

# Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter

Take a closer look at Tuesday's Board of County Commissioners meeting



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Hey West Orange County,

Just so you don't miss it, I want to start by highlighting one of our biggest events of the year —the District 1 Back to School Fair! Join us on Saturday, July 12 at West Orange High School for free food, fun, backpacks, school supplies, immunizations, and more — while supplies last.

[Click here to pre-register](#) for the event, which is recommended.

The Community & Family Services Department in conjunction with Orange County Commission District 1

## INVITE YOU TO THE 2025 BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR!



Commissioner  
Nicole H. Wilson  
District 1

Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Neighborhood Centers for Families  
at West Orange High School

1625 Beulah Road, Winter Garden, FL 34787

PRE-REGISTRATION  
IS ENCOURAGED.

Children must  
be present!



EVENT INCLUDES FREE FOOD, A KIDS FUN ZONE, BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, IMMUNIZATIONS AND SPORTS ECG.

*While supplies last.*

Also connect with  
community resources

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Counseling
- After school programming
- Gun safety
- Neighborhood safety
- And more

Parents must bring the  
following documents for  
immunizations  
& sports ECG.

- Parent/guardian identification
- Child's birth certificate or identification (*passport*)
- Vaccination record needed
- Children must be present

Proof of Orange County Residency required.

The Neighborhood Centers for Families is overseen by the Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children, a division of the Community & Family Services Department.



Now, onto some community updates and a look at Tuesday's BCC meeting!

As always, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily updates on all things West Orange County, and feel free to reach out to us at [district1@ocfl.net](mailto: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 newsletter to view the rest of it.**

## What We've Been Up To



Watching our weekend food giveaways grow and reach more neighbors each month has been nothing short of inspiring! All the thanks in the world to the Tildenville Safe Neighborhood team, Second Harvest Food Bank, and our volunteer friends who never fail to show up for our community.



Wishing a happy retirement to Chief James Fitzgerald after over 40 years with Orange County Fire Rescue.

Congratulations to incoming Chief Anthony Rios — there's no one better prepared to take the reins of our Fire Rescue team.



We recently had the chance to host an awesome group of high school students at the office.

CareerSource Central Florida and Mayor Demings' office collaborated on this event to showcase the countless career paths available in the public sector. These are our future



Last week, Aspire Health Partners and the Collage Companies broke ground on an important project to bring 48 transitional housing units for veterans to the South Orlando area. Providing a stable, healthy environment is the least we can do to restore dignity and help our local heroes thrive again.

leaders!



How do we get world-class first responders in Orange County? The first step is training them in a world-class facility. That's why it was so gratifying to celebrate the grand opening of the Orange County Fire Rescue Training Center!

This campus was designed by first responders, for first responders. It's got a 30,000 square foot education center equipped with cutting-edge training technology and a variety of live demo areas to ensure that our firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs will be ready for whatever scenarios they face in the field. It utilizes solar energy and sources water from our Utilities division's reclamation facility right next door.

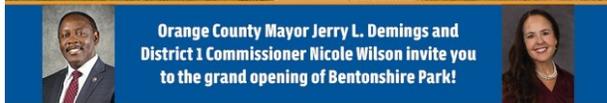
It took years of steady leadership from our Fire Rescue team and support from our BCC to make this project happen. This is a long-term investment in the public safety of our residents, and the heroes who keep us safe every single day!

## On Your Radar



### Bentonshire Park Grand Opening

Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 9 a.m.



Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and District 1 Commissioner Nicole Wilson invite you to the grand opening of Bentonshire Park!

Scan for website  
This event is free and open to the public.



Scan for directions  
Bentonshire Park  
7327 Bentonshire Ave.  
Windermere, FL 34786

July is National Park and Recreation Month, and we're celebrating by opening a brand new neighborhood park in District 1!

Join me and Mayor Demings on Thursday, 7/10 at 9 a.m. as we commemorate the grand opening of Bentonshire Park. This event is free and open to the public.

The park is located at 7327 Bentonshire Avenue, Windermere, FL 34786. [Click here for more location info.](#)

Questions? Email [parcs@ocfl.net](mailto:parcs@ocfl.net) or call Parks Marketing 407-836-6257.

## We all have ideas on how to improve transportation in Central Florida

Share your comments on the TIP by July 7, 2025



The MetroPlan Orlando 5-year Transportation Improvement Program is getting its annual update, and I want our community's voice to be heard!

Do you have a specific transportation project in mind?

With the [interactive TIP Online Viewer map](#), you can view all the projects in the plan and provide specific feedback directly.

[Click here](#) for a quick how-to video to get the hang of using the tool.

Or, email your comments to [comment@MetroPlanOrlando.gov](mailto:comment@MetroPlanOrlando.gov)

In November, Orange County voters determined that two new commission districts will be established, bringing the total from six to eight.

The redistricting process is now in full swing, and your input is needed! [Click here](#) to learn more about redistricting, and see the below list of upcoming meetings. Public comment is always welcome.

Wednesday, July 9  
6 to 9 p.m.

Orange County Administration Center, BCC Chambers  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

Wednesday, July 30  
6 to 9 p.m.

Orange County Administration Center, BCC Chambers  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

Wednesday, August 6  
6 to 9 p.m.

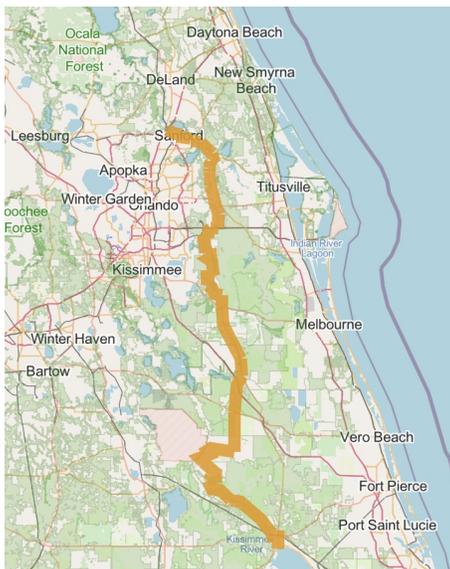
Orange County Administration Center, BCC Chambers  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

Monday, August 18  
6 to 9 p.m.

Orange County Administration Center, BCC Chambers  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

## Resolution regarding Supporting the Lake to Lake Regional Multi-Use Trail. ([Click here for more info](#))

- The [Lake to Lake Regional Multi-Use Trail](#) is a proposed 150-mile non-motorized, eco-tourism trail through the eastern reaches of the Florida Wildlife Corridor between Lake Okeechobee and Lake Monroe - traversing Seminole, Orange, Osceola, and Okeechobee Counties.
- This concept will provide recreational opportunities for bicyclists, bird watchers, campers, long distance runners, and other lovers of Florida's abundant natural habitat, exposing Florida residents and visitors to the history of early 19th and 20th century settlement and the use of the land for farming, logging, cattle ranching and wildlife conservation.
- This proposed Resolution encourages a formal request to the Office of Greenways and Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to add this corridor and its linkages to the Statewide Opportunity Land Trail Map. Further, it encourages the Office of Greenways and Trails to rank this corridor as a State Trail Priority during the next ranking cycle which would allow the project to receive state funding.
- Lastly, the resolution endorses collaborative efforts between FDOT, counties along the trail corridor, non-profit organizations and private entities to develop plans to support the long-term operation and management of the corridor. Seminole and Osceola Counties have recently approved similar resolutions of support.



**Agreement to allow for the construction of two auditoriums on the 4Roots Farm Campus, using previously approved Tourist Development Tax funding. ([Click here for more info](#))**

- The 4Roots Farm Campus, is an ambitious agritourism and education hub aiming to close the disconnect between us and the food we eat. Phase one of the Farm Campus, which began last year, will educate kids and adults alike, offering hands-on farming experiences, classes, and much more.
- Once complete, the campus will include a farm-to-table restaurant, permaculture food forest, and event center. Attracting tourists is one thing, but it's heartening to see TDT funds going toward an endeavor that will tackle food insecurity and benefit our residents directly!



**Resolutions for the issuance of Bonds to finance the rehabilitation of Palm Grove Gardens Apartments and Crossroads Apartments, both located in District 6. [\(Click here for more info\)](#)**

- Palm Grove Gardens Apartments consists of 142 housing units, while Crossroads Apartments consists of 94 units.
- The Orange County Housing Authority has approved applications for multi-family tax-exempt bonds to go toward the acquisition, rehabilitation, and equipping of these affordable housing projects. The rents will be supported by a 20-year, Section-8 Housing Assistance (“HAP”) contract.



**Item D-1: Contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families Central Region regarding a Youth Mental Health**

## **Management Network Consortium. ([Click here for more info](#))**

- For 7 years, this funding has provided opportunities for Orange County families to access mental health services, secure basic needs, and prevent homelessness.

## **BCC: Discussion Agenda**

### **Item B-1: Acceptance of the Orange County Jail Oversight Commission Proposed Recommendations.**

- The Jail Oversight Commission was convened in January in order to address issues leading to a rising inmate population.
- 25 members make up the commission, representing criminal justice partners, medical & mental health professionals, law enforcement, the legal sector, education, and community stakeholders.
- The Commission has developed 31 proposed recommendations in the areas of Case Processing, Medical, Mental Health, and Substance Use Disorder, and Recruitment and Retention. These recommendations will be presented to the Board.

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### **Item C-1: Resolution regarding the Minority Women Business Enterprise Program.**

- In January, the President signed multiple executive orders that sought to extinguish Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and required a certification within federal grants that the recipient of the grant does not have any DEI programs. In order for the County to execute such certifications, it is recommended that the County suspend the Minority Women Business Enterprise Program and any other programs that may be considered DEI.
- This invaluable county program, first established in 1988, is intended to expand opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses to secure county contracts for construction, professional services, goods, and other county projects.

## **BCC: Public Hearings**

### **Item D-1: BZA Appeal of Case # SE-24-09-086 — Derek Bruce for Orlando Torah ([Click here for more info](#))**

- Applicant is requesting a Special Exception to allow a 9,376 sq. ft. expansion to an existing religious institution, located at 8613 Banyan Blvd. in the Dr. Phillips area, as well as a variance to allow 35 parking spaces in lieu of 52 required parking spaces.



- Our office facilitated two community meetings to collect resident feedback regarding this case. Thank you to the community members who participated, and to those who have since called or emailed our office with your feedback.
- On May 1, The Board of Zoning Adjustment recommended denial of this request.
- Board members cited issues with the proposed scale and intensity of the expansion. Community concerns about the institution's location in a residential area were also discussed.
- The applicant has appealed this ruling, so it will be heard by the BCC on Tuesday.



Existing religious institution from Banyan Blvd.



## 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](mailto:district1@ocfl.net)

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