-public-power-winter-park>

FMPA Release <https://fmpa.com/fmpa-recognizes-municipal-utilities-with-inaugural-reliability-awards/>

WKMG Local 6 <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2025/08/21/how-winter-parks-bold-power-move-paid-off/>

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teaser on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WinterParkFla/videos/winter-park-electric-anniversary-teaser-video/1404571130781809/>

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnLQB4bLCvs>

JULY-AUGUST 2025 • VOL. 83 / NO. 4

# PUBLIC POWER MAGAZINE

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION



## ELEVATING SERVICE



Cover photo courtesy Conway Corp., Arkansas

# PUBLIC POWER MAGAZINE

JULY-AUGUST 2025

## ELEVATING SERVICE

### 4 Taking Action for Service Excellence

Scott Corwin on how public power can work together to continue its legacy of providing affordable, reliable power for communities nationwide.

### 6 Technology Solutions to Improve Service

How utilities are using an increasing array of technologies to keep up with changing customer expectations, update infrastructure, and manage their systems.

#### Sponsored

### 11 Navigating Your Utility Metering Transition

Different approaches for upgrading your utility's meters to align with the latest technology and customer expectations.

### 12 Communicating Electric Price Changes

How public power utilities are communicating about rate changes in ways that provide critical information and build relationships with customers.

### 22 Public Power Lends a Hand

How public power utilities are connecting customers in need to energy assistance, encompassing both local support programs and coordination with state-level agencies.

### 28 Public Power Communities: Ames, Iowa

How this city in central Iowa has been an innovator in energy technology, and how its electric utility supports research, workforce development, and community life.

### 30 20 Years of Public Power in Winter Park

The Florida utility, one of about 20 that have municipalized this century, reflects on the promises made – and fulfilled – to its community since becoming publicly owned.



# Fulfilling Promises

## 20 Years of Public Power in Winter Park

BY SUSAN PARTAIN, DIRECTOR, CONTENT STRATEGY,  
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

---

**B**efore the ceremonial switch was flipped on June 1, 2005, the city of Winter Park, Florida, had been on a long journey in the effort to control its own electric utility.

In the years prior to municipalization, residents of the Central Florida city had long dealt with prolonged outages, frequent interruptions, and little indication from the investor-owned Florida Power (now Duke Energy) that these problems would improve. Meanwhile, residents worried that Winter Park's beloved tree-lined streets were being destroyed by what they saw as overly aggressive outside vegetation management that showed little regard for the city's aesthetics.

Many Winter Park residents worked in and had friends and colleagues who lived in areas served by the Orlando Utilities Commission, the neighboring public power utility, and they saw how much more reliable their electric service could be.

When its franchise agreement with Florida Power was close to expiring, city leaders began looking for assurances that steps would be taken to improve services. The negotiation processes led Winter Park to decline renewing its agreement in 2001 and begin formally exploring whether the city could take ownership of its electric utility.

Several other Florida cities considered municipalization around the same time and had similar expiring franchise agreements that included a clause allowing the municipality to purchase its local assets at the contract's close.

Jamie England, Winter Park's electric director, worked at the investor-owned utility before the changeover. He said the general belief inside Florida Power was that the municipalization effort would be abandoned within two years.

As city leaders began preparing for municipalization — overseeing a feasibility study, gauging valuation, and setting up a voter referendum — the desire for community ownership and higher reliability remained strong. Still, leaders were uncertain what the outcome of the vote would be, given the marketing effort and significant spending by the incumbent IOU to retain control. In the 2003 vote, municipalization, was favored 69%–31%. Winter Park was the only Florida city that moved ahead with public power in the 2000s.

Randy Knight, city manager for Winter Park, recalled that all the pieces were in the right place for municipalization to move forward. Critically, he said it had been important that the city commissioners were willing to take the risk in advocating for community ownership. All those commissioners were able to get reelected amid opposition from the incumbent.

“We saw cities around us where the city manager after the election was asked to go elsewhere, and the attempt dropped,” he said.



Kenneth Marchman, mayor of Winter Park in 2005, flips a ceremonial switch marking the transition to the city's ownership of the electric system. Photo courtesy City of Winter Park, Florida.

## Delivering Results

Delivering on Winter Park residents' expectations after the vote has been a singular focus over the past 20 years.

"One of the things we promised when we bought the system is we're going to put it all underground," said Knight, who noted that more than 80% of the city's distribution lines are now underground. "To me, the very exciting part is, we've done it with most of the time lower rates than our predecessor."

In 2023, Winter Park residents:

Paid **24%** less

Had **53+ more minutes** more of uninterrupted power

than Duke Energy Florida customers

In 2023, Winter Park's average electric rates were 24% lower than Duke Energy Florida's. The utility analyzed the costs of the undergrounding effort, which has been about \$65 million, against the total savings the city and residents have seen from lower bills in the past two decades and estimated that Winter Park has seen about a \$70 million net positive in savings for the effort.

Knight noted there has been some confusion among residents about the timeline for getting to 100% underground. The utility's initial estimate was for the work to be done by 2026, but supply chain constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic extended that timeline by as much as four years.

As for the city's tree canopy, England said its vegetation management is on a 10-month cycle that takes extra precautions to maintain appropriate clearances without "butchering" the city's signature trees.

Meanwhile, the difference in reliability speaks for itself. England proudly shared how the utility's system average interruption duration index, or SAIDI, is now under 30 minutes. Outside of major events, Duke Energy Florida's SAIDI in 2023 was 83 minutes.



Crews conducting undergrounding work. Photo courtesy City of Winter Park.

England shared that there had been 278 customers without power after Hurricane Milton swept through the area in 2024, and nearly all had their power back within 12 hours.

"Some would say we didn't get the brunt of the storm, but Duke spent the better part of the week restoring power to customers in the area," he said.

**“It’s great if your community is behind the why... and willing to take the risk. You have to have a strong reason that will survive the elections.”**

**RANDY KNIGHT, CITY MANAGER,  
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA**



### Keeping Momentum

Winter Park is one of 21 public power utilities that have been formed since 2000, and Knight said that city leaders often hear from other cities considering making the switch. He said he enjoys sharing with other community leaders what it has been like to build the utility from scratch in modern times.

While there has been a lot to learn, Knight sees positives in being a younger utility.

“It’s almost easier in that we don’t have 50, 60, 70 years of doing it a different way,” he said. “It is hard for a utility that has been around for a while to change its focus or its revenue model, because it is all committed.”

“The feasibility study will almost always say [municipalization] works. [But you’ve] got to have a big reason to do it,” added Knight. “It’s great if your community is behind the why... and willing to take the risk. You have to have a strong reason that will survive the elections.”

Knight also noted that it will be harder for communities to exit franchise agreements that do not contain a buyout clause.

“You’d be hard pressed to find anyone today that says it was a mistake,” Knight said. Winter Park created a documentary marking its 20 years, which includes a testimony from someone

who voted against municipalization but has since become pleased with the switch.

The residents who do have complaints often live in parts of the city annexed since the agreement. Winter Park doesn’t have the right to bring those areas onto its municipal electric system, said Knight. That currently comprises of about 2,000 city residents who cannot be served by Winter Park Electric despite living in the new city limits.

“We set the bar high — at the point where most municipalities are not going to be able to do it,” England said, explaining that the extensive undergrounding has taken unique dedication from across the community. “Maintaining that momentum is a huge challenge.”

Once the undergrounding work is finally completed, Knight said it will be up to the community to decide what the utility focuses on next, which could be decorative, smart street lighting, or increased renewable energy options that fit with the system and city’s energy goals.

England added that Winter Park has increasingly explored how it might implement technologies that sustain its reliability edge, including an outage management system that can send automatic alerts to customers or advanced substation monitoring devices that help with preventive maintenance. 🚩

# RELAY

FLORIDA'S ENERGY & ELECTRIC UTILITY MAGAZINE

Volume 58 • Issue 1 • Fall 2025

**BECOMING A COMMUNITY-  
OWNED UTILITY HAS BEEN A  
'WIN-WIN-WIN' FOR FLORIDA'S  
WINTER PARK**

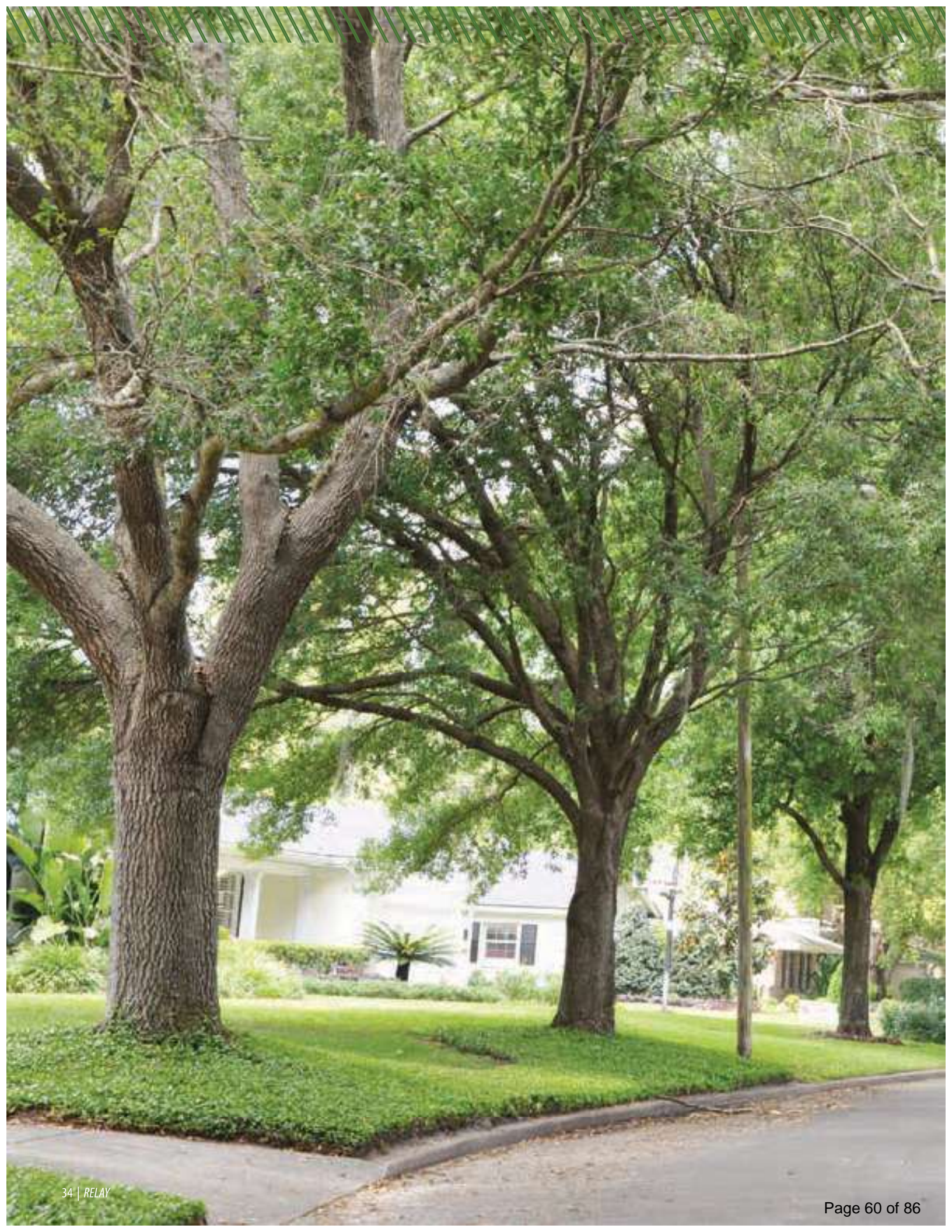
Page 34

**GRU IS TURNING  
THE CORNER**

Page 24

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:  
INSIDE JEA'S EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE**

Page 28





*BECOMING A COMMUNITY-OWNED  
UTILITY HAS BEEN A 'WIN-WIN-WIN' FOR*  
**FLORIDA'S WINTER PARK**

by John Egan

It took the City of Winter Park 53 months of focused effort to create a community-owned electric utility, but it succeeded in June 2005. In the 20 years since, residents have reaped about \$135 million in financially quantifiable benefits. City Manager Randy Knight said he'd do it again in a heartbeat.





“The juice was worth the squeeze” may be an overused metaphor, but in the City of Winter Park’s case, it’s hard to think of a better way to reflect on its multiyear fight to create a municipal electric utility (the squeeze) and the benefits of being one (the juice).

Since 2005, when the City of Winter Park purchased the electric distribution system serving the city from the incumbent investor-owned provider, Progress Energy, businesses and residents have reaped a total of \$135 million in quantifiable financial benefits on a \$42 million purchase price: \$70 million comes from lower rates and \$65 million has been invested in undergrounding (for which customers will not pay). That sum does not include other benefits that can’t be calculated easily, such as the peace of mind customers now have about outages and electric reliability.



Buying the utility from Progress Energy was “absolutely monumental,” said Randy Knight, Winter Park’s city manager. “In the 20 years since then, our prices are lower, our reliability is higher and our beloved tree canopy has been preserved. It’s been a win-win-win for the community.”



In the early years of the 2000s, when Knight was Winter Park’s assistant city manager, he spearheaded efforts to buy the Progress Energy local electric distribution network that served the city, a process known as municipalization. Back then, as the franchise contract was coming up for renewal, the utility sought to extend its agreement with the city. Previous franchise agreements allowed the city to purchase the electric system, but that was not part of the proposed franchise agreement in 2001. The proposed terms were onerous and effectively prohibited the city from ever exercising its option to become a community-owned utility.



Progress Energy officials refused to negotiate the terms of the proposed franchise extension. So began a 53-month saga of

creating a community-owned electric utility in Winter Park. “We knew we could run our own utility,” Knight said. “Our next-door municipal utility neighbor, the Orlando Utilities Commission, showed us that high reliability and community ownership could go hand in hand. As we pursued municipalization, we were fortunate to have a great legal team and the support of wise officials.

“I had no idea how challenging that journey would be, but it became one of the most rewarding efforts of my career,” he continued. “As we pursued municipalization, our most important question was, ‘Why?’” he said, borrowing a term recently popularized by consultant Simon Sinek. “Why were we doing this? The obstacles to municipalization are so big that if your ‘why?’ is not supported by the community, the effort will not succeed.”

Winter Park had a number of significant “whys?”. They included lousy reliability, poor service, a resistance to local concerns and a desire to protect their local tree canopy. “It was legendary in these parts about how bad the reliability was in Winter Park. Nearly any time a thunderstorm came through, there was a momentary outage. After a certain point, people got tired of resetting the clocks on their VCRs,” recalled Knight.

Dean Cannon, president and CEO of GrayRobinson, P.A., agreed. At the time of the municipalization, he was a Winter Park resident and soon-to-be member of the state House of Representatives. Back then, he said, the electric reliability was every bit as bad as city officials claimed. “Even the mildest wind could cause an outage,” he recalled. “Back when we had VCRs, I spent way too much time resetting the clock on mine.” GrayRobinson provides legislative and executive representation to the City of Winter Park and acts as legislative counsel for the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA).

Two decades ago, Progress Energy, an investor-owned utility (IOU), tried to

smother the nascent municipalization effort with money, outspending the city by more than 10 to 1. But when the ballots were counted, 69 percent of residents voted to leave Progress Energy and issue \$42 million in bonds to acquire the electric distribution system within the city. Today, Winter Park Electric Utility provides electricity to about 15,000 customer-owners.

“The city saw value in investing in local relationships,” Cannon said. “Public power utilities don’t have a big war chest, so they have to be right on the issues and responsive to their customers. The city made a great decision when it decided to municipalize.”

Winter Park officially became a community-owned utility on June 5, 2005. Soon thereafter, it would become the newest and youngest member of FMEA. Since, Knight has spoken about municipalization with city officials in some Florida municipalities, as well as city leaders in Colorado, New York, Texas and Michigan.

To mark the 20-year anniversary of the switch, we interviewed Knight and Winter Park Electric Utility Director Jamie England about the journey to becoming a public power utility, the benefits of community ownership and what’s ahead.

### Local Control

Many benefits of being a public power utility stem from local officials being able to make local decisions for the benefit of the local community. As an IOU serving more than 100 Florida communities, Progress Energy had to follow rules established by the Florida Public Service Commission out of Tallahassee. Those rules included offering all of its customers across the state equivalent services and prices. Progress Energy could not treat Winter Park any differently than the other cities it served, regardless of the city’s desires. What the residents there wanted didn’t really matter. If Progress Energy underground Winter Park’s electric lines, it would have to offer to do so for every other municipality it served

— a financially ruinous proposition and a nonstarter for the IOU.

Winter Park residents wanted to have a greater say in what went on in their community, especially as it related to electric reliability and tree trimming. “Local control is a touchstone for public power,” commented Cannon. “For municipal utilities, it’s important that dollars stay in the community, and that the community, through its utility, decides how to spend those dollars. When Winter Park was served by an investor-owned utility, those dollars went to shareholders in New York and elsewhere.”

Under Progress Energy, tree trimmers would come in and “butcher” trees, Knight and England agreed, turning the beloved trees into grotesque, misshaped blobs that offended the aesthetics of the community. “The community does have a beautiful tree canopy, and it wanted to preserve that,” Cannon commented. “When Progress Energy failed to do that, it caused problems and a backlash.”

The Winter Park Electric Utility got around that tree-trimming problem and poor electric reliability by undergrounding the primary and secondary lines of its electric distribution system. That laborious project, which started in 2013, is about 81 percent complete now. This is an example of reinvesting in the community to meet the community’s expectations.

Although some Winter Park residents voted at the time against issuing bonds to purchase the distribution network, it’s hard to find any resident or business owner today who doesn’t think municipalizing was a good idea. “I look across the country, and I don’t know of any area where undergrounding efforts are on the scale of what we are doing here,” commented England. “By 2030, we should have fully undergrounded primary and secondary lines.”

### Lower Prices and Bills

Winter Park has spent millions of dollars undergrounding its distribution system, but





residents and businesses have not been charged extra for that. After paying all of its operating costs, the utility uses some of its remaining revenues to cover the cost of undergrounding.

The utility consistently charges a lot less for electricity than Duke Energy, Progress Energy's successor, which serves communities surrounding Winter Park. According to FMEA's Electric Bill Comparison for May 2025, Winter Park's rates were approximately 32 percent lower than Duke's and slightly less than the average of all municipal electric utilities in Florida.

Some of the community-owned utility's price advantage stemmed from its executive wholesale power contracts at favorable prices. But some also stemmed from its leaner operational structure. England said Progress Energy would often send three or four people to some meetings while the Winter Park utility would send only one person. "IOUs have a vast structure of people and departments," he said. "Our utility does not." He would know: Before joining the Winter Park's electric utility in the summer of 2024, England spent about 20 years working for IOUs.

As a municipally owned utility, Winter Park Electric Utility pays no common stock dividend (because it has no shares of stock), no sales taxes and no state or federal income taxes, it has more money to invest in the community and still keep its electric

prices lower than Duke Energy. Like some public power utilities, Winter Park Electric Utility pays a franchise fee to the city, currently 6 percent.

Each quarter, in his City Manager's Report to residents, Knight makes a point of informing Winter Park's customers about their favorable prices compared to all Florida IOUs and municipal utilities.

### Improved Reliability

In 2001, Progress Energy's customers in Winter Park experienced more than 360 minutes of outages. The following year, during the municipalization fight, Progress Energy worked hard to improve reliability, cutting it to about 180 minutes per year, recalled Knight.

But the reality was far worse than the data, England explained, since "momentary" outages of less than three minutes are not included in the industry's definition of System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). But a "momentary" outage would force residents to reset the clocks on their VCRs. Faced with the threat of municipalization, Knight recalled, "Progress Energy worked hard to improve reliability, and they made improvements, but 180 minutes of outages was still three times the 60 minutes of outages experienced by neighboring OUC's customers."

Under city ownership, outages are now about 26 minutes in duration. The frequency

of outages is 0.18 — less than one outage per year.

The city held two events in June marking its 20th anniversary as a public power utility. Prior to the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on June 11, city officials celebrated the 20th anniversary of becoming a public power utility. At that event, utility officials were presented with a proclamation, and the 20th anniversary video was viewed. The city's 20th anniversary video, titled "Power Shift: Winter Park's Electric Transformation," can be viewed on YouTube at [bit.ly/3TGmoQI](https://bit.ly/3TGmoQI). At that event, which was open to the public, the utility also received a Safety Award from FMEA and a Reliability Award from FMPA.

A second public event, a community celebration, was held on Saturday, June 14, at the Winter Park Farmers' Market. This event was intended to celebrate 20 years of success as a municipal electric utility with the community. It featured brief remarks, the video, children's activities, educational components, and free food and beverages for the community to enjoy.

FMEA has also honored the City of Winter Park Electric Utility with its Restoring Communities Award for efficiently restoring power following storms, as well as its efforts to build a strong community by providing excellent electric service with its Building Strong Communities Award.

## Increased Responsiveness

In addition to responding to community aesthetic expectations around tree trimming, undergrounding also responded to long-standing customer frustration with Progress Energy's responsiveness and reliability.

Last year, when Hurricane Milton hit Central Florida, "we were as impacted as much as anyone, weather-wise," England said, "But our system held up better than others. We were very pleased with the results." Only about 250 Winter Park customers lost power during Milton, and those who did were restored within 12 hours. Meanwhile, he said, all around Winter Park, tens of thousands of other utilities' customers lost power, and it took days, in some cases weeks, to fully restore service. Two days after Hurricane Milton hit Central Florida, the city of Winter Park was able to hold its annual Autumn Art Festival as scheduled while other nearby cities were still grappling with hurricane-related power outages.

Fewer outages is one clear benefit from undergrounding. Faster outage restoration times also stem, in part, from having the utility's employees — particularly lineworkers — living and working in the community. England said the utility works hard to make utility and city officials

accessible to its customer-owners. "They could very easily pick up the phone or send an email and that would get through [to] the engineering manager, the operations director or the utility director. They're able to reach the person they really need to reach. I have worked at an IOU, and I can tell you that doesn't happen there. We are right sized for our community. We are not part of a vast department." He said he speaks with customers nearly every week, and even those who opposed the referendum in 2005 say municipalization has been a good thing.

Winter Park resident Ray Renfro is one of those who have done a 180 on municipalization. After voting "no" in 2005, he said, "I have since changed my mind 100 percent. I am thrilled — I'm not kidding you. Undergrounding lines is just fantastic." Renfro was one of several customers featured in the 20th anniversary video prepared by the utility.

"Our employees have a great sense of ownership, and they learn from their mistakes," England said. With the size and scale of the undergrounding project, not everything is going to go right from day one. "But that isn't the important thing," he said. "The important thing is how you adjust to those mistakes. How [do] you move forward from them? I would say that this

team has done a tremendous job over the years in pursuing opportunities, learning from its mistakes and moving forward."

## Looking Forward

As England looks to the future, he said, "We've got our hands on a lot of things" to continue increasing the value of the utility, "but the most impactful change will be the installation of an outage management system (OMS). With this new system, we will know the scope of any outage before we get in a truck. We'll be able to respond more effectively and more efficiently. That system also will have outage mapping so customers can see if there are outages in their neighborhood."

He said artificial intelligence is expected to be part of that system. Advanced technologies and data analytics also will enable the use of condition-based maintenance, so the utility can get better real-time insight into the health of the equipment of its system. That will facilitate more timely equipment repairs or replacements, which likely will reduce the number of outages and outage time.

Here are some of the other future projects the utility plans to pursue:

- Securing new bulk power purchasing contracts
- Continuing to pursue clean energy sustainable alternatives
- Adopting and executing a strategic plan
- Leveraging technology to enhance employee performance
- Replacing circuit breakers at the Canton Avenue substation
- Introducing AI technology to infrastructure monitoring
- Executing the Park Avenue Smart Street-lighting Refresh Project
- Installing high-efficiency light fixtures at all city streetlights

"We want to continue investing in our utility and the community so that our customer-owners continue to be well-served," England said. ■





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WINTER PARK, FL...

### WINTER PARK TO CELEBRATE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC COMPANY

2025-06-01

The city of Winter Park is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its acquisition of its electric distribution system, with two special events taking place this month.

In 1927, the city became a licensee of Progress Energy Florida. When this agreement reached its end in 2001, Progress Energy was looking to limit the rights of the city under a new agreement. At this time, it was determined that the value of the electric distribution system was \$42.4m. Following a referendum in September 2003, the city was able to purchase the electric distribution system. On June 1, 2005, a celebratory event was held to announce that the acquisition had officially been completed.

This acquisition has enabled the city to so far place 81% of its previous overhead lines underground, with an expected completion date of 2030. The city has also maintained competitive rates, reinvested revenues back into the system, strengthened the electric infrastructure, and offered reliable and responsive utility and customer service.

To celebrate this anniversary of the acquisition, there will be special presentations of the City Commission at the City Hall at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, June 11 and at the Winter Park Farmers Market on Saturday, June 14 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Flyer and poster printing can be used to promote distinctive events like these.

#### MORE LOCAL NEWS...

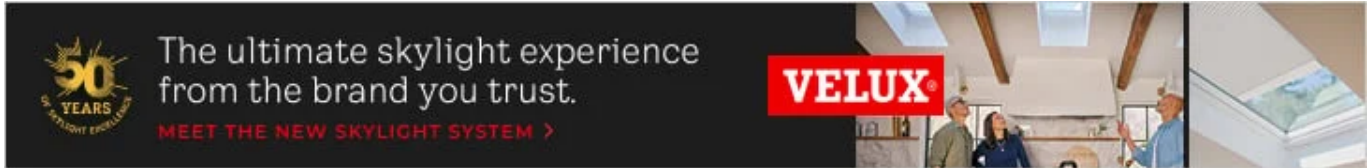
- [Branded Workwear Printing in Winter Park](#)
- [Winter Park names high school principal](#)
- [Winter Park to celebrate purchase of electric company](#)
- [Print Products in Winter Park](#)
- [Agricultural equipment company expands to Winter Park](#)
- [Earth Day to be celebrated in Winter Park](#)
- [Promotional Printing in Winter Park](#)
- [Winter Park to hold arts festival](#)
- [Winter Park opens new courthouse](#)
- [Custom Polo Shirts in Winter Park](#)
- [New clinic offers pioneering treatments in Winter Park](#)
- [Michigan-based bank acquires bank in Winter Park](#)
- [Branded Pens in Winter Park](#)
- [Retail property in Winter Park purchased for improving traffic](#)
- [Winter Park firm appoints new senior consultant](#)
- [Promotional Stationery in Winter Park](#)
- [Barbeque restaurant comes to Winter Park](#)
- [Mixed-use property in Winter Park changes ownership](#)
- [Winter Park implements lightning warning system](#)
- [Custom Awards in Winter Park](#)
- [View All...](#)

#### USEFUL LINKS



# GREEN BUILDER®

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



📅 Apr 2, 2025 1:19:24 PM

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

## Winter Park: An Underground Movement



Alan Naditz ⌚ 2 min read



▶ Winter Park: An Underground Movement ⚡ 2:57

### Only 2 percent of Winter Park’s residents lost power during Hurricane Milton in 2024 because 80 percent of the city’s power lines are buried underground.

On October 2024, Hurricane Milton devastated parts of Central Florida, leaving hundreds of thousands of households without electricity, unable to keep warm, cook food, or even switch on the TV to get the latest weather updates. It was a different story in the city of Winter Park near Orlando where, at the peak of the storm, only about 275 of 15,000 customers—less than two percent—did not have power. The reason? Eighty percent of the city’s power lines are buried underground.



**Electric utility services**

*Delivering as promised!*  
**UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT**

“Undergrounding” began in Winter Park about 20 years ago, with the goal of improving power reliability and aesthetics. According to City officials, about 95 of the 130 miles included in the project have been completed, and work is progressing at a pace of approximately eight miles per year.

“It’s like planning for retirement,” says Winter Park City Manager Randy Knight in a media interview following Hurricane Milton. “You have to go ahead and start. If you don’t start, you’ll never finish. And when something like this happens, we’re not spending a whole week on repairs. We spent 12 hours.”

Because Winter Park’s utility is owned by the CCity, it is able to provide the undergrounding service while maintaining rates that are below the average for Florida. And because the City has local control over its finances, it is able to reinvest all profits and revenues back into the system to pay for these undergrounding efforts, preventing an additional tax burden to its residents.

“Almost all of the outages we had after Hurricane Irma (in 2017) and this latest storm are related to the overhead part of the system, not the underground part,” explains Randy Kirby. “Investor-owned utilities in the state are obviously responsible to their shareholders for profits. But there are 33 municipal-

owned utilities, including ours. Over the years, the community has made the decision on how we reinvest the profits.”



**In 2024 Hurricane Milton destroyed homes throughout central Florida. But the city of Winter Park fared better thanks to investment in modern construction. Image credit: Florida National Guard**

It would have been easy to take the extra revenue and build a park or redo City Hall, Kirby notes. But city commissioners who took over the power system from Progress (now Duke) Energy nearly two decades ago stayed committed to undergrounding.

Despite pandemic delays, undergrounding is expected to be completed in 2030 at a cost of about \$8.5 million per year—a significant number for a city with a \$200 million annual budget. These dollars are coming from the reinvested utility rate revenues.

When the project is complete in 2030, Winter Park expects to be the first city in America to have 100 percent of its electric lines underground, according to Kirby.

📅 Apr 2, 2025 1:19:24 PM · ⌚ 2 min read



## By Alan Naditz

Alan Naditz is managing editor of Green Builder Magazine. He has covered numerous industries in his extensive career, including residential and commercial construction, small and corporate business, real estate and sustainability.

## Also Read

- [Winter Park: An Underground Movement](#)
- [Los Angeles: Cool°Streets LA](#)
- [New York City: The Big U](#)
- [Laguna Beach: Goats Vs. Wildfires](#)
- [2025 Sustainability Superhero - Master of Messaging](#)

A promotional banner for an event. The top section is dark teal with the text 'MANAGING AFFORDABILITY UNCERTAINTY' in white. To the right is a circular logo for '20 YEARS GREEN BUILDER'. Below this, the date 'August 21, 2025 AT 2:00 PM EASTERN' is displayed. A circular portrait of Sam Rashkin is on the right. Below the portrait, it says 'Presenter SAM RASHKIN' and a 'REGISTER NOW' button. The Panasonic logo is partially visible at the bottom.



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.d

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by**

Jamie England, Director of Electric Utility

**subject**

Winter Park Update newsletter – September-November 2025 issue

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. Update - September - November 2025

2025

# winter park update

september thru november



like, follow &  
watch us on



vision

*Winter Park is the city of arts and culture, cherishing its traditional scale and charm while building a healthy and sustainable future for all generations.*



## Fruits of our labor

When we celebrate Labor Day, we pause to recognize the many contributions of the people who help keep our communities strong. Whether enjoying a well-deserved break from school, work or simply taking time to recharge, I hope you can find a moment or two for rest and reflection.

The weather has certainly reminded us it's still summer in Florida, but I know many of us are looking forward to cooler days ahead. Even through the heat, your city has been hard at work all summer preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.



I'm proud to share that, for the 18th year in a row, Winter Park's property tax rate has not been raised. The budget is once again balanced, as required by our city Charter. The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget can be accessed at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments](http://cityofwinterpark.org/departments) > **Management & Budget**. A detailed article regarding our FY2026 budget is provided by our City Manager in his report on the inside pages.

In other exciting news, the City Commission has approved the installation of three new temporary art sculptures for Seven Oaks Park. The Public Art Advisory Board and city staff have been working with Orange County's Art & Cultural Affairs team to acquire three of four pieces from their

"Sculptures on the Lawn" program that will change out every January to install in Seven Oaks Park. Winter Park's installation of these pieces will be a continuation of its "Art on the Green" program. The new rotating sculptures are proposed to be installed each year in strategic locations throughout the park. We also voted to invite creative ideas for activating

a small corner of the park and can't wait to see what the community dreams up.

Looking beyond city limits, the Orange County Commission is preparing

to add two new seats, which means county districts will be redrawn. We are working closely with Orange County officials to ensure that Winter Park is fairly and thoughtfully represented throughout the redistricting process.

Your City Commission is diligently working to ensure the best possible outcome for our residents and guests alike.

## mayor's message

With gratitude,

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

# commissioner's column



*A message from Commissioner Craig Russell*

Dear Winter Park residents,

I hope this message finds you and your families well and enjoying the final days of summer. As your City Commissioner, I want to take a moment to update you on several important developments in our community and share my continued commitment to serving you with transparency, inclusivity and dedication.

## Investing in Our Youth

Our youth remain at the heart of our city's future. This summer, we expanded recreational programming, mentorship initiatives, one-on-one tutoring, and youth employment opportunities. From sports clinics to leadership workshops, we are creating spaces where young people can grow, thrive and feel supported. I encourage families to explore these programs and get involved. [cityofwinterpark.org/parks](http://cityofwinterpark.org/parks) & [cityofwinterpark.org/wpcc](http://cityofwinterpark.org/wpcc) > [Youth Programs](#) > [After-School Programs & Teen Club Program](#) tab

## Community Service Opportunities

Civic engagement is the backbone of a strong community. We've launched new volunteer initiatives in partnership with local nonprofits, schools, and faith-based organizations. Whether it's helping at food banks, participating in various cleanups, or mentoring students, there are many ways to give back. Access volunteer opportunities on the city's website to learn how you can get involved.

[cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability](http://cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability) & [wpinspires.org](http://wpinspires.org)

## Recent Policy & Project Updates

### Citywide Construction Projects »

We're making visible progress on several key projects:

#### ■ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Renovation**

As part of the revitalization of this cherished community space, we are honoring the legacy of "Castle Park" by preserving its iconic spires and incorporating them into the new design. The updated park will feature a splash pad and ADA-accessible amenities,

blending modern functionality with a deep respect for the park's historical and cultural significance to Winter Park families.

[cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project](http://cityofwinterpark.org/mlk-project)

#### ■ **Park Avenue Refresh**

Planning for infrastructure and aesthetic improvements underway to enhance pedestrian safety, lighting and landscaping in our historic downtown district. [cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh](http://cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh)

**Undergrounding & Infrastructure Commitment »** I remain firmly committed to completing the undergrounding of utilities citywide. This effort, along with ongoing road resurfacing and stormwater system improvements, is essential to building a more resilient and future-ready Winter Park.

**Public Safety Enhancements »** We've increased funding for police and fire-rescue to ensure a safer Winter Park for all.

## Back-to-School Best Practices & Safety

As students return to school, let's work together to ensure a safe and successful start:

- Drive cautiously in school zones and obey crossing guard signals.
- Encourage healthy routines at home, including sleep, nutrition and screen time limits.
- Support mental wellness by checking in with your children and staying connected with teachers and school counselors.

## A Pledge to Serve

As always, I pledge to serve Winter Park with integrity, compassion and a deep respect for every resident. My door is open and I welcome your ideas, concerns and feedback. Together, we can continue building a city that honors its history while embracing a vibrant, inclusive future.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.  
Craig Russell, City Commissioner, Seat 2

# 2026 fiscal year budget

The city's fiscal year (FY) is October 1 through September 30. Although city staff reviews its budget on a daily basis, it begins preparation for the new fiscal year budget with planning in February, presentation of the proposed budget in July, and formal public hearings in the month of September. Throughout the entire process, and at all City Commission meetings, the public is invited to comment on the budget.

This city-wide budget, also called the All Funds Budget, is made up of several separate funds that include all operations, capital improvements and debt service of the city. The following provides some highlights of the major funds included in the proposed budget.

The **General Fund (GF)** includes those operating departments commonly associated with local government such as police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, City Commission, city management and other support departments. The total GF budget is \$89.5 million and provides the same level of service as FY25.

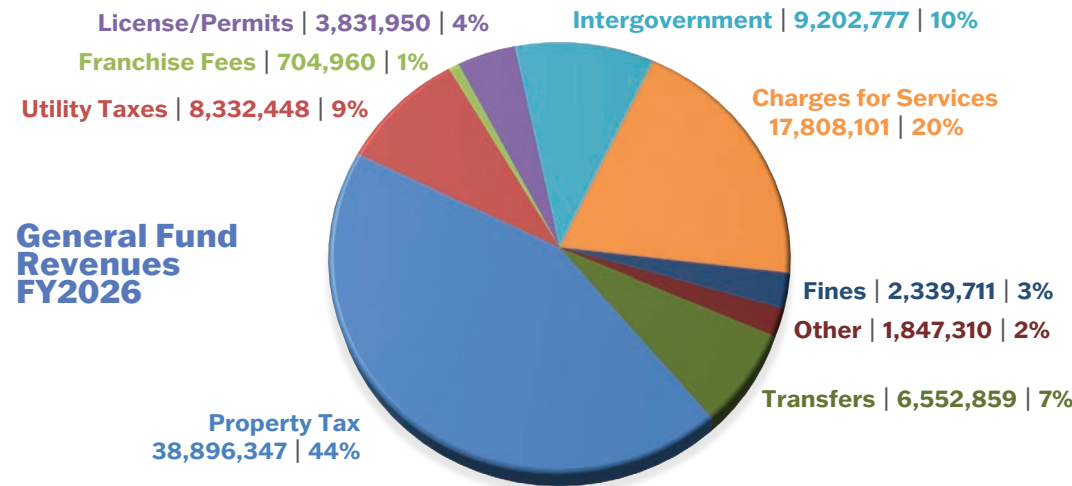
Revenues in the city's General Fund are expected to grow 6.7%, driven by continued taxable property value growth, tied to the prior year's, still strong, real estate market. While this is excellent given the long-term historical average revenue growth rate of about 3%, it is still forecasted to be a tight budget year due to the continued inflation of labor, pension and material supplies necessary to provide city services. In-depth discussion of all these issues is included in the comprehensive budget document that can be accessed at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments > Management & Budget](http://cityofwinterpark.org/departments/Management & Budget).



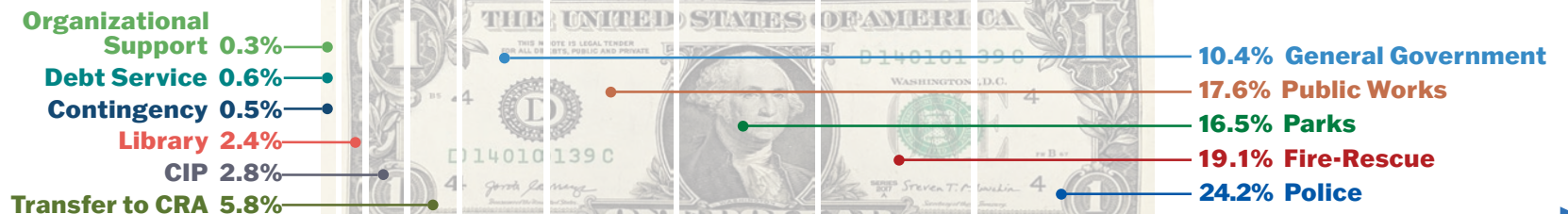
## city manager's report

### Budget highlights

- Additional pay increases for public safety personnel to compete against expanded state and local funding for police and fire positions.
- Increases stormwater utility capital investments by 63% to \$1.9 million for flood mitigation and water quality improvements at Golfside Drive and Fawsett Road, as well as fixing seawall caps on the canals. This is in addition to \$5.4 million in stormwater improvements along West Fairbanks Avenue and the U.S. Highway 17-92 and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park basin area provided by the Community Redevelopment Agency.
- Updated Parks Master Plan providing benchmarks for city parks, evaluating deficiencies, and providing data for prioritizing future improvements.
- Maintains \$1.8 million for road repair, paving, bricking, curb and bike path, with a goal of completing nine lane miles of paving.
- Grows the reserve fund balance to a record of over \$22 million, or 26% of annual reoccurring expenses held in reserve in the General Fund.
- Maintains the current operating millage rate of 4.0923 which has been the city's unchanged property tax rate for the last 17 years.



### General Fund Expenditures FY2026



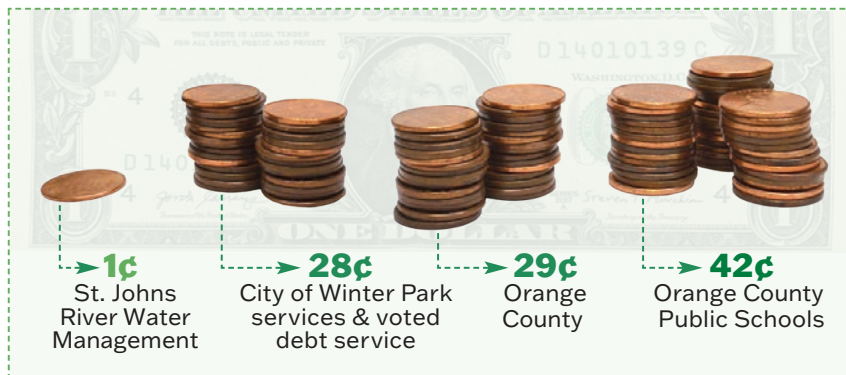
- Estimated increase of 10% in electric bills to expand capital investment in critical substation infrastructure, implementation of an outage management system, replacement of aging meters, and keeping pace with the city's electric undergrounding plan.
- Invests over \$18 million overall in critical utility infrastructure and exceeds the minimum of 45 days working capital in the electric utility and water & wastewater utilities funds.

The illustration of the dollar bill on the previous page shows the percentage of dollars in the proposed budget to provide services to our residents, showing almost half of the General Fund budget is dedicated to public safety (fire-rescue and police) services.

### Tentative millage rate

At the July 23 City Commission meeting, a tentative millage cap of 4.0923 was adopted. This is the same property taxing rate that the city has had for 17 years and is the only city in the metro-Orlando area that has not raised its operating millage rate during that period.

At formal adoption in September, this will become the property tax rate applied to all residential and commercial property in the city. This is the rate that was used to project the property taxes on the notice everyone receives in August from the Orange County Property Appraiser. This is a tentative rate and may be reduced but not increased without an extensive public notice process. Property value assessments are set by the Orange County Property Appraiser's office. Of the total property taxes someone might pay, the majority (72%) do not support the city services proposed in the budget and only 28% of the taxes go to city related services.



The debt service millage rate, used to service the library and events center bonds, will decrease 7.2% from 0.2379 mills to 0.2207.

### General Fund capital improvement projects

A few projects that are included in the proposed budget are:

- \$925k** Facility improvements including additional generators and HVAC replacements, as well as energy efficient replacement of windows at City Hall.
- \$885k** Park facility investments including bunker refurbishment at the Winter Park Golf Course (WP9) and ball tracking technology at the Winter Park Pines Golf Club (WP18), as well as continued replacement of athletic field lighting, replacement of the landscaping building, and the possibility of grant-funded replacement of some clay courts at tennis center.
- \$500k** Public safety capital support for safety and security improvements at the Public Safety Facility, ongoing replacement of emergency radios, and LIFEPAK unit replacement for EMS response.
- \$450k** Maintained signalization and bike/pedestrian improvement funding to support the Transportation Master Plan.
- \$400k** Information technology infrastructure enhancements to cybersecurity.

This is a brief overview of the proposed annual budget for next fiscal year. If you would like more information on the city's budget or budget process, please plan on attending the two budget hearings during City Commission meetings **Wednesday, September 10 and 24, at 5 p.m.**, in City Hall Commission Chambers, located at 401 S. Park Ave. We encourage you to share comments about the proposed budget and millage rates before final adoption.

More extensive information regarding the city's proposed FY2025-2026 budget including program budgets for each function of the city, a 5-year capital improvement plan, and 10-year proformas for all major funds, is accessible at [cityofwinterpark.org/departments](http://cityofwinterpark.org/departments) > **Management & Budget**.

Sincerely,

Randy B. Knight, City Manager

# Join us for CoffeeTalk

Please join your city leaders for a robust cup of informal and casual conversation (and hot coffee) at this year's CoffeeTalk series.

## brewing schedule

Thursdays | 8:30-9:30 a.m.

City Hall Commission Chambers  
@ 401 S. Park Ave.

### SEP 04

Vice Mayor Marty Sullivan

### OCT 02

Commissioner Craig Russell

### NOV 06

Commissioner Kris Cruzada

### DEC 04

Commissioner Warren Lindsey

### JAN 08 2026

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

Unable to join in person? Virtual link access will be available approximately one week prior to each gathering at [cityofwinterpark.org/meetings](http://cityofwinterpark.org/meetings).

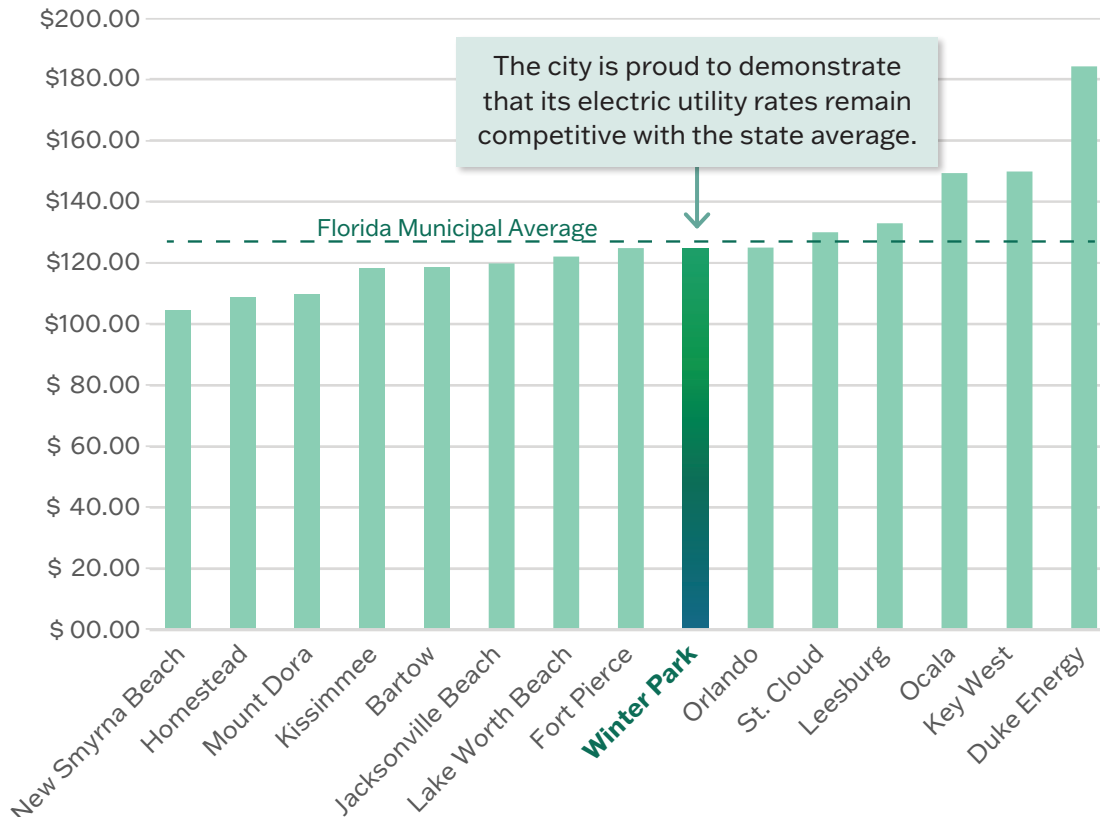
For more CoffeeTalk information, please contact **407-599-3428** or [choward@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org).

special thanks to our coffee provider



# 1,000 kWh Residential Bill Comparison: June 2025

Florida municipal utilities with customer counts between 5,000 and 100,000 with the addition of neighboring utilities Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) and Duke Energy® Florida



The city is proud to demonstrate that its electric utility rates remain competitive with the state average.

## PLEASE NOTE

As part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, there is a proposed rate increase which would be the first rate increase in the non-fuel component of the electric bill since 2019. This is the portion of the bill that covers all costs of maintaining the system, paying the debt service, and funding the cost of capital projects such as undergrounding.

## quick TIP

### ATTN: Utility customers with Capital One debit cards

Due to the 2025 acquisition of Discover Financial Services, Capital One® is replacing approximately 10 million Mastercard® debit cards with Discover® cards. The issuance of the new Discover credit cards will continue in stages through the first quarter of 2026.

Customers who pay their utility bill online using Paymentus® and currently use a Capital One Mastercard debit card in their Wallet or AutoPay will need to update their payment method if Capital One notifies them of a card transition. Once you receive your new Discover debit card, you must replace your old card information in Paymentus. If your Wallet or AutoPay settings are not updated, future payments will fail.

**questions & concerns** | Mon-Fri » 8 a.m.-midnight ET | Sat & Sun » 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET  
[customercare@paymentus.com](mailto:customercare@paymentus.com) | 1-800-420-1663

# WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMERS



RECEIVE A FREE RESIDENTIAL

## Home Energy Use Audit+ Energy Efficiency Kit + Solar Feasibility Report

### 1 schedule

prior to making improvements or adding solar PV system

### 2 determine

how much energy your home uses & loses

### 3 identify

energy conservation measures to improve energy efficiency

[cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation](http://cityofwinterpark.org/energyconservation) | [sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)



SAVING ENERGY SAVES YOU MONEY



## Fast changing traffic signals

Occasionally, drivers may experience traffic signals changing quickly from red to green or green to red – specifically near railroad crossings. These traffic signals are interconnected with the technology that allows “preemption,” which temporarily alters the normal sequence of traffic signal operation when a train approaches.

This is to ensure clear paths for trains and allows vehicles to clear the crossing to prevent collision and alleviate traffic backups. At the same time, the cross streets will experience sudden green to red changes until vehicles are cleared from the tracks. This could happen twice within seconds if trains are approaching in opposite directions. Once the vehicles have cleared, the signal facing the tracks turns red, preventing further vehicles from entering the crossing. You may not be able to see the back up of vehicles from your particular light, but when it changes quickly, it indicates there are vehicles that need to be cleared at an adjacent light and railroad crossing. This ensures the safe passing of a train at that intersection.



### intersections with preemptive traffic signals

- Webster @ Pennsylvania avenues
- Morse Boulevard @ Park Avenue
- New York @ Fairbanks avenues
- Pennsylvania @ Fairbanks avenues
- U.S. Highway 17-92 @ Orange Avenue

Safe travels out there!

## martin luther king, jr. park project update

In July, the city’s Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Parks & Recreation Department, in partnership with the MLK/Shady Park Planning Committee, dedicated the city’s new Unity Corner located in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The ceremony included the unveiling of “Ripple,” a larger-than-life-size bronze statue of Dr. King. In addition to remarks from city and community leaders as well as sculpture artist Andrew Luy, the ceremony also featured entertainment including vocalist Maria O. Bryant and historic dramatization performer J. Henry.



*Ripple* is a monumental sculpture installation honoring one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The vision behind *Ripple* is explained as a visual testament to Dr. King’s teachings of nonviolent protest, social equality, and the enduring ripples of his impact on the world.



Inspired by the idea that a single drop of water, or a single voice, can create ever-widening waves of change, *Ripple* embodies the continuation of the profound echoes of Dr. King’s legacy. The installation’s curved seating and his sculpted pose, with his outstretched right hand, recall the gestures he often made while speaking – gestures of blessing, acknowledgment, and calm authority. In his left hand he holds a book, symbolizing faith, knowledge, wisdom, and the ideals that guided him. *Ripple* welcomes all and serves as a new space for hope, healing and unity.

make a  
**POSITIVE IMPACT**  
**HELP TRANSFORM**  
your city



### have you thought any of these...

Are you looking to make a positive impact in your city?  
Do you want to become more involved and engaged?  
Would you like enhancements in your neighborhood?  
Is there something that you wish you could change?  
If you answered yes [or even maybe] to any of these questions, find out which city board is best for you.

Applications are accepted year round and will be kept on file for upcoming vacancies.

### current openings

- Civil Service Board
- Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board
- Lakes & Waterways Board
- Utilities Advisory Board
- Winter Park Firefighters' Pension Board

» Submit your application by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/board-app](http://cityofwinterpark.org/board-app).

## Harbor Dawn

by Jeannette Genius McKean



- » oil painting 1964
- » McKean was a painter, interior designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany glass collector, founder of the The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art and benefactor of Rollins College.

public art  
collection  
CITY of WINTER PARK

## Winter Walk

by Tom Parker



- » pastel 1981
- » A soothing pastel of two people walking through the countryside featuring subtle but colorful hues of a chilly winter landscape.

To view these pieces in person, please visit the Winter Park History Museum, located at 200 W. New England Ave., and their latest exhibit, *Echoes of Expression – The History of Arts & Culture in Winter Park*, where both works are on loan.

To view the complete online Public Art Collection, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/public-art](http://cityofwinterpark.org/public-art).

City Hall  
**CLOSED**

## Thanksgiving

Thu&Fri **NOV 27&28**

Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!

**please note** there will be no Waste Pro® services on Thanksgiving Day. All services will resume the following regular pick up day.

WINTER PARK  
**arts**  
WEEKEND  
a tapestry of  
experiences

hosted by winter park arts & culture alliance

2026 **February 5-8**

concerts | performances  
interactive activities & more

[wpinspires.org/artswweekend](http://wpinspires.org/artswweekend)



**FIX IT!**

**DON'T Pitch It**

saturday

**09.06.2025**

**9 a.m. to noon**

winter park community center  
@ 721 w. new england ave.

a community repair workshop for

repairing small appliances, electronics,  
bicycles, jewelry, eye glasses &  
watches, and mending clothes

services subject to change • please call for a complete list  
first come, first served basis • limit two items per person

to volunteer your time & talents

please contact **407-599-3479** or  
**sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org**



**Electric Avenue**  
**EV CAR SHOW**

saturday

**September 27**  
**9 to 11 a.m.**

  
Park Avenue  
& Central Park  
150 W. Morse Blvd.

featuring electric vehicles + sustainable booths  
great raffles + DJ + kids zone

**got an EV?** [limited spaces available]

To display your electric vehicle, contact  
**sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org**



It's time to fall back  
**Sunday 11.02.25**  
Daylight Saving Time ends

- » Set your **clocks** back one hour Saturday night.
- » Change the **batteries** in your smoke detectors.
- » Adjust **irrigation** to one day per week.

## Large silver poles on Park Avenue

If you have driven onto Park Avenue from Fairbanks or Webster avenues, you may have noticed two very large shiny silver poles greeting you at each entrance. Not to worry ~ charm is on its way!

At the time of writing, the silver poles on the north end (by Webster Avenue) were scheduled to be transformed into a beautiful historic gateway sign towards the end of August. Then in late September, the same will happen to the poles located on the south end (by Fairbanks Avenue).

These two new gateways are designed to honor downtown Winter Park's heritage and historic significance. In 2011, the Downtown Winter Park Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of historically significant sites and properties throughout the country.

The historic gateways were made possible by funding from Winter Park's Community Redevelopment Agency along with donors Rick Baldwin, Jim & Diana Barnes, Mike & Gail Winn, The Allan E. & Linda S. Keen Family, Larry & Joy Williams Private Foundation, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation, and Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. Thank you all for your generous contributions!



rendering



# OCTOBER 4

first saturday 7:30 to 10 a.m.

Lake Island @  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park  
255 S. Denning Drive

FAMILY  
FISHING  
EVENT  
2025

snacks | giveaways  
raffle | fun & more

FREE bait & poles ARE PROVIDED

more info @ 407.599.3463 or [jmiller@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:jmiller@cityofwinterpark.org)

## Charge fast at city's new mobility hub



The city's Natural Resources & Sustainability Department, city officials, and community partners celebrated the energizing of Winter Park's first official mobility hub. This public/private partnership features seven fast chargers from a collaboration with ChargePoint®, Optimus Energy Solutions and GM Energy.

Located at the corner of New York Avenue and Morse Boulevard, the hub offers residents and guests:

- the ability to fully charge any EV
- a designated rideshare pickup/drop off location
- chargers for eScooters & eBikes [coming soon]

Shop, dine and recharge in Winter Park!



savethesedates

### Saturday, October 18

**who** Pumpkin Party  
**when** 10 a.m. to noon  
**where** Seven Oaks Park  
@ 1150 N. Orange Ave.  
**info** [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

### Saturday, October 25

**who** Halloween Trunk Fest  
**when** 6-9 p.m.  
**where** Martin Luther King, Jr. Park  
Field 3 @ 448 Harper Street  
**info** [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

### Wednesday, October 29

**who** Great American Big Band  
**when** 7:30 p.m.  
**where** Central Park Main Stage  
**info** [kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kbaker@cityofwinterpark.org)

### Thursday, November 6 or 13 Friday, November 7 or 14

**what** Fall Cleanup  
**when** after 5 p.m. the evening before your 2nd regularly scheduled trash pickup day  
**where** north of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor {nov 6 or 7}  
south of Fairbanks/Aloma avenues corridor {nov 13 or 14}  
**info** 407-774-0800

### Saturday, November 8

**who** Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff  
**when** 8 a.m. to noon  
**where** Cady Way Park @ 2535 Cady Way  
**info** [sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org)

more info [cityofwinterpark.org/events](http://cityofwinterpark.org/events)

## Honoring our veterans

The City of Winter Park will host its **15th Annual Veterans Day Celebration, Friday, November 7, at 10 a.m.** This event will be held at the Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheater adjacent to Shady Park located at 721 W. New England Ave. All veterans that have served in any military campaign or branch in honor of our nation's freedom and their families are invited to attend for our community to pay tribute to their dedicated service to our country.



At 9:30 a.m., the public is invited to visit with organizations that offer resources specifically for veteran needs as the VFW Post 2093 Community Band entertains guests. At 10 a.m., the official program will begin with musical tributes, anecdotal speakers, presentations of Quilts of Valor, and recognition of veterans according to the various military branches served.

For more information regarding the Veterans Day Celebration, please contact **407-599-3506**.

## Wreaths Across America

The Parks & Recreation Department Cemeteries Division manages and operates the two city-owned cemeteries – Palm and Pineywood – for the benefit of Winter Park residents. Another way the city honors and remembers our veteran loved ones that have passed is by participating in a program called Wreaths Across America, in partnership with William P. Duval, NSDAR of Winter Park.



For the eighth year in a row, a Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place in the veterans' sections of both cemeteries **Saturday, December 13, at noon**, rain or shine. Following the ceremony, wreaths will be placed on the veterans' markers to honor those who served.

If you or your family would like to contribute one or more wreath, please access your preferred cemetery via the following web links to **donate by Tuesday, December 2:**

**Palm Cemetery @**  
[bit.ly/PalmWreaths](https://bit.ly/PalmWreaths)

**Pineywood Cemetery @**  
[bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths](https://bit.ly/PineywoodWreaths)

For more information about the program, please access [wreathscrossamerica.org](https://wreathscrossamerica.org). Thank you for your support of our veterans and this honorable recognition ceremony!

## Happy Birthday, America!

The city looks forward to proudly celebrating the American Semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In honor of this historic moment in time, America's 250th birthday, Winter Park will celebrate with various events and initiatives throughout the city in 2026. A dedicated committee with representatives from city staff, Arts & Culture Alliance, Daughters of the American Revolution, Park Avenue District, Rollins College, Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and Winter Park Youth City Council has been formed to plan and coordinate the celebrations.



Although details and logistics for many events are still in the works, the following events will be included in the Winter Park Celebrates America 250 initiative:

**Saturday, March 7 | 9 a.m.**  
St. Patrick's Day Parade Float  
"Happy Birthday America"

**May | June | July**  
Dress the City in Red, White & Blue featuring patriotic veteran banners and colorful landscaping

**Saturday, May 23 | 10 to 11 a.m.**  
Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony & Historic Tribute

**Friday, July 3 | 6 to 9 p.m.**  
31st Annual 4th of July Celebration featuring a patriotic tribute & birthday cake

Find the city's America 250 event details by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/america-250](https://cityofwinterpark.org/america-250). We look forward to celebrating with you!

# Have you seen City Hall's new addition?



In early August, a large, full-color city seal was installed outside City Hall, proudly perched overlooking those traveling south on Park Avenue. It is an official "seal of approval" on a historic landmark in the

heart of downtown Winter Park. Stop by and see it in person!

## March 2026 Election Information

### Commission Seat 1 & Commission Seat 2 qualifications

- » Candidates must be a qualified elector **AND** reside within Winter Park city limits [per City Charter].
- » Candidates may download pre-qualification documents and candidate packets by accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/elections](http://cityofwinterpark.org/elections).

### qualifying

- » **opens** Monday 12.01.25 @ noon
- » **ends** Monday 12.08.25 @ noon

### general election

- » Tuesday 03.10.26

### run-off election [if necessary]

- » Tuesday 04.14.26

# hurricane information

## MOST USED COMMUNICATION TOOLS

- [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency)  
all hurricane-related information & updates will be posted here

- [cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews](http://cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews)  
subscribe to Emergency Information & receive hurricane info via email

- [cityofwinterpark.org/outreach](http://cityofwinterpark.org/outreach)  
city's emergency alert system [sign up to receive a phone call, text or email]

- [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo](https://facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo)

- [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com)  
sign up with your address for neighborhood-specific info

- [@WinterParkFla](https://x.com/WinterParkFla)

### HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

- [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency)
- Hard copies available @ City Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Facility & Winter Park Library

### REPORT OUTAGES

- Electric Utility Department  
1-877-811-8700
- Water & Wastewater Utilities Department  
407-599-3219

### EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER [once activated]

- Non-emergency Info Line  
407-599-3494
- Message Center Info Email  
[MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org)

PRSR STD  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORLANDO FL  
ACG



401 South Park Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789

# city commission



left to  
right

Commissioner Craig Russell, Commissioner Marty Sullivan,  
Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioner Kris Cruzada and  
Commissioner Warren Lindsey

City Commission meetings are held monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays.



# who to contact

## commission & administration

City Commission	407-599-3234
City Manager   Randy Knight	407-599-3235
Assistant City Manager   Michelle del Valle	407-599-3236
City Clerk   Rene Cranis	407-599-3277
City Information	407-599-3399
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	407-644-1212
Police Non-Emergency	407-644-1313

## department directors

Building & Permitting Services   Gary Hiatt	407-599-3237
Communications   Clarissa Howard	407-599-3343
Electric Utility   Jamie England	407-599-3294
Finance   Wes Hamil	407-599-3292
Fire-Rescue   Chief Dan Hagedorn	407-599-3297
Human Resources   Pam Russell	407-599-3227
Information Technology   Parsram Rajaram	407-599-3432
Management & Budget   Peter Moore	407-599-3567
Natural Resources & Sustainability   Gloria Eby	407-599-3471
Parks & Recreation   Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Zoning   Allison McGillis	407-599-3665
Police   Chief Tim Volkerson	407-599-3272
Public Works & Transportation   Charles Ramdatt	407-599-3233
Water & Wastewater Utilities   David Zusi	407-599-3219

Access email addresses at [cityofwinterpark.org/contact](http://cityofwinterpark.org/contact)

## power & streetlight outages

1-877-811-8700

Article ideas | [choward@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org) or 407-599-3343

The Winter Park *Update* is published quarterly with a circulation of approximately 16,500, which includes residents and businesses.

City of Winter Park | 401 S. Park Ave. | Winter Park, FL 32789



# Utilities Advisory Board

# agenda item 6.d

**item type**

Staff Updates

**meeting date**

September 23, 2025

**prepared by****approved by**

Jamie England, Director of Electric Utility

**subject**

September Utility Bill Insert

**motion | recommendation****background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. 8.5x11utility-2025-october bill insert

# info & updates

October utility bill insert



## Historic Gateways

On August 25, the City of Winter Park and community partners celebrated the official dedication of the first of two newly installed historic gateways to downtown Winter Park. The second gateway was installed on the south end of Park Avenue in late September. These two gateways were designed to honor downtown Winter Park's heritage and historic significance. In 2011, the Downtown Winter Park Historic District, was added to the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of historically significant sites and properties throughout the country.

These gateways were made possible by funding from the Community Redevelopment Agency and the following generous donors:

- Rick Baldwin
- Jim & Diana Barnes
- Mike & Gail Winn
- The Allan E. & Linda S. Keen Family
- Larry & Joy Williams Private Foundation
- Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation
- Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation
- Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation



## Learn CPR & save a life

scan or access  
wpfd.org/  
classes



registration required  
\$50 per person

questions &  
more info  
rmattingly@  
cityofwinterpark.org

## Coffee Talks 2025

Join your city leaders for informal and casual conversation (and hot coffee). Virtual link access will be available approximately one week prior to each gathering at [cityofwinterpark.org/meetings](http://cityofwinterpark.org/meetings).



**brewing** Thursdays | 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
Commission Chambers  
@ 401 S. Park Ave.

**NOV 06** Commissioner  
Kris Cruzada

**DEC 04** Commissioner  
Warren Lindsey

**JAN 08 2026** Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

special thanks to  
our coffee provider



for updates on upcoming things to enjoy, please access  
[cityofwinterpark.org/events](http://cityofwinterpark.org/events)



please  
note

## City Hall CLOSED

thursday & friday  
**NOV 27 & 28**

in observance of  
**Thanksgiving**

There will be no Waste Pro® pick up Thanksgiving Day.



# HHWD+

household hazardous waste dropoff

Saturday **November 8** 2025  
**8 a.m. to noon**  
**Cady Way Park @ 2535 Cady Way**

- household items** [service provided by Waste Pro\*]
- » fertilizers & pesticides
  - » household chemicals
  - » paint thinners
  - » oil-based paint [wet or dry]
  - » wet latex paint [dried can be disposed of with your regular household trash]
  - » non-alkaline batteries [regular alkaline batteries can be disposed of in your regular household trash]
  - » antifreeze
  - » tires [4 max.]
  - » pool chemicals
  - » propane tanks
  - » gasoline
  - » used engine oil

- e-waste** [service provided by Urban E Recycling]
- » computers
  - » DVD players
  - » televisions
  - » CD players
  - » VCRs
  - » stereos
  - » FAX machines

- textiles** [service provided by American Textile Recycling Service]
- » clothing
  - » home textiles [towels | bed linens | curtains | small accent rugs | decorative pillows]
  - » purses
  - » belts
  - » hats
  - » shoes

## RESIDENTIAL ONLY. NO CONTRACTORS.

- helpful tips**
- » Bring proof of city residency. [driver's license or utility bill statement]
  - » Keep all hazardous waste materials in original containers with original labeling. [unknown items will NOT be accepted]
  - » This drop off is residential only. No contractors, please.
  - » Drugs & prescription meds go to the Public Safety Facility. [ @ 500 N. Virginia Ave. | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Monday through Friday ]

**sustainability**  
 division

questions & info @ **407-599-3479**  
[cityofwinterpark.org/hhwd](http://cityofwinterpark.org/hhwd)

## Honoring our veterans

The City of Winter Park will host its 15th Annual Veterans Day Celebration, **Friday, November 7, at 10 a.m.** This event will be held at the Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheater adjacent to Shady Park, located at 721 W. New England Ave.



All veterans that have served in any military campaign or branch in honor of our nation's freedom and their families are invited to attend for our community to pay tribute to their dedicated service to our country. At 9:30 a.m., the public is invited to visit with organizations that offer resources specifically for veteran needs as the VFW Post 2093 Community Band entertains guests.

At 10 a.m., the official program will begin with musical tributes, anecdotal speakers, presentations of Quilts of Valor, and recognition of veterans according to the various military branches served. For more information regarding the Veterans Day Celebration, please contact **407-599-3506**.

**12:25 PM** by Matthew Cornell

- » pastel drawing | 2003
- » cross country family road trips cultivated a fascination with the power of nature and dramatic extremes of weather.
- » a series of large blurred tornado images as well as small storm pastels are titled mostly by the time of day.
- » for his landscape vistas, time is at a standstill, halted at the moment when the artist witnessed – or in most instances, imagined – them.

*public art*  
 collection  
 CITY OF WINTER PARK

to view the complete online Public Art Collection, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/public-art](http://cityofwinterpark.org/public-art).