



Mind Your Manor

ORWIN MANOR WESTMINSTER ASSOCIATION – Serving Orwin Manor Westminster since 1983

No. 1 Winter 2026

The OMWA Annual Meeting

President's Report by Stephen Pategas

The meeting was held in the lobby of Commerce Bank & Trust. Thank you to Louise Long for her assistance.

The new Orlando District 3 Commissioner Roger Chapin introduced himself, shared about his love of the area having grown up here, and his experience in city government.



Commissioner,
District 3
Roger Chapin

The Winter Park Police Department reported there weren't any burglaries or car break-ins during 2025 and we were congratulated for locking vehicles and keeping valuables out of sight. We were reminded about the Lock Box Program, Prescription Drug Take Back Program, Are You Ok? Program, and Vacation House Check. All programs are free. Call 407-643-1601 for more information.

Board members provided updates on association activities and nearby development projects including the restaurant at The Hub and apartments on Minnesota Avenue.

Board members Laura Alphonso and Scott Bowers retired and current board members John Courson, Matt Daley, Bre-elle Ishtar, Stephen Pategas, and Mark Snedeker were reelected. A new board member, Brandy Shapiro was elected.

Honorary Orwin Westminsterite status was awarded to Meg Barclay and Bowen Engineering for their assistance in creating pro bono design services for the rebuilding of the missing gateway arches.

The meeting wrapped up with an Orwin Manor Westminster History Trivia Contest and awesome door prizes.

Owls Spotted! *by Mary Soule*

Screech owl photo submitted by Mary Soule

Good News, our eagle-eyed neighbors have responded to my call for help locating our Orwin Manor owls. The barred owl has been spotted in several areas of the neighborhood most recently, on Pelham, right in my own yard! It also seems to be making regular visits to Westchester Ave.

The screech owl was spotted in Megan and Kevin Lowery's garage on Westminster St. and was also heard by Mary Piercy on Westchester. I also learned that both Mary Piercy and Ann Legg may have seen a Great Horned owl on Westchester Ave.

So all is well with our neighborhood owls. Thanks again for all who responded to my call for help finding them!



We're excited to have seven Sponsors for the Orwin Manor Westminster Association! A warm thank you to Home Boys | Serhant, Delaney Crosscountry Mortgage, Advent Health, McLaren Orlando, Commerce Bank & Trust, Demetree Global and Park Maitland School for supporting our community. Their partnership helps us continue building a vibrant, connected neighborhood we're proud to call home.

Mind Your Manor

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Board Members 2025

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Matt Daley

Jimmy Hendrickson

Bre-elle Ishtar

Shawn Layton

Frank Malatesta

Mark Snedeker

Leslie Williams

Brandy Shapiro

Charles Steinberg

Ad Info

Quarter Page: 3.6215-in Wide
X 4.75-in Tall, Or 4.75-in Wide X
3.6215-in Tall, \$150

Preprinted Flyer we insert, \$150

Deadlines

Winter: February 1
Spring: May 1
Summer: August 1
Autumn: November 1

In The Neighborhood

By board member
Penny Potter



Preserving The Charm That Makes Our Neighborhood Special

- Join The Historic Registry

During our Centennial year, 2024 – 2025, is a good time to consider placing your house on the City of Winter Park Historic Register. This not only saves your house from being torn down, but also adds to the unique character of our neighborhood. There are no restrictions on what can be done inside the house, or at the rear of the house.

There are two basic requirements: that the house be at least 50 years old, and that the front facade, as it faces the street, appear essentially the same as it was when originally built. The process is simple: complete and return a one-page application obtained from the City Planning and Zoning Department (or find it on our website). The city will do all the necessary research at no cost to the homeowner.

Advantages of placing your house on the Registry:

- The city has established the Preservation Rehab Grant Program. The city will match the owner's cost of a rehab project (roof, painting, windows, electrical, etc.) up to 50% of the total cost, to a maximum of \$18,000 (at this time), upon approval of the project.
- Reduced or waived building permit fees. The owner may put an addition onto the back of the house, as long as it doesn't disturb the appearance of the front facade. An accessory dwelling unit using original setbacks may also be possible.
- If not already done, the city will pay for the connection of electric lines from the street to the house, a \$3,000 value
- City staff will prepare and submit the application for placement on the National Historic Registry, if so desired by the homeowner

The OMWA Board strongly encourages all homeowners to look into placing their house on the Historic Register. Join the over two dozen homeowners including four current board members, and numerous former board members, in the privilege of living in an historic home.

For more information: Alison McGillis, Director, Winter Park Planning and Zoning Dept., 407-599-3665, amcgillis@cityofwinterpark.org.

About OMWA

The Orwin Manor Westminster Association (OMWA) founded in 1983, offers the best of two worlds – a neighborhood association with voluntary membership but without the rules, regulations, or assessments of a homeowners' association. If our neighborhood was within an HOA, every household

would be assessed mandatory fees. Many volunteers contribute their time and energy to improve our neighborhood. OMWA advocates with municipalities and is responsible for launching The Park at Orwin Manor, creating the bronze identity signs, hosting events, and researching our history.

2026 OMWA Events Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch in the Park – Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Oktoberfest – Sunday, October 11, 4:30 p.m.-onward

Great Pumpkin Judging – Thursday, October 15, after 6 p.m.

Witches Walk – Saturday, October 31, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Orwin Manor Aglow – Monday, December 14 or 21, after 6 p.m. (Most Traditional, Most Creative, Most Lights)

Luminaries – Thursday, December 24, rain date 25, 6 p.m.

Great Pumpkin Judging – Thursday, October 15, after 6 p.m.

Upcoming Neighborhood Gatherings

Join us at the historic clubhouse at Dubsread Golf Course, 549 West Par Street, Orlando every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. We reserve the long high-top table adjacent to the bar in the Taproom.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, February 12, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Dates

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, July 21

Tuesday, September 15

Tuesday, November 17

Please join us! Call 407-622-4886 for the locations or to place an item on the agenda.

The E-News (typically sent out once or twice a month) moved to a MailChimp platform which provides more flexibility. We promise you will not want to opt out. So far, we reach about one-third of our neighbors. What are two-thirds of you missing? Sign up at <https://orwinmanor.org/omw>.

2025 Orwin Manor Aglow Results



MOST CREATIVE

Winner - 1412 Devon

Second - 1509 N. Orange

Third - 1444 Norfolk

MOST TRADITIONAL

Winner - 1714 Westchester

Second - 1331 Canterbury

Third - 1652 Canterbury

GLOWING BRIGHTEST

Winner - 1310 Devon

Second - 1355 Devon

Third - 1583 N. Orange

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Advent Health

Neighborhood Bits

Your input is needed!

Where do you walk to from your house to shop, eat, visit doctors, or recreate? We'll share your favorite destinations in the Spring MYM.

Meet neighbors, make friends and support the neighborhood you love. Requirements: Be a member of our association; attend a minimum number of the six board meetings each year in a two-year term, serve on a committee and help at event(s). Please contact us at <https://orwinmanor.org/contact/>

Update: Minnesota Row Nears Completion

The Winter Park Business Center on Minnesota Avenue being renovated into a walkable, 18-hour mixed-use destination is on track to open in early 2026. The



roadway along its east side has reopened so the easy access to Publix we enjoy is now available again.

Continued on page 7.

**KUDOS!
GOOD JOB!
THANK YOU!
WELL DONE!**

Louise Long with Commerce Bank & Trust for hosting the Annual Meeting in the lobby.

Did you enjoy the holiday lights on the columns at the park sign? Our gratitude to Greg Hartung for installation and Bill Legg for managing the daily turning on and off part.

New board members - Brandy Shapiro, a neighbor on Orange Ave. for five years was elected to the OMWA board. Charles Steinberg, a neighbor on Harmon Ave. for ten years joined the board.

To board members Laura Alphonso and Scott Bowers who served on the board and recently retired.

To those who pay the \$35.00 annual dues to keep us operational, round up the amount to cover the PayPal fee, and/or add on an extra bit.

To Park Maitland for joining us as an annual sponsor.

To Winter Park's Park and recreation Department for sand for the 34th year of luminaries and the Santa visit to our park.

In Memoriam: Carol Card

We lament the death of Carol Card on October 29, 2025 at the age of 91. Carol served on the OMWA board for 15 years from 1998-2007 and 2010-2014. She served five years as vice-president and one year as Secretary. Carol faithfully updated the OMWA scrapbook with photos from neighborhood events. Along with her husband Harold (deceased in early 2024) she owned Card's Opticians in downtown Winter Park on S. Knowles Ave. The store was founded by Harold's father in 1957 and remained a family business until its closing.

Carol and Harold resided at 1645 Berkshire Avenue since 1997 having bought the house where Harold grew up from Harold's mother Dorothy. They placed the house on the Winter Park Historic Register soon after the program



Continued on page 5.

Voting Information

If you would like to receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the upcoming Primary or General Elections or any other elections through the 2026 election cycle, you will have to submit a new vote-by-mail request through the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. The Primary Election will be August 18 and General Election will be November 3.



Reminder: Vote-by-mail requests expired December 31, 2024. To request a vote-by-mail ballot, please contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at 407-836-2070 or online at <https://ocfelections.gov/request-vote-mail-ballot>.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS 2026:
Municipal Election Day: Tuesday, March 10, 2026, for Apopka, Bay Lake, Belle Isle, Edgewood, Lake Buena Vista, Maitland, Oakland, and Windermere.
Primary Election: Tuesday, August 18, 2026
General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

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was created. Carol was honored with Orwin Manor Westminster Board Emeritus status at the OMWA Annual Meeting in 2025.

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Winter Park Hazardous Waste Event



Saturday
March 7
8 a.m. to noon

CADY WAY PARK
2525 Cady Way

+NEW! shoes + textiles



Winter Park's Natural Resources & Sustainability Department will host a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off event Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to noon, at Cady Way Park located at 2535 Cady Way. This FREE event provides Winter Park residents with proof of residency, the opportunity to dispose of hazardous household products: fertilizers & pesticides, gasoline, non-alkaline batteries, pool chemicals, propane tanks, tires (4 max), used engine oil/antifreeze, wet latex & oil-based paint/paint thinners (4 max). E-Waste: computers, DVD players, fax machines, stereos & CD players, televisions, VCRs. Home Textile Waste: bed linens/pillows, belts, clothing, hats, purses, shoes, towels/rugs/curtains.

Important tips:

- Keep all hazardous waste materials in original containers with original labeling. (unknown items will NOT be accepted)
- Residential only, no contractors.
- Medication disposal: Bring drugs and prescription medications to the Public Safety Facility [500 N. Virginia Ave., open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.]

Access cityofwinterpark.org/hhwd or 407-599-3479.

Sip and Soar Mardi Gras For Edgewater High

All proceeds from this annual fundraiser go back to the teachers and student scholarships. Tickets are \$55 and cover entrance, dinner and 2 drinks.

On February 27 from 7:00 to 10:00 at 1871 Minnesota Ave (Celebration Garden at Clay St.) there will be a silent auction, raffle (you don't need to be present to win), fun games, music, and more. Buy admission and raffle tickets online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/edgewater-high-school-ptso-presents-sip-and-soar-mardi-gras> or scan the QR code. This is a great event to walk to.



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2440 Howell Market Lane | Winter Park, FL (32792)
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Park Maitland South Campus
1776 Minnesota Ave | Winter Park, FL (32789)
Serving 12 months through 5th Grade
(407) 513-1941

Park Maitland North Campus
1450 S. Orlando Ave | Maitland, FL
Serving PreKindergarten through 8th Grade
(321) 385-8289

[Scan here to RSVP for our open house\(s\), request information on school-year enrollment, or schedule a private tour!](#)

Around The Corner

ART IN BLOOM

Art in Bloom, the annual spring fundraiser presented by the Council of 101, returns to the Orlando Museum of Art April 10-12, 2026. Proudly supported by Platinum Presenting Sponsor AdventHealth for Women, the three-day event features floral interpretations inspired by museum art, antiques and boutique shopping, and signature events including a preview party, fashion show, Mystery Home Tour, MasterClasses, and Sunday High Tea—celebrating spring through art, design, and style.

SHRED IT FOR FREE!



One of our sponsors Commerce Bank & Trust (where OMWA banks) invites you to their Annual Shred Event on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 10:00 to noon. AND lunch is provided. Bring no more than six boxes per person - paper only (no metal binders/clips). For larger quantities contact Toya at 407-622-8181. Find the shredding truck in their parking lot at 1201 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park.

Yard Of Distinction

Visit <https://orwinmanor.org/programs/>

Congratulations to Michael & Kristen Young at 505 Westminster for earning the January/February Yard of Distinction.



From page 4.



Update: The Restaurant and Roman Spa at The Hub
Design work continues as Demetree Global seeks approval of Conditional Use from Winter Park.

MCLaren ORLANDO

Now Open in Winter Park!
1111 S Orlando Ave, Winter Park, FL 32789
www.mclarencf.com / 407.988.0111

Orwin Manor Membership 2025

It's easy to become a 2025 Orwin Manor Westminster Association Member. Thanks to all of our existing and new members for supporting our neighborhood events and newsletter. OMWA dues fund our events, this newsletter, our P.O. Box, and so much more. Our dues are only \$35 per year. If you would like to join, simply scan the QR code below or mail a check to Orwin Manor Westminster Association, P.O. Box 2367, Winter Park, FL 32790-2367, or pay online at www.orwinmanor.org, under resources tab select membership. Contact us at <https://orwinmanor.org/contact> with any questions.

Please see a hand delivered copy for the list of paid members.



It's Easy to Become an OMWA Member!

Scan the QR code at left, make your \$35 payment, and consider a donation.

Please note what payment is for.

Not Getting the OMWA E-News? Visit <https://orwinmanor.org/omwn/>



Neighbors With Ponytails *by Stephen Pategas*

Our neighborhood has a handful of alien looking plants that are commonly called ponytail palms (*Beaucarnea recurvata*). A full head of long strap-like leaves top the branches and slender trunk or trunks that emerge from a bulbous base.

They are very low water use and classified as a succulent. While they prefer full sun they may be grown indoors in bright light. Often, they are seen growing in a container that snugly hugs the base. When planted in the ground they typically reach a height of ten feet.

In spring or summer, the creamy yellow blossoms on a long stalk emerge one or occasionally more times from the mops of hair-like leaves. Pollinators swarm them for the nectar.

Where can you find these intriguing plants? Besides a trip to Belize, Guatemala, or southeastern Mexico where they are native, or Fairchild Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, FL where there is a large specimen, check out yards in our neighborhood at 1659 Harmon Ave., 1381 Canterbury Rd., and 1425 Berkshire Ave. (left side). Please resist giving them a trim.

