

# INSIDER

DECEMBER | 2023 | VOLUME 198

## House Check Request

### WSPD House Check Request

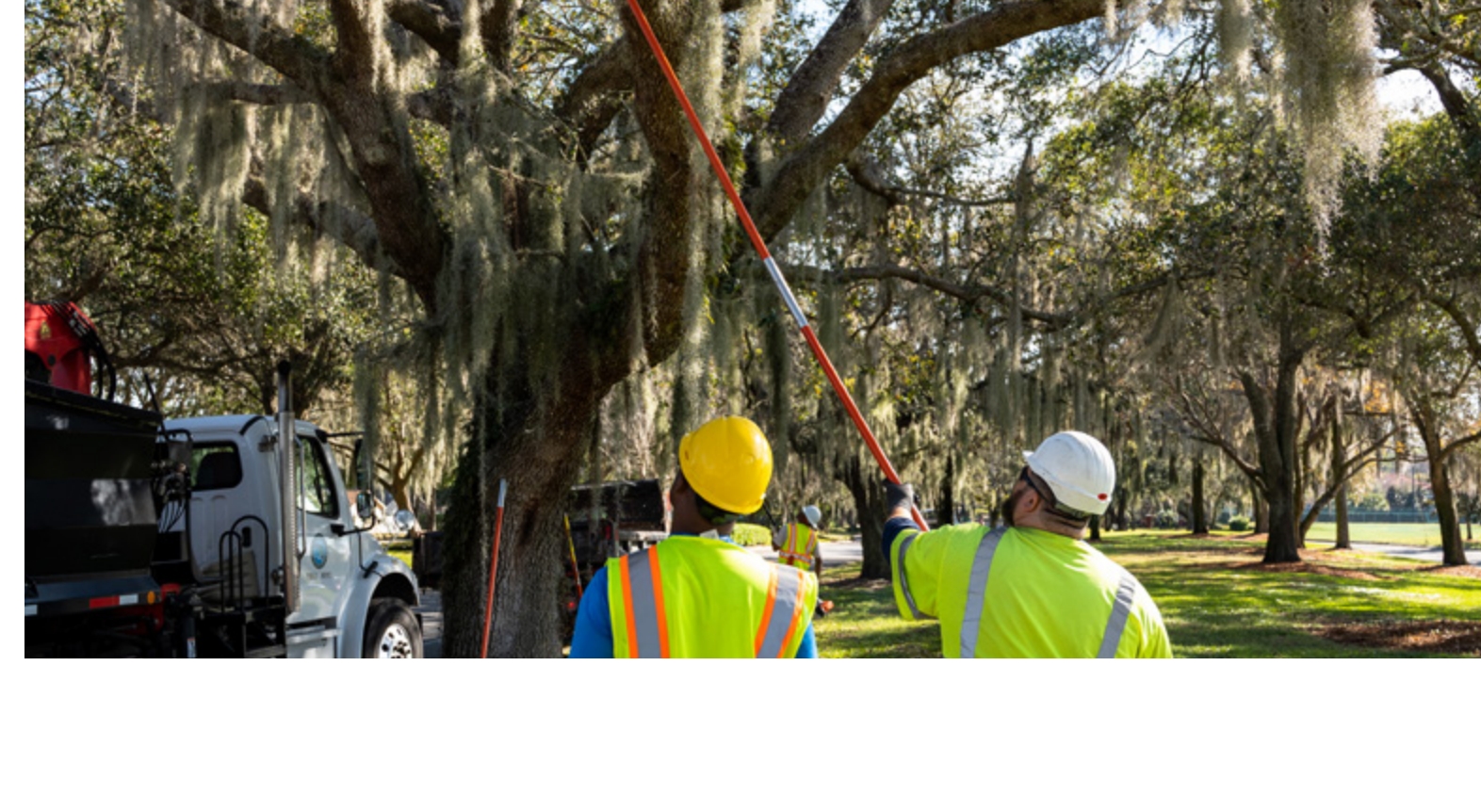
Going out of town soon? Fill out the House Check Request Form to request an officer to stop by and check on your home while you're away.



## Employment Opportunities

### Join our amazing team!

The City of Winter Springs is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To view our current vacancies please visit [www.winterspringsfl.org](http://www.winterspringsfl.org) or click the image below.



## News and Information

### 41ST WINTER WONDERLAND, PRESENTED BY ADVENT HEALTH



Experience the longest-running tradition in Winter Springs, the 41st Annual Winter Wonderland presented by Advent Health. We invite you to join us for the Winter Wonderland Parade on December 2, from 4 PM to 8 PM, at the Winter Springs Town Center. This event promises a delightful kickstart to the holiday season, filled with joy and community spirit.

Experience the magic of our 41st annual Christmas Holiday Parade, where local businesses, community organizations, and first responders come together in a merry procession of festive floats.

After the parade, stick around for our fantastic community vendors and delicious food trucks. Attendees are encouraged to take a free holiday photo with Santa Claus himself. As the sun sets, we'll gather for a heartwarming moment—the lighting of our holiday tree with Winter Springs Mayor McCann and City Commissioners. Picture the glow and warmth spreading through the night, embodying the spirit of the season.



**Please bring your family, friends, and a dash of holiday cheer as we celebrate the joyous traditions that make this season memorable! For more information click the button below.**



### 2024 HIGHLAND GAMES

We invite you to partake in the cultural richness of Scotland at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, a prominent community event in Seminole County. Organized annually by the Scottish-American Society of Central Florida, this two-day celebration, taking place on January 13-14, 2024, at Central Winds Park in Winter Springs, is meticulously designed to promote and preserve the vibrant heritage of Scotland.

Immerse yourself in a spectrum of traditional competitions, from Scottish heavy athletics and Highland dance to bagging and a baking competition that promises to tantalize your taste buds. Engage in diverse cultural activities, including Border Collie demonstrations, medieval camp setups, Scottish clans, musical performances, and the intriguing art of ax throwing. The festival also features the Boulder Boogie Challenge, where participants vie to carry the heaviest stone the greatest distance without faltering—an actual test of endurance. For families, there's a non-competitive "Kids Games" version of Scottish athletics and an array of activities designed to captivate the younger attendees. Delight your palate with Scottish and Celtic-inspired cuisine, including fish-n-chips, scotch-egg, and haggis tacos. Connoisseurs can partake in a whiskey tasting featuring rare and unique selections. The day concludes with the Ceilidh (Scottish Gathering), where you can revel in the tunes of multiple Celtic rock bands, all included with your admission.



**Mark your calendars as tickets go on sale December 1, 2023. For further details, visit [Flascom.com/tickets](http://Flascom.com/tickets).**

### ORLANDO HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Embrace the festive spirit by exploring our GIS Holiday Lights and Events map. This interactive guide highlights some of the area's renowned community light displays and holiday events. Whether you're seeking dazzling decorations or family-friendly festivities, you'll discover the best seasonal attractions in your area. Dive into the map and let the holiday cheer light up your experience!



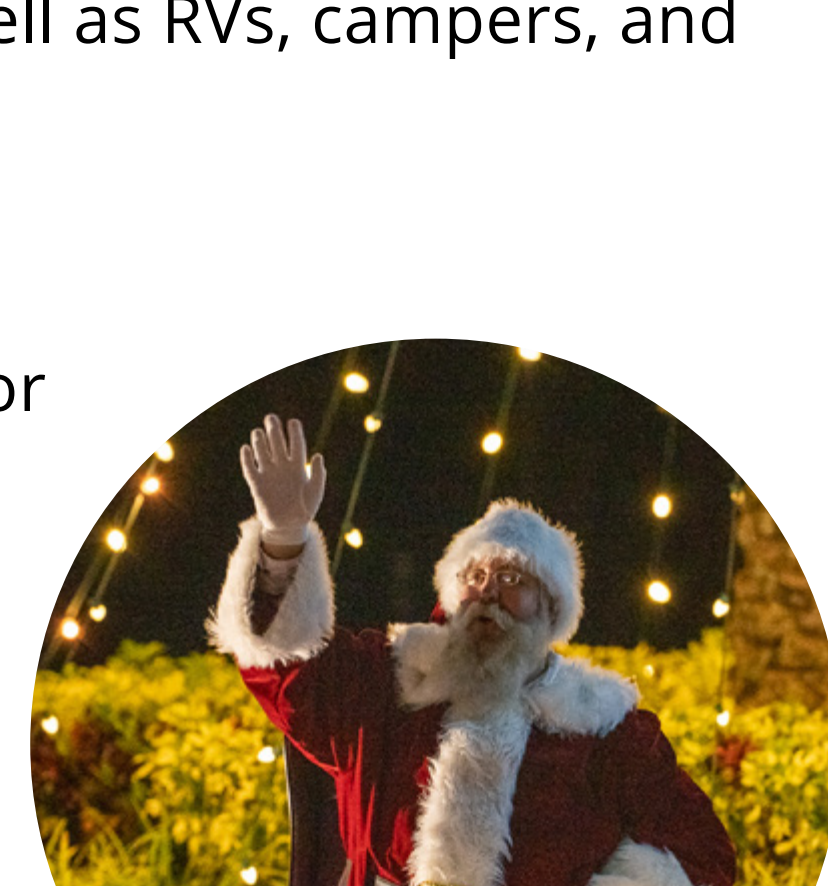
### LIGHT UP CENTRAL WINDS!



**Drive-Thru**  
Experience the magic of the season at 'Light Up Central Winds'! Join us for a winter wonderland tradition as you drive through Central Winds Park and immerse yourself in the enchanting holiday light tunnels on December 8, 9, 10, 15, and 17, from 7 to 9 PM. Motorists are encouraged to use the Tuskawilla Road entrance in the Winter Springs Town Center.

Restrictions on Vehicles: Entry into the light tunnels is prohibited for vehicles exceeding a height of 12 feet, as well as RVs, campers, and buses.

**Walk-Thru**  
Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 16, 2023, when Central Winds Park transforms into a captivating walk-through wonderland from 5 to 9 PM. This exclusive one-night event includes an opportunity to meet Santa, indulge in delicious food from food trucks, and enjoy a movie under the stars in the park. Take advantage of this unforgettable holiday experience!



### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Dominic Hing, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator for the City of Winter Springs. A UCF graduate, Dominic is responsible for informing residents and the public about city news, programs, and events using the City's Social media accounts, website, and more! His love for photography and digital media makes Dominic a valuable member of the City's Communications team and an asset to several City departments.

**To learn more about Dominic and other exceptional staff members, visit our Employee Spotlights page by clicking the button below.**



### CITY OFFICES CLOSURES

City hall, offices, and facilities will be closed on December 22 and 25, 2023, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Normal business operations will resume on Tuesday, December 26, at 8 AM.

Household garbage, yard trash, and recycling collection services will not be provided on Christmas Day by WastePro. Regular collection services will resume on the next regularly scheduled collection day.

Additionally, City Offices will also be closed on December 29, 2023, and New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024. Normal Business hours will resume Tuesday, January 2, at 8 AM.

Household garbage, yard trash, and recycling collection services will not be provided on New Year's Day by WastePro. Regular collection services will resume on the next regularly scheduled collection day.

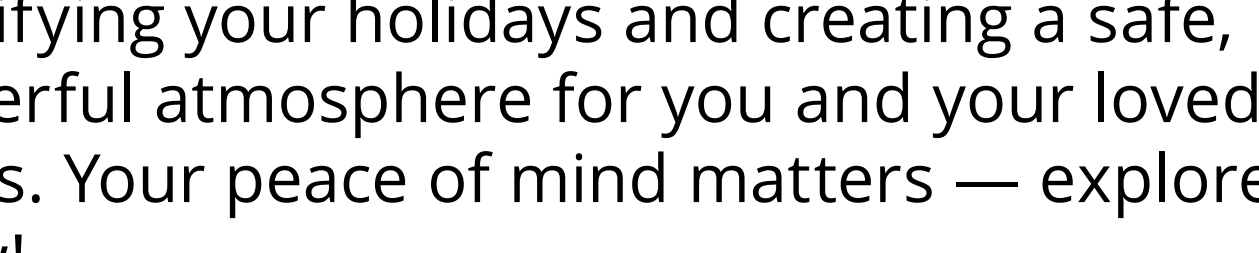
## Winter Springs Police Department

### DECEMBER SAFETY TIP: REDUCING CRIMINAL OPPORTUNITIES

Enhance your holiday season with safety and security! Discover expert tips from the Winter Springs Police Department to safeguard your home and shopping experiences. Learn how to make your home less appealing to burglars through simple yet effective measures, including lighting strategies, neighborhood cooperation, and prudent social media practices.

In the unfortunate event of a burglary, follow crucial steps for your safety. Uncover innovative shopping practices to protect against theft and fraud. From securing valuables to disposing of medications responsibly, these tips ensure a festive season filled with joy, free from worries. If, despite taking these suggested precautions, you discover your home has been burglarized, leave your residence and call the police at 9-1-1 or (407) 327-1000 from a safe location. Stay outside your house until it has been searched and is known to be safe for your entry.

Visit our blog for a comprehensive guide on fortifying your holidays and creating a safe, cheerful atmosphere for you and your loved ones. Your peace of mind matters — explore now!



### SANTA'S CITY RUN

Santa is coming to town!

Each year, Santa is escorted the City each night by the Winter Springs Police Department, spreading holiday cheer and handing out candy to the children and families who come outside to wave to him.

Santa will visit a different city area from December 4 through 8, from 5 PM to 8 PM. Watch for the police sirens and flashing lights as they cruise through each neighborhood. Information on routes and locations can be found on our website by clicking the button below.



### WSPD ACCREDITATION

The Winter Springs Police Department will conduct a compliance assessment as part of its law enforcement accreditation from December 5- 7, 2023, at Winter Springs Police Department headquarters at 300 North Moss Road, Winter Springs, Florida, 32708

As part of the assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments about the Winter Springs Police Department's ability to meet accreditation standards.

### LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!

Lock it or Lose it!

Don't let Grinch put a damper on your holiday fun.

Ensure your holidays stay merry and bright by locking your vehicle doors and keeping your valuables such as cell phones, purses, and holiday purchases hidden from sight, and park in well-lit areas when possible. Perform the 9 PM routine every night by ensuring your car and household doors are locked. If you see something, say something. Dial 911 for emergencies or 407-327-1000 for nonemergencies.



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  
CLICK THE IMAGES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### Citizens Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - 6:30pm  
Winter Springs Police Department

Join WSPD and meet with the Police, discuss community issues with the Police Department staff and learn more about taking an active role in the security of your community.



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### Light Up Central Winds (Walk-Thru)

Saturday, December 16- 5 pm  
Central Winds Park

Central Winds Park transforms into a captivating walk-through wonderland from 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy food trucks and a movie in the park.



03

### Scottish Highland Games

January 13-14, 2024  
Central Winds Park

Experience the largest event in Seminole County at Central Winds Park. Enjoy traditional Scottish food, heavy athletics, and culture. This event is a Winter Springs favorite!



## 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**



Follow us!



Meet Your Commission

MAYOR AND COMMISSION  
CITY LEADERSHIP