

# Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter



ORANGE COUNTY  
**Nicole  
Wilson**  
DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER



***A preview of Tuesday's BCC Meeting,  
upcoming events, and more!***

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**Hey West Orange County,**

Happy Earth Week! This week and every week, we are so lucky to have a rich and biodiverse natural world right on our doorsteps.

Of course, that privilege also comes with a lot of responsibility. Preserving our waterways, wetlands, forests, and endangered species from an onslaught of threats is a full-time job. We all benefit from nature — whether from air and water quality, flood mitigation, canopy shade, or countless other ways. We need to use every tool we have to protect our nature from irresponsible growth.

Appropriately, at Tuesday's Board of County Commissioners meeting, two of our biggest legislative triumphs are being recognized. The updates we were able to help secure to the county's Tree Ordinance help ensure more protections for more species of tree every time a development application is considered. The second is the GreenPLACE program, which allows for flood-prone lands, like some parcels near Reams Road, to be preserved in their natural state indefinitely. It has been so rewarding to see these initiatives take effect and have real, tangible effects on West Orange County.

We've been sharing the info on local Earth Week celebrations at West Orange favorites like the [Oakland Nature Preserve](#) and [Tibet-Butler Preserve](#) on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you haven't visited either, this week is the perfect time!

[Click here for the full list of Orange County's Earth Month activities](#). I hope we see you out there soon.

**In Case You Missed It:**



What a treat it's been to open so many West Orange County parks this year!

This week, we got to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the **Dr. Phillips Ballfield Complex**. This project is the result of years of collaboration between Parks and Recreation, OCPS, and the Dr. Phillips Little League. Our little leaguers now have a state-of-the-art 16-acre site with four lighted baseball fields, a concession stand and restroom facilities.

The very next morning, we made our way to cut the ribbon at the brand new **Summerlake Park**! It's a beautiful five-acre space with two playgrounds, a walking path, workout stations, picnic areas, and more.

This park is located right next to Summerlake Elementary. Proximity to schools is a common theme with the neighborhood parks we've been opening. It just makes sense — schools and parks are both pieces that help turn a neighborhood into a unified, healthy community.

**Kitten Season**  
APRIL - OCTOBER

**DID YOU KNOW?** Cats start reproducing and continue to have several litters from spring to early winter. During this time, Orange County Animal Services experiences a massive influx of kittens and mother cats. Kittens less than eight weeks old are extremely susceptible to diseases. Underage kittens need foster care with constant monitoring and feedings.

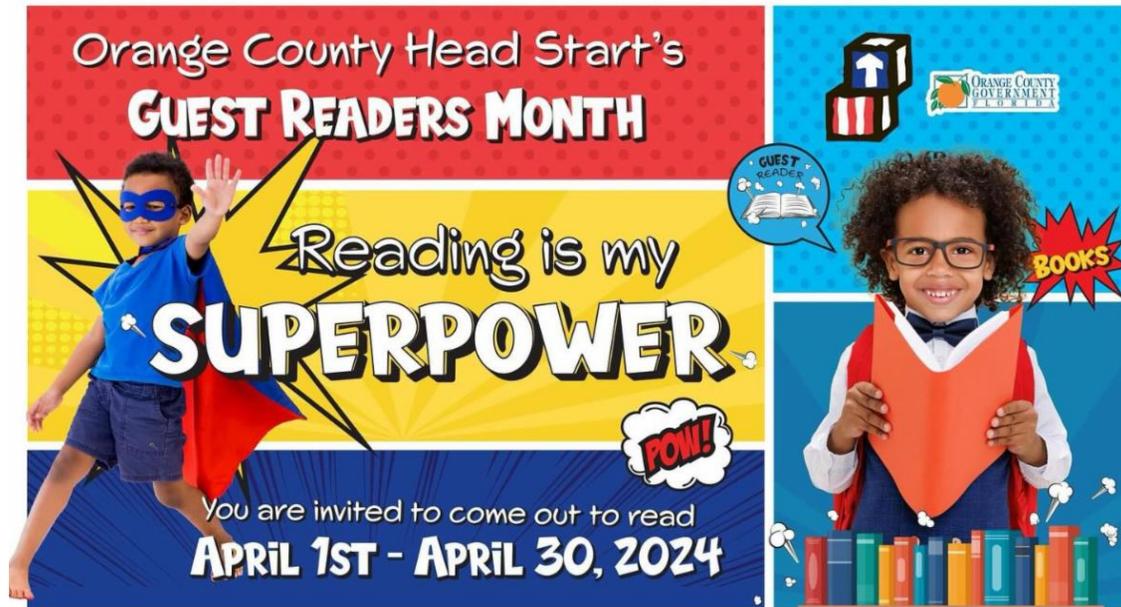
**Orange County Animal Services**  
www.ocnlpets.com

For more information about fostering, please email [FosterCare@ocfl.net](mailto:FosterCare@ocfl.net)

[Learn More](#)

It's Kitten Season, which means a massive influx of kittens and mother cats are being taken to Orange County Animal Services. You can help the shelter by fostering. The Wait 'Til 8 Program is designed to give you the

resources to take care of kittens until they reach 8 weeks old. [Click here to learn more.](#)



There is still time to participate in Orange County Head Start's Guest Readers Month! There's power in stories. In just a short time, we can be completely transported to a new place and become immersed in a character's journey. This is especially true of children, whose imaginations are brimming with ideas.

Be a part of the magic and become an Orange County Head Start guest reader! To volunteer, call 407-836-6590 or email [Sandra.Moore2@ocfl.net](mailto:Sandra.Moore2@ocfl.net).

## Mark Your Calendars:

4/22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Guided hikes and ambassador animal interactions at Tibet-Butler Preserve

Have you visited the county-operated Tibet-Butler Preserve? It's a hidden gem of District 1, and it will be host to a slew of great activities for Earth Week! Monday, we'll be stopping by for family-friendly guided hikes along the preserve's scenic trails, animal interactions, and an eco-savenger hunt.



#### **4/25 at 9:00 a.m.: Earth Week Celebration at Johns Lake Conservation Area**

Thursday morning, join me and Mayor Demings at Johns Lake Conservation Area for a special Earth Week celebration of Wetlands and Their Inhabitants! We will be unveiling this Green PLACE property's newest amenity - a bird blind for birdwatching. **See flyer below for details.**



# You're Invited!



Orange County Mayor  
Jerry L. Demings and  
District 1 Commissioner  
Nicole Wilson

invite you to  
a very special  
Earth Day event  
to celebrate

## Wetlands and Their Inhabitants

**Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Johns Lake Conservation Area**

880 Avalon Rd

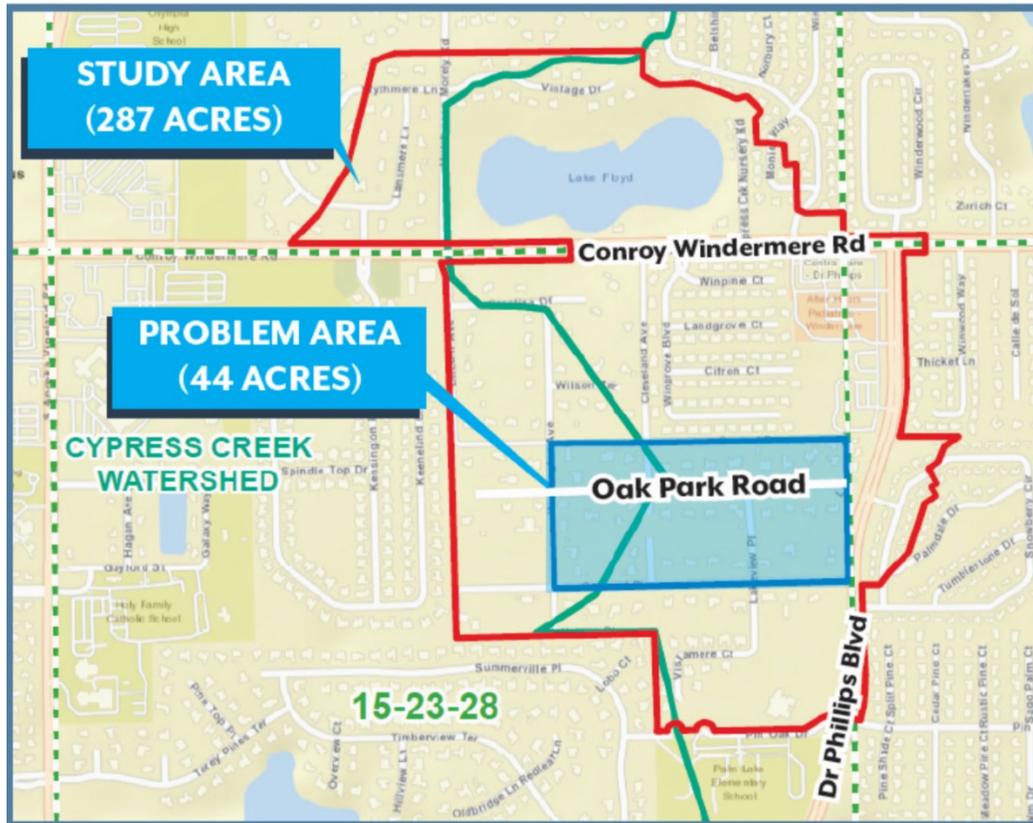
Winter Garden, FL 34787

RSVP: [GreenPLACE@ocfl.net](mailto:GreenPLACE@ocfl.net)  
Day of event contact: 321-239-4488  
Map and parking instructions to follow

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**4/29 at 6:00 p.m.: Oak Park Road Drainage Assessment Virtual Meeting ([Click here to learn more](#))**

- Due to a long history of residents experiencing flooding, I am facilitating this meeting in which Public Works will discuss options for an engineered stormwater system, which were determined by the County's consultant that worked on a drainage assessment and feasibility study for the area.



### 4/30 at 6:00 p.m.: Orange Code Town Hall

Orange Code will serve as the new land development regulations that will shape our future. This will have far-reaching impacts, from promoting safe sustainable transportation to influencing housing costs and health.

Your voice is crucial in shaping how these regulations will affect the future of our neighborhoods. Be part of this vital conversation at our upcoming community meeting with Orange County's Planning Division. [Click here to learn more!](#)

**Explore the Possibilities With Orange Code**

**Join the Conversation to Learn More**

**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**District 1 | April 30, 2024, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Windermere High School**  
5523 Winter Garden Vineland Rd  
Windermere, FL 34786

[WWW.OCFL.NET/ORANGECODE](http://WWW.OCFL.NET/ORANGECODE)

# BCC Preview: Proclamations

Presentation of a proclamation recognizing May as Heart of Florida United Way Month.



## Presentation of East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Diamond Award

- This award is being presented to Orange County for our GreenPLACE Acquisition of Environmentally Sensitive Lands program! More on this program later...

## Presentation of Florida Urban Forestry Council Friends of Our Urban Forests Award for Outstanding Project

- Orange County's newly revamped Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance, which I championed for years and voted to approve late last year, has won FUFC's Outstanding Ordinance Award! [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Consent Agenda

**Item B-2: Approval of a resolution to refinance the costs of construction and installation of wastewater odor abatement improvements to the South Water Reclamation Facility, for the benefit of the Shingle Creek Transit and Utility Community Development District. [Click here for full report.](#)**

**Item B-5: Approval for the Orange County Sheriff's Office to contribute funding to the Peace and Justice Institute and Harbor House of Central Florida. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- [The Peace and Justice Institute](#) contribution is part of a three-year funding partnership, and will be utilized towards making a difference by intentionally engaging in principles and practices that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the earth.
- [The Harbor House of Central Florida](#) provides comprehensive assistance to domestic violence survivors. See below graphic for info on Harbor House's upcoming annual Paws for Peace Walk & Run,

which is pivotal for Harbor House's goal of protecting both pets and people, ensuring they stay united.



**Item D-10: Contract for Community Services and Facility Use with Central Florida Diaper Bank for a three-year term. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- This contract will provide funds for supportive services for expectant and parenting families. The program will provide essential supplies to address the basic needs of infants and babies, including diapers, wipes, formula, clothing, etc. Programming will also include prenatal/postnatal parent education, care coordination, and enrichment programs and activities that provide ongoing information and support needed to assist parents, guardians, and families as their children grow.



**Item D-22: Agreement with Kingdom Culture Church related to community center utilization for services benefitting the public within the Maxey Community Center. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- The objective of Kingdom Culture is to assist in community involvement through various events, including back-to-school and holiday outreach, and provide nutritional afterschool meals through a mobile food pantry to help decrease food insecurity.
- Kingdom Culture was one of several community partners in Winter Garden who helped put together the Maxey Center's Senior Prom this week. It was an absolute blast of an event for senior citizens in the East Winter Garden area!



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**Item D-24: Agreement with Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men related to community center utilization for benefitting the public within Maxey Community Center. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc., strives to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient by providing employment training and placement; and health, education, and social services referrals to the Orange County community.

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**Item D-25: Amendment to Ground Lease for Temporary Fire Station 48. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- Now that Fire Station 44 has moved to its permanent location on Reams Road, this station will continue to operate on Orlando Health property under the new name Temporary Fire Station 48, until a permanent station can be constructed and opened in Horizon West.



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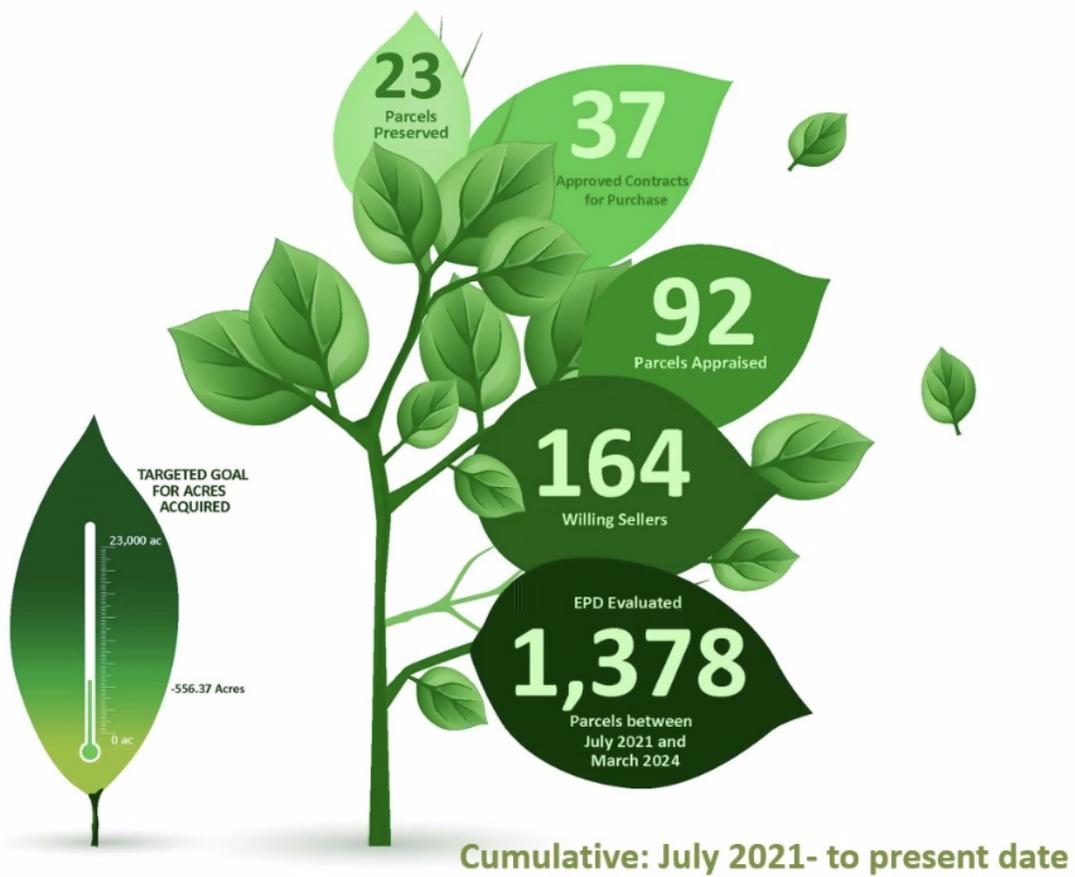
**Item G-2: Approval of Resolution regarding adoption of the Local Housing Assistance Plan; authorization for the Mayor or designee to implement the Local Housing Assistance Plan; and providing an effective date. [Click here for full report.](#)**

- The Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) seeks to meet the housing needs of the very low, low and moderate-income households.
- The LHAP 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 contains eight housing strategies: Purchase Assistance, Homeowner Occupied Housing Repairs, Disaster Assistance, Homeownership Impact Fees, Rental Assistance for Tenants, Multi-Family Construction or Rehabilitation, Rapid Rehousing, and Single-Family New Construction.

## Discussion Agenda

**Item B-1: Green PLACE Program Annual Update.**

- Staff will provide an annual update on the County's ESL acquisition and management program, Green PLACE. The work session will cover an overview of the program, ESL acquisition and progress, and completed capital projects land management and nature based recreation activities.
- We rave about Green PLACE every chance we get — I sought to revitalize this program several years ago. Since then, Orange County's awesome Environmental Protection Division has preserved over 550 acres of environmentally sensitive land for conservation!



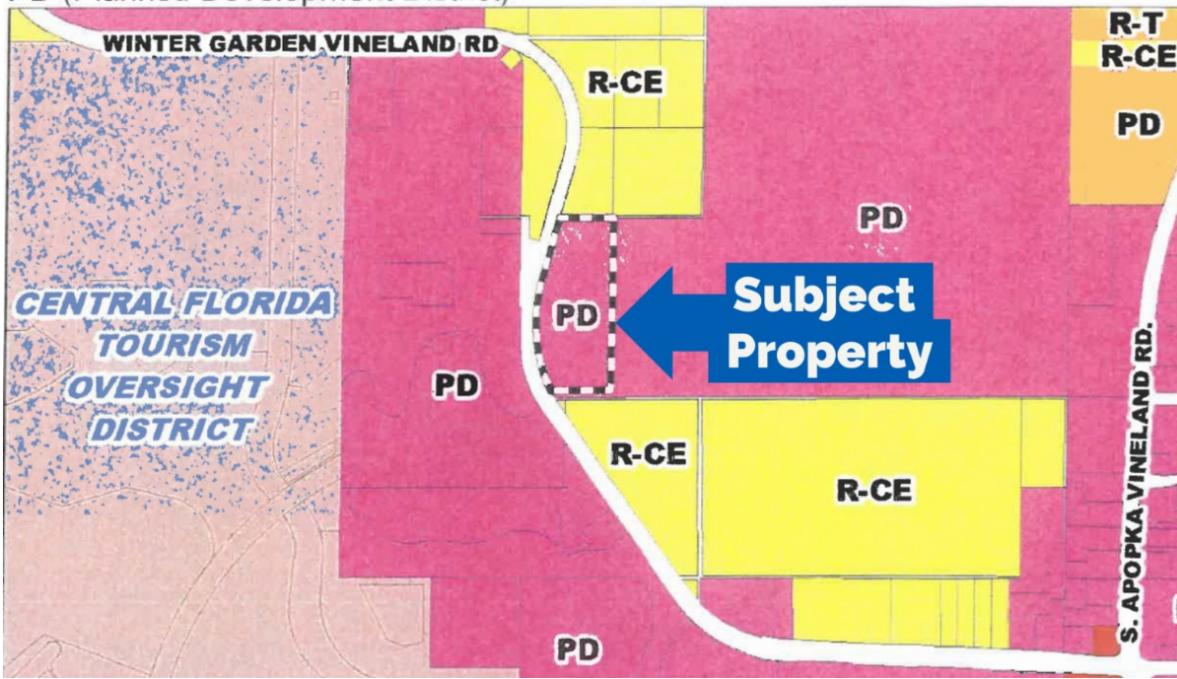
## Public Hearings

**Item E-13: Grand Cypress Resort Planned Development (PD). ([click here for full report.](#))**

- The request is to change the use on the subject parcel from 84 short term rental units to 84 multi-family residential units.
- The project is generally located east of Winter Garden Vineland Road and west of S. Apopka Vineland Road.

**ZONING**

PD (Planned Development District)



# ABC's of the BCC

The Board of County Commissioners meets every other Tuesday.  
Come on down!



Board of County Commissioners meetings occur every other Tuesday with a morning agenda and an afternoon agenda.

The early agenda allows public comment on any topic at 1:30 p.m., where a constituent may come to the Orange County Administration Building in person and give your thoughts on any item except for a public hearing, which is later.

Work Sessions or items on the Discussion Agenda are up for debate by the Board and are not voted on.

Public hearings begin after 2:00pm, which include zoning variances, public appeals, ordinances, and more. This is where constituents can submit public comments in person on a specific issue.

To attend the BCC, please find information [here](#).

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns at [district1@ocfl.net](mailto:district1@ocfl.net)

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