

Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter

Community updates and a look
at Tuesday's Board of County
Commissioners meeting



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[NicoleWilsonD1](https://www.facebook.com/NicoleWilsonD1)



[NicoleWilson_D1](https://www.instagram.com/NicoleWilson_D1)

Hey District 1 friends,

As spring begins and the greenery blooms in West Orange County, we appropriately have several important discussions regarding our natural lands on the horizon. As we provide updates on immediate issues like Reams Road flood prevention and Hurricane recovery grant funding, it becomes increasingly clear that one of the best ways to prevent these issues is to protect the land that helps mitigate flooding. In the coming months, the county will discuss establishing special protections for the St. Johns River Basin and District 1's own Shingle Creek Basin. Our EPD has shown us the work they already do to preserve these areas while collecting data on the countless ways they serve as a resource for our biodiversity, our water quality, and more. Let's put a pin in this for now, but we are looking forward to sharing more on this soon!



As always, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NicoleWilsonD1) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NicoleWilson_D1) for daily updates on all things West Orange County, and feel free to reach out to us at district1@ocfl.net. We would love to hear from you.

Certain apps may cut off the end of this email, so **If you're using Gmail, make sure you click the ellipses at the bottom of the**

Updates & Events



REAMS ROAD AREA: after hours of discussion at the last BCC meeting, we will now move forward with implementing the following:

- Better pre-storm prep and enhanced maintenance activities will be complete by late summer.
- Immediate asphalt overlay to a particularly low area near Greenbank Blvd. will be complete by late summer.
- Increased stormwater and drainage standards will be enforced for ALL development in the area.
- NO developments involving wetland or floodplain impacts will be allowed for the time being.

The long-term roadway improvements are coming, including elevation, safety enhancements, and a roundabout at Summerlake Park Blvd. In the meantime, these temporary improvements will mitigate flooding in key areas and stop new developments from making the problem worse.

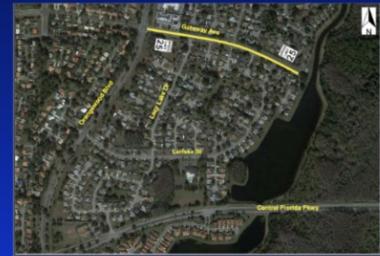
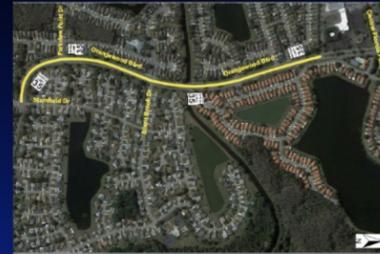
Stay tuned for more updates.



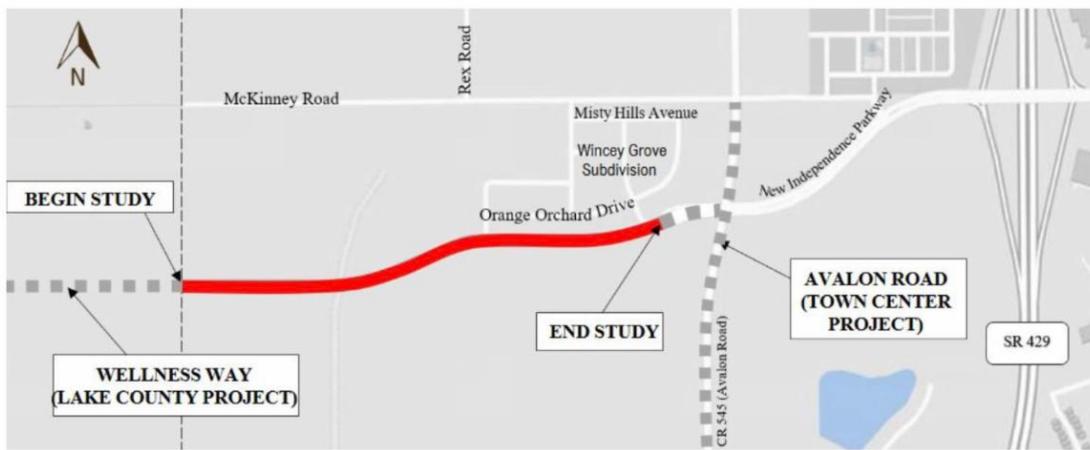
Recently Installed Improvements on South of Central Florida Parkway



- Traffic Signal at Orangewood and Gateway intersection
- Reduce the speed limit from 40 MPH to 35 MPH at
 - Orangewood Blvd from Central Fl. Pkwy to Deer Creek Dr.
- Reduce posted speed from 20 MPH to 25 MPH at:
 - Gateway Ave from Central Fl. Pkwy to Gifford Blvd.
- Install in-lane pavement marking to remind motorists of the new speed limit
- Install speed feedback signs set to remind motorists to slow down when going 5 MPH or more above the speed limit



Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make our Williamsburg Town Hall meeting a success! We brought representatives from Public Works, the Sheriff's office, Universal, and our Office on Aging to answer your questions and get you connected to the info you need. District 1 covers a big area, but meetings like these are a good reminder that we're all neighbors at the end of the day



\$2.5M Grant Approved to Expedite New Independence Parkway Extension to Lake County

Posted on February 16, 2025 by HorizonWestInfo Team

More news from our last BCC Meeting: "The Orange County Board of County Commissioners has approved an agreement with the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) to accelerate the long-planned extension of New Independence Parkway westward to the Lake County line. This project is a key component of the broader road network plan for Horizon West and the surrounding areas, improving connectivity between Orange and Lake counties.

"Under the agreement, CFX will provide a \$2.5 million grant contribution to assist in the construction of the roadway."

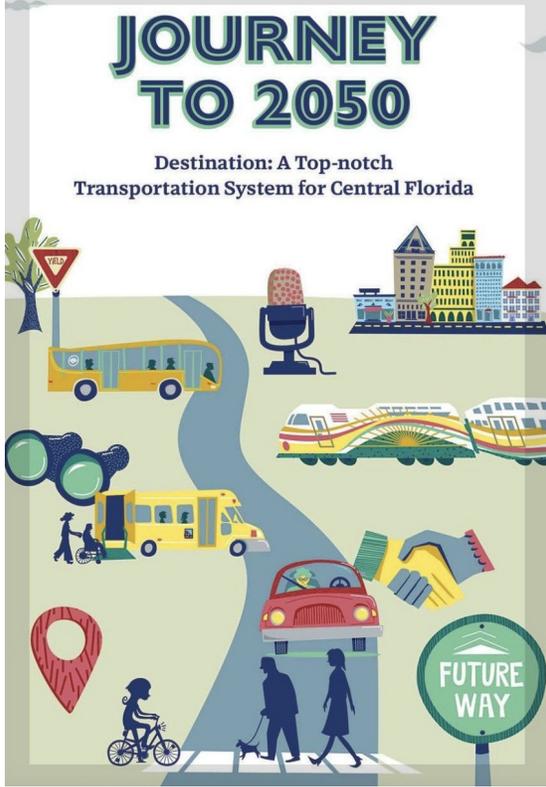
[Click here](#) for the full story.

What YOU see ahead for our region needs to be part of the plan -- [Central Florida's Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the year 2050](#).

We're planning now for ways our transportation system will grow, evolve, and connect over the coming decades.

We need your feedback so that the plan reflects the community's needs and values.

[Please click here to complete a 2-minute survey to let us know what you think.](#)



March 1st from 11am-5pm: Horizon West Fest



The community of Horizon West is gearing up for its biggest celebration of the year – Horizon West Fest! Mark your calendars for a day filled with community connection, live music, and an abundance of activities for adults and kids alike. This year's event promises to be an unforgettable experience that showcases the spirit of our community. [Click here to learn more!](#)

March 1st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Oakland Nature Preserve's Pours at the Preserve

- [See flyer below for more info and click here to register!](#)



POURS
AT THE PRESERVE

March 1
5:30 - 8:30PM
\$50/person



OAKLAND NATURE
PRESERVE



Join us at the log cabin for a delightful evening of food, beer, and wine. Enjoy the company of fellow nature enthusiasts while listening to music and engaging in great conversations.

After grabbing dessert, take a leisurely stroll down the Healthy West Orange Boardwalk, guided by luminaries. Listen to the owls, the frogs, maybe the whippoorwill, and keep your eyes open for fireflies.

Share a love-note, a remembrance, or honor someone on one of the luminaries, to be arranged when you register for this special event.

Limited to 125 guests, ages 21 and over only please.

Register at www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org/pours

Sponsored by:



HEALTHY
WEST ORANGE

WINDERMERE BREWING CO.

BORN FROM THE LAKES



March 6th at 6 p.m.: Silverleaf Park Community Meeting



We want to hear from you!



WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU WANT AT YOUR PARK!



The Orange County Parks and Recreation Division and District 1 Commissioner Nicole Wilson invite you to attend the first community meeting for Silverleaf Park.

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6-7 p.m.



Google Map Location of Meeting

Hamlin Middle School
16025 Silver Grove Boulevard
Winter Garden, FL 34787



SILVERLEAF PARK WEB PAGE

<https://tinyurl.com/SilverleafPark>

parks@ocfl.net • OrangeCountyParks.net • 407-836-6257

Orange County embraces the power of diversity and does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, race, gender, national origin or disability. ANY SPECIAL NEEDS PLEASE CALL.

PLA-GLP01-FL01 1/25

On March 6th, we'll be joining Orange County Parks and Recreation staff for the first of two community meetings regarding Silverleaf Park, a five-acre site located just south of Hamlin Middle School. If you live nearby, please join us to learn more and provide your input on park plans.

See flyer for more details! Can't attend? You can still provide feedback by taking a [quick survey](#).



Want to get more involved in our community? We'd love to hear from you!

There are countless ways to make a difference—whether it's supporting community outreach efforts with organizations like [Hope Along the Way](#), giving out essential resources with the [Central Florida Diaper Bank](#), or representing our district on a county advisory board.

Please reach out if you'd like to get involved!

BCC Meeting: Consent Agenda

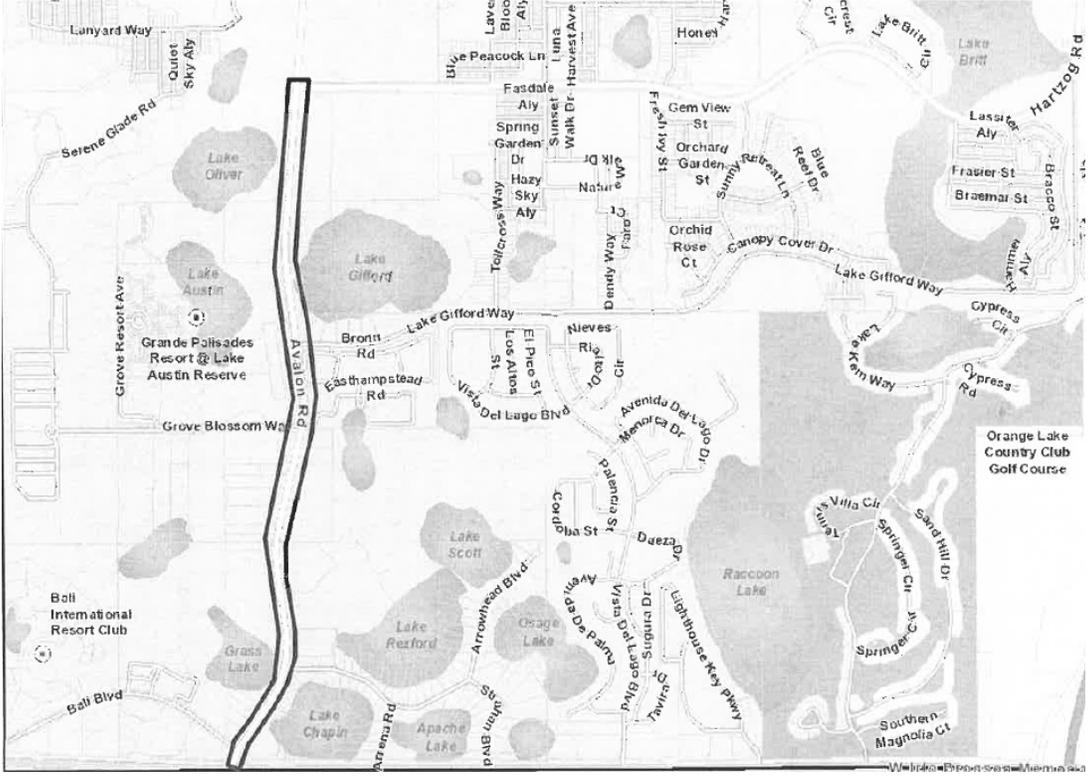
Grant agreements to provide medical and support services to residents living with HIV in Central Florida, via CAN Community Health, the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, and the Orange County Health Department.

- In total, these three grant agreements will provide essential services to an estimated 1,350 residents per year.



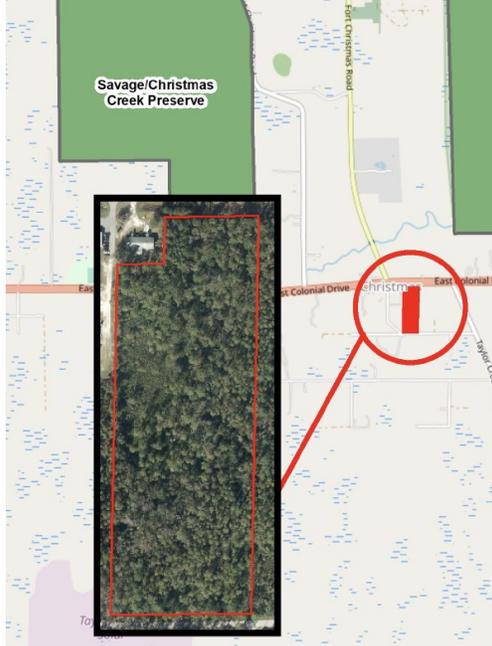
Approval to decrease the speed limit on Avalon Road from Hartzog Road to US 192 (West Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway) from 55 mph to 45 mph.

- The need for this change was brought forward by concerned D1 residents, and is backed up by analysis on crash data, surrounding land use, and roadway conditions.



Approval and execution of Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Green PLACE Parcel 248.

- This 12.75 acres of environmentally sensitive



land, located off East Colonial Drive in Christmas, will now be conserved via our Environmental Protection Division's Green PLACE Program!

BCC: Discussion Agenda



Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Update.

- Staff will provide an update on progress in implementing Grant funding related to Hurricane Ian recovery.
- These funds are dedicated to infrastructure, public facilities, mitigation of future risks, housing repairs and reconstruction, affordable housing construction, and public services related to self-sufficiency, mental health, job training and placement, and economic recovery efforts.
- [Click here](#) to learn more about this disaster recovery program.
- Orange County also received a new allocation of Disaster Recovery funds for damages related to Hurricane Milton. [Click here](#) to sign up for email updates on Hurricane Milton relief.

BCC: Work Session

Item A-1: Proposed Preservation Districts for Rural Settlements in East Orange County.

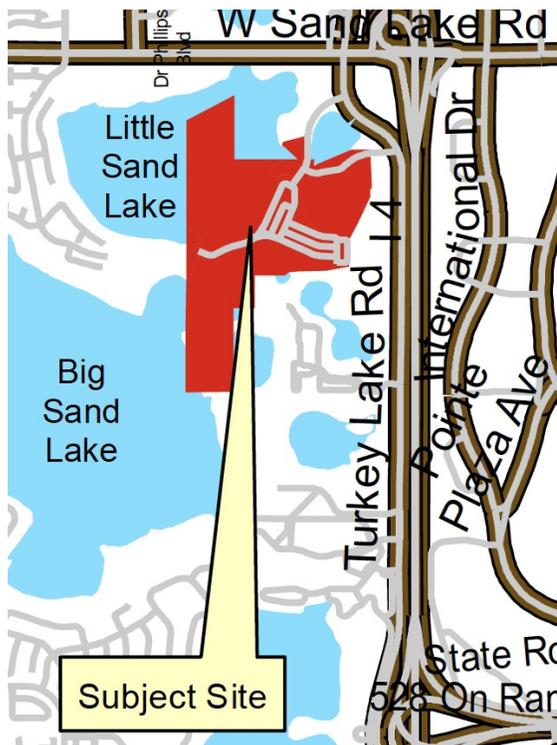
- The Work Session will focus on analysis regarding the recently-adopted Charter amendments in relation to nine proposed preservation districts in East Orange County.
- County staff will present historical info, ongoing efforts, and

possible actions.

- Following the Work Session and depending on Board direction, staff may draft a proposed ordinance which would create these new preservation districts.

BCC: Public Hearings

Item E-5: Sand Lake Sound HOA Semi-Private Boat Ramp ([click here for more info](#))

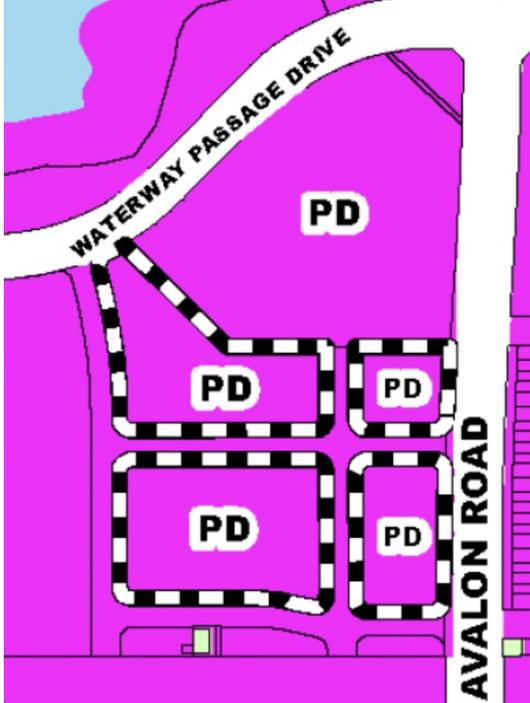


- This application for a semi-private boat ramp on Little Sand Lake was initially heard by the Board of County Commissioners during a public hearing on 11/19/24.
- After concerns were raised about the permitting process and potential impacts on the surrounding area, the case was continued, and a community meeting was held for nearby residents on Feb. 6th.

- This application is being processed concurrently with a Conservation Area Impact (CAI) Permit Application for surface water impacts, as well as a modification of a previously-issued CAI Permit for the development of the Sand Lake Sound subdivision. These are items C-3 and D-4 on the Agenda.

Item G-7: Waterleigh PD Signage & Street Frontage Waivers

- Three waivers would exclusively apply to signage within a 7.25-acre portion of the Waterleigh PD Village Center, located south of Waterway Passage Drive and west of Avalon Road.
- The first waiver would allow landscaped street walls to account for up to 85 percent



of the build-to-line for all parcels along the internal circulator roadways within the Village Center.

- The second waiver would allow for five total ground signs. The third waiver would allow a maximum copy area for walls signs to be one square foot per one linear foot for all establishments along public and private roadways.

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 9:00 a.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 2:00 p.m., 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

Orange County Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1 | 201 S. Rosalind Avenue 5th Floor | Orlando, FL 32801 US

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