



# INSIDER

FEBRUARY | 2023 | VOLUME 188

## Avoid missing your due date – enroll in E-billing!

### Contact Our Customer Care Team

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please call our customer care team at 407-327-5996 to learn more about the available options.



## Never Miss A Commission Meeting

### Tune In To live Audio

Residents can listen to live audio recording of City Commission Meetings. Visit [WinterSpringsFL.org/meetings](http://WinterSpringsFL.org/meetings) to view the full agenda, as well as listen to previous meeting recordings.



## News and Information

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT! MEET JASON, UTILITIES FOREMAN



Meet Jason Simpkins, City of Winter Springs Utilities Foreman. Jason has been employed with the City for 25 years and is also a longtime Winter Springs resident. Born and raised in Winter Springs, Jason and his wife were high school sweethearts and now enjoy being parents to three kids.

Jason began his career with the City in the Parks Department, where he managed a team to maintain our beautiful sports fields; eventually, he moved to Public Works and Utilities Department, where he became a Utilities Foreman. Jason is a valuable asset to the City due to his wealth of knowledge and experience.

**Read our employee spotlight article by clicking the button below.**

[EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE](#)

### SHOE RECYCLING

Seminole County residents may now drop-off gently worn shoes at the Central Transfer Station (1950 FL-419, Longwood. Open Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) to be collected by Recycle Shoe Project, a social enterprise that upcycles shoes to benefit those in developing countries who need them.

Recycle Shoe Project delivers collected shoes to microbusinesses in developing countries around the world, preventing soil-transmitting infections onto bare feet and keeping shoes that are no longer needed out of the landfill, where they could take decades to decompose. Recycle Shoe Project also gives back 50¢ for every pound of shoes recycled to the Seminole County Solid Waste Division, offsetting operating costs for residents. Any style or size of shoes are accepted.

### CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY BY PLANTING A FREE TREE



Winter Springs Incorporated residents may register online to receive a free tree delivered to their home Arbor Day weekend (end of April). Online registration will be open from February 13, 2023, until March 20, 2023. Each tree will come with an informational care guide. Limit one tree per household.

[View the award ceremony by clicking the button below:](#)

### AL HASLAM RECIEVES 2022 HOMETOWN HERO AWARD



Winter Springs City Commission awarded Al Haslam the 2022 Hometown Hero Award for his outstanding service to our nation as a Marine Corps Sergeant E-5 during the Vietnam War and his continued efforts to support veterans today. Al and his golden retriever, Bailey, support veterans with positive action training, helping veterans with physical and mental challenges. Al and Bailey were unanimously selected to receive this award by the 2022 City Commission. Thank you, Al, for your dedication to our local community veterans.

A special thank you to Winter Springs Highschool JROTC and All-State Chorus Student Katelyn McInturff for their presentation of colors and singing the national anthem.

**View the award ceremony by clicking the button below:**

[2022 HOMETOWN HERO AWARD](#)

### SENIOR INDEPENDENCE MONTH

February is National Senior Independence Month! This month is all about highlighting ways our elderly community can stay healthy, engaged, and live full independent lives. A great resource for seniors in our community is the Winter Springs Senior Center. Located at 400 N. Edgemon Ave., our community center for seniors offers an opportunity to connect with others and a variety of programs and activities from art, exercise, and games each day! Located inside of the Winter Springs Senior Center, the Therapy Pool offers aquatic therapy classes. This therapy utilizes low-impact aerobic exercise to strengthen the muscles without undue stress on the joints.



**Visit our website for more information about the Winter Springs Senior Center.**

[WINTER SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER](#)

## Winter Springs Police Department

### FEBRUARY SAFETY TIP: AVOID TAX AND IRS SCAMS

**We have entered the tax season once again, which can be an active and lucrative time for scammers.**

Below are some common scams to look out for:

**We recalculated your tax refund and you need to fill out this form'**

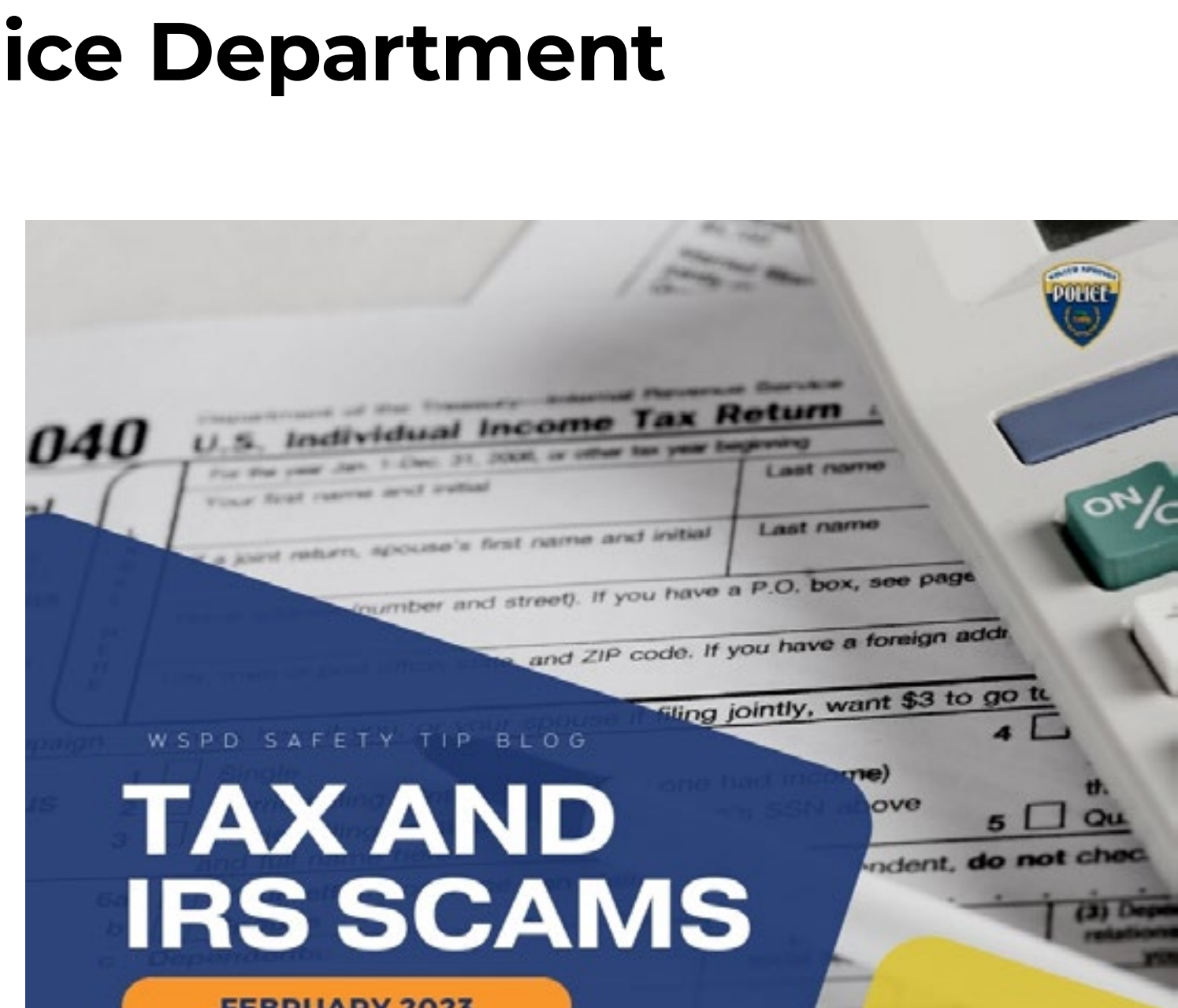
These scam emails display the IRS logo and use subject lines such as "Tax Refund Payment" or "Recalculation of your tax refund payment." It asks people to click a link and provide their Social Security numbers, birthday, address, driver's license number and other personal information in order to submit a fake form to allegedly claim their refund. These scammers may also sometimes use a ".edu" email address to target college students.

**We're calling from the FDIC and we need your bank information'**

The Federal Depository Insurance Corporation insures bank deposits so that consumers won't lose all of their money if a bank fails. But it does not send unsolicited correspondence asking for money, sensitive personal information, bank account information, credit and debit card numbers, Social Security numbers or passwords. Scammers claiming to be from the FDIC are hunting for information they can use to commit fraud or sell identities.

**Read the full safety tip by clicking the button below.**

[FEBRUARY SAFETY TIP BLOG](#)



### WISHING A HAPPY RETIREMENT TO SGT. ALLISON SMITH



On Monday, January 23, 2023, Winter Springs City Commission and Chief Tracht acknowledged the retirement of Sgt. Allison Smith from the Winter Springs Police Department after 26 years of dedicated and loyal service to our community.

Allison was presented with her retired badge, gun box, a uniform with all her accolades, and the flag that flew outside the police station. Sgt. Smith has been monumental in building our Community Relations Division and growing the communications center. Sgt. Smith has been instrumental in keeping Winter Springs a safe community.

**View the ceremony by clicking the button below.**

[SGT. SMITH RETIREMENT CEREMONY](#)

### JOIN CITIZENS ON PATROL

The Citizens on Patrol program is a roving neighborhood watch that works with patrol officers to identify and report suspicious activities. Citizens on Patrol perform house checks, assist with traffic control, and support special events. Please note participants of this program are not police officers. Flexible schedules are available, and only a minimum of only 12 hours per month is required to participate in this program. All necessary equipment and uniforms will be provided. The program is available to incorporated Winter Springs residents only.

**If you have any questions, please contact Community Relations Officer Thomas Ballew at 407-327-6652 or [tballew@winterspringsfl.org](mailto:tballew@winterspringsfl.org).**



Help the Winter Springs Police Department: Report suspicious activity | Protect your property | LOCK IT OR LOSE IT Emergency 911 Non-Emergency (407) 327-1000

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DON'T MISS A THING

01

### City Host Big Red Bus

February 14, 2023  
10am- 3pm  
City Hall

Show love to your local community by visiting City Hall on Valentine's Day between 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM to donate blood.



02

### Babe Ruth Opening Day

Saturday, February 18, 2023  
9 am- 11 am  
Central Winds Park

Play Ball! Opening day is a cherished tradition in Winter Springs. Celebrate teamwork, dedication, & sportsmanship with us at Central Winds Park.

03

### Egg-Citing Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 8, 2023  
9 am- 12 pm  
Central Winds Park

Join us for a park-wide Spring egg hunt! Children ages 2 – 12 bring their own baskets and hunt for eggs at Central Winds Park! Fun and prizes for everyone!



[CITY CALENDAR](#)

## SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center is a fun and safe gathering place for members of our community ages 55 and up. The Senior Center offers a variety of programs and other unique opportunities for seniors to connect with each other! For more information on the activity schedule click the button below.

**Address: 400 N. Edgemon Ave Winter Springs, FL 32708**

[VIEW ACTIVITY SCHEDULE](#)



Follow us!



Meet Your Commission

[MAYOR AND COMMISSION](#)