



# WINTERWOODS

## Neighborhood Newsletter

2025  
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**Website**

[http://](http://www.winterwoodshoa.com)

[www.winterwoodshoa.com](http://www.winterwoodshoa.com)

**Facebook**

WinterWoodsHOANews

### FROM THE DESK OF ANTHONY RILEY

Well, I woke up last Monday with a green lederhosen wee thing wearing a buckled shoe standing on my neck because last month I did not say anything about the pesky lucky Leprechauns and the joy they bring St. Patrick's Day. I hope everyone had a great time and may the luck as they say.

This month we have one of my favorite national holidays on the 1<sup>st</sup>, when we all get to convince our subject of choice that the burning sack on their porch should be put out with their foot or whatever other hijinks you come up with. April is for Jesters.

Construction on the **Force Main** is under way and hopefully we can get through this without major problems, inconveniences or mental breakdowns. Everyone directly involved should have received notification with information about who to contact with issues. If anyone needs assistance contact me or Greg Phister.

Also happening – **You've Been Egged!** Look for a neighbor to drop off a goodies basket and give you the chance to pass it forward. Post those pictures on Facebook so everyone is jealous that you participated.

The **HOA Dues** are flying in! We are fastly (a word now considered archaic) approaching last year's mark. Special thanks to everyone who pitched in and paid your affordable \$25 **HOA Dues**. And pizza for everyone, especially our contest winners. We are aiming to reach over 50%, that would be more than half the neighborhood if math serves me well.

The following extravaganza occurs in the near future but will be glorious history by the time of this reading. We must invoke the Marty McFly magic on occasion...How about that **SPRING FLING!** We had multiple food trucks, live music, jugglers, beverages, a karaoke fight, free Kona ice, and a good time for all. I want to give a special shout out to William Vega, one of our newer board members, for wrangling the food trucks, the handy tents, the chocolate fountain and whatever else he managed to bring to the event. Thank you – and thank you neighbors for attending.

Speaking of the future, we have the seasonal planting of the entrance flowers on both ends of the neighborhood, the conclusion of the annoying (but highly necessary) Force Main project and maybe something special for the summer.

If you would like to help us plan and make these things happen, consider attending a board meeting. We meet at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of every month at South Seminole Church of Christ on Lake Howell Rd or online via zoom. Coming up on April 10th this month. To get the Zoom link, send a note to [WinterWoodsHOA@gmail.com](mailto:WinterWoodsHOA@gmail.com).

April, 2025

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### Welcome To



**Are YOU a new homeowner or renter in Winter Woods?**

**Please see our Website at**

[www.winterwoodshoa.com](http://www.winterwoodshoa.com)

**for our**

**New Resident Welcome Packet.**



# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## Yard of the Month



March, 2025  
The Kwentus Family  
1984 Japonica

*Congratulations!*

## Have You Paid Your 2025 HOA Dues?

### Thank You Neighbor – In Memoriam

On Winter Woods Blvd from 436 to Nottingham before the entrance circle are islands that are maintained by a volunteer group of Winter Woods neighbors. We meet every 3 weeks or so as needed early on Saturday and mow and trim the entrance islands. The Island Crew. With the Crew involved, the chore is light, and the difference is worthwhile.

This last month we lost Jeff Streep, one of our long-term neighbors on Japonica who helped mow and trim the islands for the last couple of years.

The camaraderie built on this simple activity makes this loss especially heartbreaking for the group and for neighbors that have known Jeff for a long time.

Jeff lived here his entire life and went to school through college with many of our kids.

You will be missed. Rest in Peace.  
The Island Crew



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH—Larry Stephey

Neighborhood Watch programs have long been heralded as one of the most effective means of crime prevention and community empowerment. These initiatives bring together residents in a concerted effort to enhance the safety and security of their neighborhoods. The value of Neighborhood Watch lies not only in its ability to deter criminal activities but also in its capacity to foster strong, interconnected communities.

The primary goal of a Neighborhood Watch program is to prevent crime by creating a visible presence in the community. When residents are active and vigilant, it sends a clear message to potential criminals that their activities are being monitored. This heightened sense of awareness can significantly reduce the incidence of burglary, vandalism, and other crimes. Studies have shown that neighborhoods with active watch programs experience lower crime rates compared to those without such initiatives.

One of the key components of Neighborhood Watch is enhanced surveillance. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for suspicious activities and report them to local law enforcement. This proactive approach allows for quicker responses to potential threats and helps prevent crimes before they occur. Surveillance can be further augmented by the use of security cameras and other monitoring technologies, creating a comprehensive safety net for the community.

Neighborhood Watch programs foster a closer relationship between residents and local law enforcement agencies. Through regular meetings and communication, residents can share their concerns and receive guidance from police officers on how to handle specific situations. This collaboration builds trust and ensures that law enforcement is more attuned to the needs of the community. It also enables police to focus their resources more effectively, targeting areas where they are needed most.

Education also plays a role in raising awareness about potential threats and how to address them. By staying informed about local crime trends and safety measures, residents can better protect themselves and their neighbors. This awareness creates a more vigilant and proactive community, ready to respond to any challenges that may arise.

The value of a Neighborhood Watch program extends far beyond the simple act of watching. It is a powerful tool for deterring crime, fostering community bonds, empowering residents, and improving the overall quality of life. By coming together to protect their neighborhood, residents can create a safer, more connected, and thriving community. As such, the implementation and support of Neighborhood Watch initiatives should be a priority for communities seeking to enhance their safety and cohesion.

If you see a crime being committed or suspicious activity, after contacting law enforcement, be sure to report what you saw to our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Larry Stephey. Email and phone information for Larry can be found on the last page of this newsletter in the *Directory Assistance* block.

The Gift of Wellness is Priceless!  
*Give the Gift They Won't Return*



**SALT THERAPY**  
 Relieve respiratory and skin ailments  
 + strengthen immune system



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 Invigorate + detoxify  
 to feel fully refreshed



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**Salt Therapy Helps With:**

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- asthma**

**Benefits of Infrared Sauna:**

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- calorie burn
- boost immunity**
- release toxins*
- pain relief**

Owned and Operated by Your Winter Woods Neighbors  
*Felicia & Glenn Paredes*

## Let's Talk About Facebook—Nell Colbert

Our neighborhood has a Facebook Group! If you are on Facebook, we would love to have you join our group. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/168073060575834> and click on join the group. There are several joining questions that must be answered before your request to join will be approved. We welcome ALL residents living in our neighborhood, renters included. If you are a renter, please be sure to give the name of your property owner when you answer the joining questions.

Ours is a restricted group open only to residents of our neighborhood. Only members can post comments and see what other members of the group have posted. We made our group restricted after Facebook made changes a few years ago about who can post to open groups because we want to keep scammers from posting spam to our group.

All posts are moderated. We also do not allow self-promotion on our group—if you have a business, or a side-gig, we would welcome you as a paid advertiser in our newsletter. Just see the “Advertising Information” page in this newsletter or email [winterwoodshoa@gmail.com](mailto:winterwoodshoa@gmail.com).

As of this writing, we have 189 members in our group. Residents post requests for suggestions and/or recommendations about different services that other residents have used. Some have questions about upcoming events in the neighborhood. Other posts provide general information of importance to our neighborhood. And, sometimes, we have posts about lost and/or found pets or even lots keys, wallets, or glasses.

We do have a continuing challenge. We receive about 5 requests every day from people wanting to join our group. Almost all are bogus—they claim to live at residences owned by other owners. Some even claim to be renters but when the owner is contacted, we find that not only are they not renting their home, they still live in the home! We do verify address information in our neighborhood database with the Property Appraiser and make adjustments as needed.

Let's have fun on Facebook together, while keeping it residents only and spam/scam free.

## STREETS & LIGHTING—Greg Pfister

**Streets:** Forced Watermain Project started on March 10th and after speaking with workers this project should run for about 3 months.

**Lighting:** One light was called in on Winter Woods Blvd. After inspecting it for the next week it looks like it is fixed.

**Sidewalks:** I have a couple of sidewalk areas on King Arthur's Ct. to inspect and call in. The stop sign at Nottingham and King James Court was leaning from a previous storm.

I called it in and Seminole County was out that afternoon to fix. Four Utility/Buffalo Boxes were left on Nottingham and Winter Woods Blvd. by Casselberry Water for weeks, so I called them and they picked them up same day.

**Water Leak:** The Fire Hydrant at Nottingham/King James Ct was leaking and giving some folks on King James Ct. low water pressures. Casselberry Water came out on a Sunday to make the repair. Our County is doing a great job for us!! Happy Easter to everyone!!

Thanks Gregory and Gerty Pfister

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# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Would your business like to advertise in our newsletter? This newsletter, with distribution to over 300 homes and advertisers, is now accepting advertising for our monthly newsletters.

**Advertising rates per issue are as follows:**

- 1/4 page - \$ 15.00 (3 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l)
- 1/2 page - \$ 25.00 (7 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l or 3 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)
- Full page - \$ 40.00 (7 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)

Copy MUST be emailed to the editor as a jpg, PDF, or Publisher file and payment MUST be mailed to the HOA's PO Box. NOTE—some due dates may change due to holiday print schedules.

**COPY DEADLINES:**

- Jan issue—10December
- Feb issue—15January
- Mar issue—15February
- April issue—15March
- May issue—15April
- June issue—15May
- July-August—NO NEWSLETTERS
- September issue—15August
- October issue—15September
- November issue—15October
- December issue—10November

**QUESTIONS**—Contact the editor at 321.303.7445 (voice or text) or Email: winterwoodshoa@gmail.com



**TOWN'S**  
PLANTS | POTTERY | DECOR

📞 407-733-8383  
✉️ townsgardcenter@gmail.com  
🏠 5589 Lake Howell Rd.  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
🕒 Monday - Saturday: 8am - 6pm  
Sunday: 10am - 4pm



**TOWN'S**  
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# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP—Neil Colbert

As of March 20th, our HOA has 118 families as members—41.84% of our neighborhood. Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2025 dues to date. **And CONGRATULATIONS to the Klinger family on Nottingham and the Jung-Simmons family on King John's Court, our Membership Drawing winners.** Each family received a \$25 Seby's Pizza gift certificate.

Since our last newsletter, the following families have joined our HOA.

### Coventry

2251 Lord Family

### Japonica

2026 LeCroy Family

### King Alpines Court

2214 Bellia Family

### King Edwards Court

2260 Paul Bock  
2266 Renzo & Britton Nastasi  
2270 Orr Family

### King James Court

2244 John & Cheryl Hardy  
2265 Cheryl Smith  
2274 Jordan Faith Family

### King John's Court

2258 Jimmy & Gaby Morris

### King Richards Court

2236 Ed Lawler

### North Hampton Circle

2149 George and Anna

### Nottingham Drive

1520 Richardson Family  
1560 Durham Family  
1621 Barreto Family

### Nottingham Drive cont'd.

1809 Jennifer Off & John Molinari  
1927 Okoku Family  
2053 Payne Family

### Poinciana Road

1816 Costello Family—paid for 2026  
2097 Rabazinski Family  
2251 Santamaria Family

### Sussex Road

2015 A. Pierick  
2017 Russ & Anne Corriveau  
2033 Marilyn Lea—paid for 2026  
2091 Natalie Hill & son Roy Clement  
2157 Jane and Bob Kroencke  
2170 Deborah Kirby  
2185 Lavender Family  
2223 Pollack Family

### Tamerine Street

2243 Beckwith Family  
2255 Dyer Cook & Deborah Moyer

### West Hampton Circle

2005 Monica Soule & Pia Castelli  
2117 Sonny & Daisy Balagtas

### Winter Woods Blvd.

2206 Morgan Family

Families who pay dues after March 20th will be listed in our May newsletter.

## WINTER WOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Please complete the information below so that our membership records will be complete.

Please make your **\$25.00** check payable to **WWHA** and mail with this form to

**WWHA, PO Box 342, Goldenrod, FL 32733-0342**

You may also drop off your form and check at 1958 Poinciana Road if you prefer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it shown in the newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

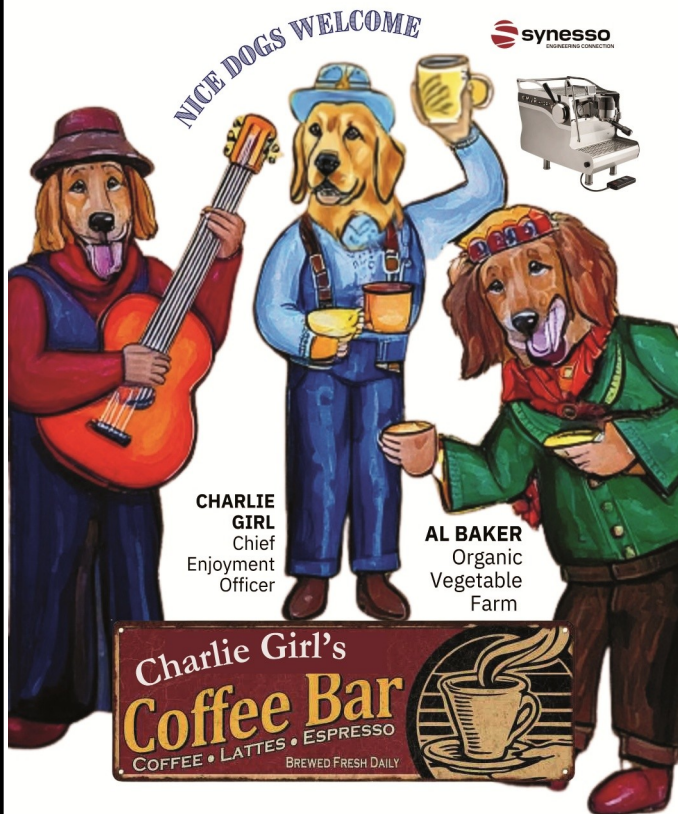
2272 KING HENRY'S Ct.  
Winter Park, FL 32792

# FREE NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE GARAGE

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING  
7:30AM to 10:00 AM

*Enjoy a quick cup with your  
Winter Park Neighbors!*

**COFFEES  
LATTES  
CAPPUCCINOS  
AMERICANAS  
ASSORTED TEAS  
HOT CHOCOLATE**



# PET CARE SERVICES



Hello Neighbors,  
Do you plan on  
traveling soon?

In need of someone to  
watch over your pet  
while you're away?  
(Feed, walk, or check on?)

Looking for a  
friendly & reliable  
dog walker located  
in the neighborhood?

Look no further!

*Zuzana is the perfect  
person for the job.*

*Call or text to schedule care!*

407 - 690 - 1344





## Free or Low Cost Events—Laura Spear

Spring Fling: Family Fun at Rollins Museum of Art

Saturday, Apr 5, Noon - 4 pm

Rollins Museum of Art, 1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park

Join us for a day of family fun. Engage with the current exhibitions through art activities, performances, and docent-led exhibition highlights tours at 1pm and 3pm. All ages, FREE and open to the community. No registration required.

<https://go.activecalendar.com/rollins/site/arts/event/spring-fling-family-fun-at-rollins-museum-of-art/>

Longwood Community Health Fair

Saturday, Apr 12, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Ave, Longwood

Join the City of Longwood in celebrating health and wellness at this event featuring vendors, raffle prizes, bingo, and many fun and family-friendly activities. Attendees will be able to participate in chair massages, free health screenings, and have access to exclusive, event-only offers provided by the participating companies. FREE <http://www.corporatehealthfairsorlando.com>

15th Annual Earth Fest '25

Saturday, Apr 26, 10 am - 3 pm

Lake Concord Park behind Casselberry City Hall

Seminole County's largest Earth Day event!! Learn about the environment and enjoy sponsors, vendors and artisans showcasing their Earth-friendly products and services. Activities include Arbor Day free tree giveaway, children's activities and workshops, educational workshops on tree planting and lakeshore management, butterfly releases, recycled art exhibits, artisan exhibits. FREE

<https://casselberryfop.com/earth-fest>

City of Oviedo 100th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, Apr 26, 3 - 9:30 pm

Center Lake Park, 299 Center Lake Lane, Oviedo

An afternoon of family-friendly fun, with activities including live music, food and cocktails through the decades, a 1970s-style carnival, a Walk Through Time in Oviedo, and so much more! At the end of the night, we will feature a Drone Show and Fireworks! FREE

<https://www.cityofoviedo.net/1178/100-Year-Celebration>

2025 St. Johns River Cleanup

Saturday, Apr 26, 9 - 11 am

Location: multiple Seminole county sites to choose from

Join Seminole County for the St. Johns River Cleanup during Earth Month! Make a difference by volunteering to clean up litter from this valuable waterway on foot, in your kayak/canoe, or your motorized boat. Bright Futures and other volunteer hours available. Select the desired volunteer option when registering. Register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-st-johns-river-cleanup-tickets-1221280034459>



# Winter Park Pineapple

Winter Woods Neighborhood

## SOLD

In just 6 days with multiple offers!



Thank you to everyone who stopped by our **FREE SHRED EVENT**, on Saturday, March 1st during the Winter Woods community garage sale!



**2206 Winter Woods Blvd**    **\$430,000**  
 Winter Park, FL 32792    4 beds | 2 baths | 2,208 Sq Ft

### Winter Woods Neighborhood Insights:

#### YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SELLING THEIR HOME:

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	List Price	Days on Market
2158 SUSSEX RD	3	2	1,669	\$450,000	94
2207 WINTER WOODS BLVD	4	2	1,710	\$459,000	13
2247 KING EDWARDS CT	4	3	2,874	\$499,000	42
1873 POINCIANA ROAD	4	3	1,904	\$379,000	2

#### YOUR NEIGHBORS SOLD THEIR HOME:

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Sold Price	Days on Market
2206 WINTER WOODS BL	4	2	2,208	\$430,000	6
2247 KING EDWARDS CT	3	2	2,129	\$380,000	8
1926 E HAMPTON CIR	3	2	1,900	\$455,000	19
2258 POINCIANA RD	4	2.5	2,019	\$535,000	29
1968 KING ARTHURS CT	3	2	1,689	\$540,000	37
1981 JAPONICA RD	4	3	2,040	\$540,000	68
1417 NOTTINGHAM DR	3	2	1,718	\$547,000	20

\*DATA SOURCE: CFRMLS 3/14/2025

= LISTED BY THE TURNER GROUP

Amy helped my dad sell his home in Winter Park. Dad had lived there since 1983 with his wife until she passed away in 2022. It was a process to help dad, and Amy was there for months helping him. Once he finally agreed to sell the home, Amy was instrumental in assisting with cleaning the home, helping it pass inspection, and in the closing. Thank you Amy, Maris, and the gang for your assistance! By the way, in this real estate market, it was phenomenal to get five offers the first weekend, and a closing just over a month later! Great job! Carl O.



**Amy & Colin Turner**  
 Husband/Wife REALTORS®

**Call or Text us at:**  
 407-803-3885

**Visit our website:**  
 TheTurnerGroup.com

**Email us at:**  
 GetStarted@TheTurnerGroup.com

**SALE PENDING**



Scan the QR code to **see how much your home is worth!**

The Spring & Summer Real Estate Market is Heating Up! If you're thinking about selling, **now is the time** to get ahead of the competition, maximize your home's value, and **attract serious buyers** while demand is high.

If you are working with another real estate professional please disregard. The material is for your information only and not intended to be used in lieu of seeking additional consumer or professional advice. The information may contain information obtained from third parties and is not guaranteed complete or correct.

# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## Hurricane Preparedness for Central Florida

### Hurricane Preparedness for Central Florida Residents

Living in Central Florida comes with many perks, but one of the most challenging aspects is preparing for the hurricane season. Between June and November, Florida residents face the possibility of hurricanes that can bring heavy rains, strong winds, and dangerous storm surges. While these storms are a natural part of life in the region, being prepared can make all the difference in minimizing damage and ensuring safety. For those living in Central Florida, which is often at risk for both coastal impacts and inland flooding, it's crucial to take proactive steps to prepare for a potential hurricane.

#### Understand Your Risk

Central Florida residents need to be aware of the types of risks a hurricane can pose. Coastal communities like Tampa, and Daytona Beach may experience storm surges that flood low-lying areas, while inland communities like Orlando face risks like heavy rainfall and tornadoes spawned by the storm. Understanding the specific risks to your area will help in crafting a tailored preparedness plan.

One of the first things to do is identify whether you live in a flood zone or an evacuation area. Local authorities, such as the National Hurricane Center and local emergency management offices, provide detailed flood zone maps and evacuation routes that residents can use to assess their risk. Staying informed about these areas helps in making timely decisions should evacuation orders be issued.

#### Create an Emergency Kit

A well-stocked emergency kit is essential for any hurricane preparedness plan. Residents should begin gathering supplies at least two weeks before the hurricane season begins. Your emergency kit should include:

- **Water:** At least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- **Non-perishable food:** Canned goods, dry snacks, and energy bars.
- **First-aid kit:** Including essential medications, bandages, and disinfectants.
- **Flashlights and extra batteries:** Power outages are common during hurricanes.
- **Portable phone charger:** To keep communications open in case of power failure.
- **Personal hygiene items:** Toiletries, hand sanitizer, and baby wipes.
- **Cash:** ATMs and credit card machines may be down during or after the storm.

Additionally, include items like important documents (insurance policies, identification, medical records), clothing, and any pet supplies if you have animals. Don't forget your car: keep your vehicle's gas tank full and have an emergency car kit that includes jumper cables, a spare tire, and other essential tools.

#### Secure Your Home

Before a hurricane strikes, it's important to secure your home. Start by checking that your windows and doors are storm-ready. Installing impact-resistant windows or storm shutters can provide an extra layer of protection. For homes without shutters, using plywood over windows can prevent damage from flying debris.

CONTINUED ON Page 12

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# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## Hurricane Preparedness— Cont'd from Page 11

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Clear gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage, as clogged gutters can cause flooding in heavy rain. Trim back trees and shrubs, especially those close to your home, as they can become hazards during strong winds. Move outdoor furniture and anything that can be blown away to a secure area inside.

#### **Make a Communication Plan**

A communication plan ensures that you and your loved ones can stay connected during and after the storm. Have a list of emergency contacts and make sure all family members know where to go if they get separated. Designate a safe meeting place in case you need to evacuate your home, and ensure that everyone has a way to charge their phones. It's also important to know how to receive emergency alerts, such as through NOAA Weather Radio or local news channels.

#### **Know When to Evacuate**

Evacuation orders may be issued before or during a hurricane, depending on the storm's intensity and the risks to your area. Central Florida residents need to pay close attention to local authorities, as they will provide updates on evacuation routes, shelters, and potential dangers. If told to evacuate, do so immediately, and do not wait until the last minute.

If you are unable to evacuate, know the safest place in your home. For most people in hurricane-prone areas, the safest location is an interior room on the lowest level, away from windows. If possible, avoid staying in a mobile home or near the coast, as these are more vulnerable to storm surge and high winds.

#### **Conclusion**

Hurricane preparedness in Central Florida is not just about having supplies on hand; it's about understanding your risk, securing your home, creating an emergency kit, and knowing when to evacuate. By taking the time to prepare, you can protect yourself, your loved ones, and your property in the face of an unpredictable storm. Make hurricane preparedness a priority, and stay informed throughout the season to ensure your safety and peace of mind.

This article was AI produced





Could your Student use a tutor?

Math – Science – History – Composition

K – 12, Home School, GED

Neighbor, recently retired university professor, chemical engineer, MBA

First Consultation FREE!

Professor Ed (407) 907-4699

Edfor38@gmail.com

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this newsletter  
via email?**

**If not**, please  
send an email to  
**winterwoodshoa@gmail.com**  
so that you can be  
added to our resident  
database.

*Hello!*

YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
REALTOR ♡

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YOUR WINTER WOODS  
NEIGHBOR FOR 30+ YEARS

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# WINTER WOODS NEWS

## Spring Gardening in Central Florida

### Spring Gardening in Central Florida: A Season of Growth and Beauty

Spring in Central Florida is a magical time for gardeners. With warm temperatures, abundant sunshine, and occasional afternoon showers, it's the perfect season to bring your garden to life. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, spring offers countless opportunities to create vibrant landscapes that thrive in this unique climate. Here's a guide to help you make the most of your spring gardening experience in Central Florida.

#### Understanding Central Florida's Climate

Central Florida's subtropical climate means that it's warm for most of the year, with mild winters and hot, humid summers. During the spring, temperatures range from the mid-60s to mid-80s Fahrenheit, which is ideal for many plants. The region's soil tends to be sandy and well-drained, though it may require occasional amendments to improve fertility. Knowing your climate is crucial for choosing plants that will thrive in your garden.

#### Best Plants for Spring in Central Florida

The key to successful gardening in Central Florida is selecting plants that can handle the region's heat, humidity, and seasonal rainfall. Here are some of the best options for spring planting:

- 1. Vegetables:** Spring is an excellent time to grow a variety of vegetables. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and beans thrive during this season. Be sure to plant them early in the spring, as the hot summer temperatures can make growing these vegetables challenging. Herbs like basil, cilantro, and mint also do well during the spring months.
- 2. Flowers:** Spring in Central Florida is an ideal time to plant colorful flowers that can brighten up any garden. Marigolds, petunias, sunflowers, and zinnias are all perfect choices for adding vibrant hues to your landscape. You can also plant bulbs like lilies and irises for a long-lasting floral display.
- 3. Perennials and Shrubs:** For a garden that keeps giving year after year, consider planting perennials such as coreopsis, coneflowers, and black-eyed Susans. Shrubs like azaleas and bougainvilleas are not only beautiful but also thrive in Central Florida's climate. Plant them now to enjoy their full bloom by summer.
- 4. Citrus Trees:** Central Florida is known for its citrus production, and spring is a great time to plant new citrus trees, such as oranges, grapefruits, and lemons. These trees will need full sun and well-drained soil to flourish.

#### Soil Preparation and Fertilization

Before planting, it's essential to prepare your soil. In Central Florida, the soil is often sandy, so adding organic matter like compost will help retain moisture and improve nutrient content. You can also mix in slow-release fertilizers to support your plants as they grow.

When fertilizing, it's important to choose one that's appropriate for the specific plants in your garden. Vegetables, for example, require a balanced fertilizer that encourages leaf and fruit development. For flowers and shrubs, a fertilizer that promotes blooming will help ensure vibrant color throughout the spring and summer.

#### Watering and Irrigation

With the heat of Central Florida's spring, watering is key to a healthy

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garden. Drip irrigation systems are ideal, as they deliver water directly to the roots, minimizing evaporation and ensuring deep soil penetration. If you're hand-watering, aim for early mornings or late afternoons to prevent water loss through evaporation.

### Pest Management

Spring gardening in Central Florida also means managing pests. Warm weather can attract insects like aphids, whiteflies, and caterpillars. Keep an eye out for any signs of pests and take early action, whether through natural remedies like neem oil or by introducing beneficial insects such as ladybugs to keep the pest population in check.

### Conclusion

Spring gardening in Central Florida offers endless opportunities for growth, beauty, and enjoyment. With careful planning, proper soil preparation, and the right plant choices, your garden can flourish throughout the season. Whether you're cultivating a vegetable garden, planting colorful flowers, or enjoying the scent of citrus blossoms, the spring months in Central Florida are a time to embrace the outdoors and nurture your green thumb. Happy gardening!

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