

# Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter

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



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## Hey West Orange County,

Spring is springing and District 1 is as bustling as ever! Our office has a lot of plates spinning at all times, and we try hard to encapsulate it in this newsletter. From the family events, to the local heroes, to the legislation — both local legislation we're excited about moving forward, but also [state legislation](#) that threatens our ability to govern locally. Whatever you're here to learn more about, I hope we can provide it to you.

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.**

## Updates & Events

# THE FIRST EVER DISTRICT 1 SAFETY EXPO

In Horizon West, sponsored by Commissioner Nicole Wilson & the O.C. Citizen Corps Council



- **LIVE DEMOS**
- **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**
- **FOOD TRUCKS**
- **FREE GOODIES**
- **LOCAL VENDORS**
- **MEET YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

**FREE ADMISSION!**



**Saturday, 4/19**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

\*SPECIAL FIRE RESCUE DEMO AT NOON



**Horizon High School**  
10393 Seidel Road  
Winter Garden, FL



Scan Here



April 19th, join us for a BIG community event we have been working on — the first ever District 1 Safety Expo! We are combining family fun and important education into a day you won't want to miss. Our first responders will do hands-on demonstrations, local favorites will be supplying food, and dozens of community partners will be there to supply you with info and souvenirs.

You'll learn about bike safety, safe driving, emergency preparedness, mental health, and find out about community resources from all over Central Florida. Mark your calendars now!

[Click here to RSVP.](#)



# HAMLIN GROVES COMMUNITY MEETING

## TRAFFIC CALMING & PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SAFETY STUDY

### Purpose

Orange County's Traffic Engineering Division is conducting a study to address traffic calming and pedestrian/bicycle safety along Hamlin Groves Trail. The study evaluates measures to better manage vehicular speeds, enhance safety for all users, and provide safer pedestrian and bicycle crossings.

This meeting is being facilitated by your District 1 Commissioner, Nicole H. Wilson. County staff and project consultants will present findings from the study and discuss potential solutions under evaluation. These include near-term improvements such as new crosswalks, restricted crossing U-turns (RCUTs), and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), as well as long-term improvements like roundabouts and new traffic signals. This is an opportunity for residents to learn more about the study, review potential design solutions, and provide input.

### Project Map



### Date, Time, and Location

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025**  
**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas**  
**1411 Shoreside Way**  
**Winter Garden, FL 34787**

### Meeting Agenda

- Project Overview
- Key Findings & Identified Needs
- Proposed Near-Term & Long-Term Improvements
- Community Feedback & Next Steps

Visual aids, including maps and proposed designs, will be available for review.

Horizon West: after hearing from nearby residents and our office, the county has conducted a study to address safety issues along Hamlin Groves Trail. On April 1, join us at a community meeting at Cinépolis to learn more about potential solutions and provide your feedback. See above flyer for details.



On April 5th, join us to celebrate 100 years of Windermere at the Centennial Country Fair! Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of music, rides, carnival games, food trucks, and much more. [Click here](#) for tickets and more info.

# REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 6 to 9 p.m.

West Orange Recreation Center

309 SW Crown Point Road, Winter Garden, FL 34787

[ocfl.net/redistricting](https://ocfl.net/redistricting)



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

That means the redistricting process has now begun, and your input is needed. There will be community meetings in each of our districts to gather your feedback. The meeting in District 1 will take place on April 23 at the West Orange Rec Center.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the redistricting process, meeting dates and how you can submit a public comment.



Thank you to our volunteer friends who joined us for our D1 Day of Service at Orange County Animal Services!

Something as simple as spending time with a shelter animal can make a world of difference. It's worth doing everything we can to improve their outcomes - including supporting the ongoing plans for a safer, smarter shelter.

Join us next time we volunteer at the shelter, or [click here](#) to learn more about volunteering.



Congratulations to our District 1 Citizen of the Month, Patrick Ferguson!

We first knew Patrick as an advocate for safer, smarter growth in Horizon West. This year, Patrick has answered every call to volunteer — at food giveaways, diaper drives, Animal Services and more.

I recently appointed Patrick to represent our district on the county's new Transportation Mobility Advisory Commission. It's a volunteer position best occupied by someone with our community's best interest at heart. We appreciate all the work you do for District 1, Patrick.

A promotional banner for the Orange County Recovers Housing Repair &amp; Replacement Program. The banner features the 'ORANGE COUNTY RECOVERS' logo on the left, which includes a palm tree and a house icon. To the right of the logo is the text 'Housing Repair &amp; Replacement Program'. Below this is a large orange banner with the text 'HURRICANE IAN STEPS TO RECOVERY'. Underneath that, a white box contains the text: 'The Orange County Recovers Program helps citizens of Orange County and its municipalities repair, rebuild or replace eligible homes with remaining damage from Hurricane Ian.' At the bottom of the banner, the website 'OrangeCountyRecovers.com' and phone number '321-382-3514' are listed. The background of the banner shows a photograph of a white house with a porch.

If your home still has unrepaired damage from Hurricane Ian, you may qualify for funding via the Orange County Recovers Program. This program will utilize grant funding through our Housing and Community Development Division to assist residents who qualify as low-to-moderate income.

[Click here to learn more or apply.](#) Funding will be distributed until it runs out. If you think you may qualify, it's worth looking into this program as soon as possible.



Orange County Public Works has made important upgrades to the Reams Road/Ficquette Road/Summerlake Park Boulevard intersection to ease traffic backups and improve safety. To help keep traffic moving, the Traffic Engineering team:

- Extended the Summerlake Park Blvd through/right turn lane
- Optimized traffic signal timing
- Added new pavement markings & signs
- Improved drainage with curb & gutter construction

These upgrades will enhance traffic flow and safety while long-term improvements are on the horizon, including additional lanes and a roundabout at the Summerlake Park Blvd. intersection.



# We want to hear from you!

## Silverleaf Park

Take a [quick survey](#) if you live in the Silverleaf area and want to provide input on the plans for a new 5-acre neighborhood park!

## BCC Meeting: Proclamation

### Proclamation recognizing March 29 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Orange County

Because Developmental Disabilities are often "invisible" or difficult to categorize, there is sadly a lack of legal protection and accommodations available to the DD community. Thankfully, groups like the Orange County Disability Advisory Board and Magical Self Advocacy are working to change that. Sometimes a little bit of understanding goes a long way. Here's to everyone who works to make a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## BCC Meeting: Consent Agenda

### Approval of Contract for Housing Connection Services, with Housing Connector, Inc.

- This program will provide a range of housing services for approximately 270 people per year, including emergency rental assistance, damage mitigation funding, and other flexible financial supports to reduce housing barriers and promote long-term stability.

### Approval of Contract for 3 Bridges Program and Housing

**Services, with Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corporation, a.k.a. Pathlight Home.**

- This contract will provide bridge housing, short-term rapid rehousing rental assistance, case management, and supportive services to Orange County homeless individuals 50 years of age or older.



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**Approval of Contract for Orange County MATCH Program Counseling and Case Management Services, with Hope Center for Children and Families, Inc.**

- This contract provides a dedicated team of clinicians who will serve Orange County youth and families utilizing MATCH, an evidence-based clinical treatment used to treat children experiencing symptoms related to anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, and disruptive conduct.

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**Agreement between Orange County, Florida and Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc.**

- This program will provide rental assistance to approximately 100 qualified individuals or families experiencing homelessness for a period ending December 31, 2027.

# The Problem

We are part of a **collaborative community effort** to prevent and end homelessness. Working together, homelessness is a problem we can and will solve.



There are only **34 affordable rental units** available for every **100 low-income households** in the United States.



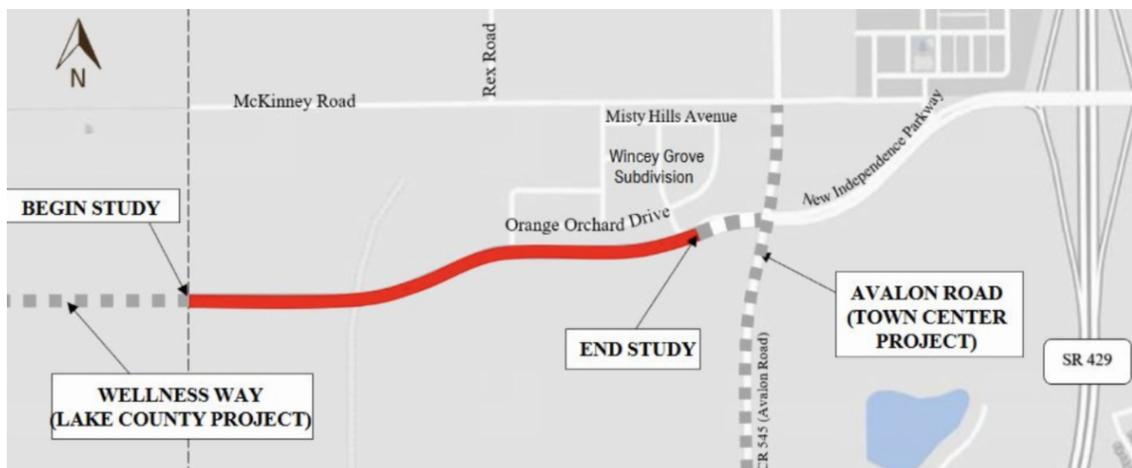
The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count found **2,883 homeless individuals** on a single night in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties.



Earning minimum wage (\$13.00 per hour), a single person needs to work **123 hours each week** to afford a **one-bedroom rental** in Florida.

## Approval of Amended Silverleaf Road Network Agreement, which provides for a \$5,000,000 County contribution to expedite the construction of New Independence Parkway.

- In order to expedite the construction and guard against further escalation in costs for the New Independence Parkway Extension, the Agreement commits County funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 and recognizes additional funding assistance from Central Florida Expressway (CFX) in the amount of \$2,500,000.
- If approved, it is anticipated that construction of the New Independence Parkway extension could occur within the next few months.

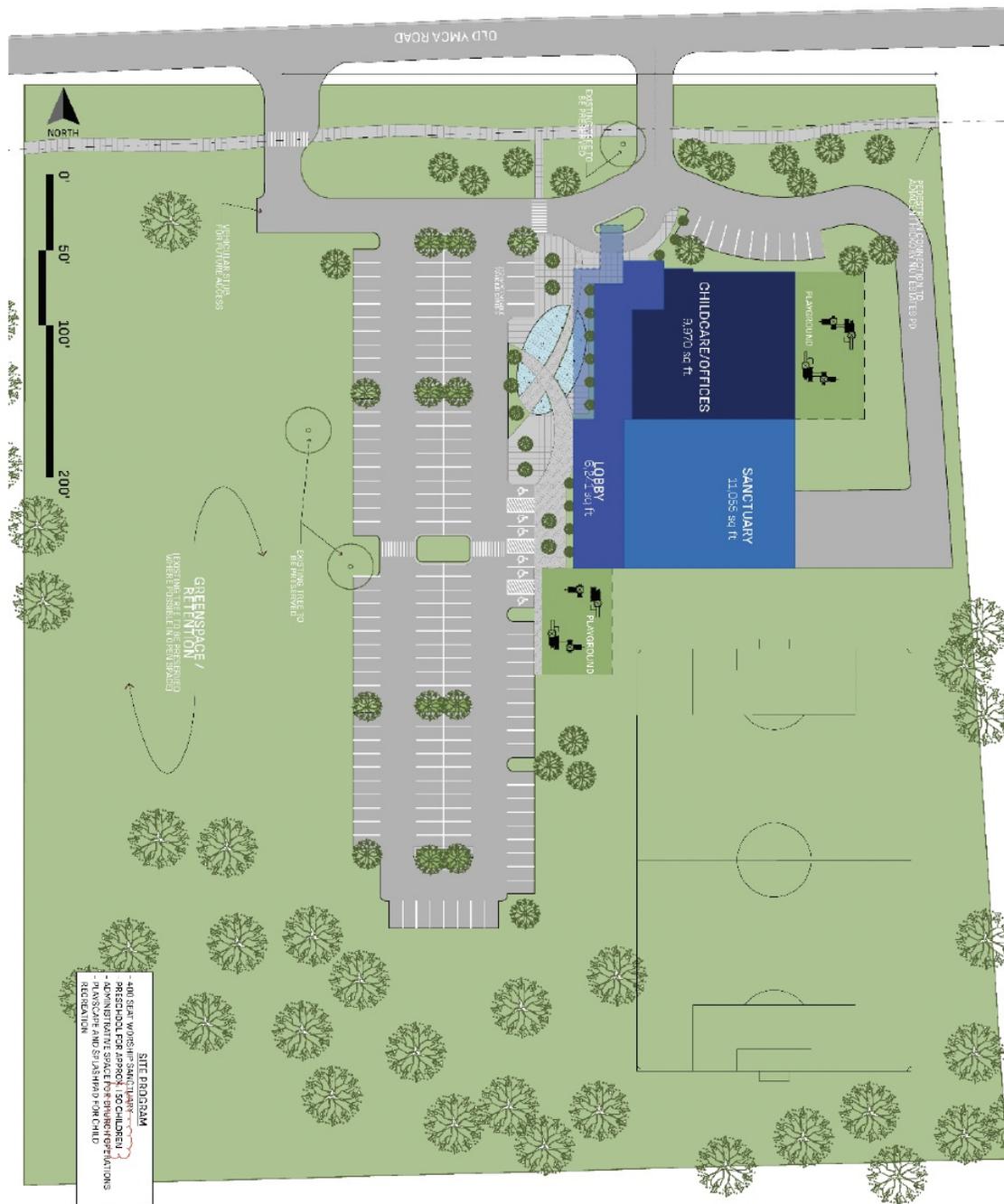


## BCC: Public Hearings

### Case # CDR-24-10-259: Kensington Church PD Amendment ([Click here for more info](#))

- Request is for a PD substantial change to increase the number of students for preschool use from 50 students to 150 students.
- The Kensington Church PD contains approximately 10 acres,

and is generally located south of Old YMCA Road and west of Lake Hickory Nut Drive.



## BCC: Work Session

### Vision 2050/Orange Code Update.

- [Vision 2050](#) lays out the blueprint for Orange County's growth over the next three decades, while Orange Code establishes the development guidelines needed to bring this vision to life. Together, this set of updates will encourage smarter, more sustainable growth than the outdated policy we are currently working with.
- The primary purpose of this Work Session is to update the Board on the progress of the Vision 2050 and Orange Code initiatives

since December, as we prepare for adoption public hearings scheduled for this spring.

**THE MISSION: *Activation, Protection & Preservation***

Vision 2050 must strike a balance between where growth will be directed, the protection of existing neighborhoods and the preservation of natural resources and sensitive rural areas



Encouraging Affordable Housing



Preserving Rural Spaces & Natural Places

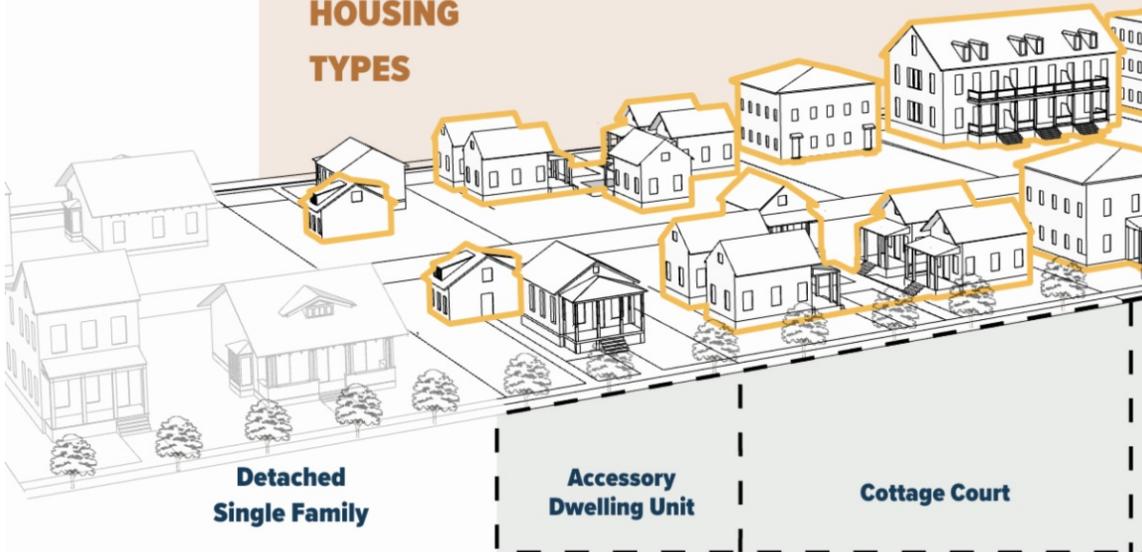


Promoting Walkability & Mixed Land Uses



Protecting Established Neighborhoods

**MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING TYPES**





## 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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