

Library Dedication



The renaming of the Winter Haven Public Library honors the commitment, passion and tenacity Kathryn L. Smith "Kitty" extended to her community. As City Librarian of the Winter Haven Public Library for 33 years, Kitty devoted her heart to librarianship. Her strong work ethic, great business sense, and determination brought the respect of those who knew her.

The completion of the new Winter Haven Public Library in July 2004 meant a lot to Kitty, who was instrumental in making it a reality. Kitty's vision advanced the library into a warm and inviting place

with open space to accommodate a great number of people and books. Building community was important to Kitty and the legacy she has left behind is a testament to her conviction.

The City of Winter Haven will hold a special ceremony to honor Kitty and commemorate the renaming of the library to the Winter Haven Public Library Kathryn L. Smith Memorial. This dedication is Saturday, July 15 at 11 a.m.



Avenue T Project Finished

The May 11 Community Celebration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony officially re-opened Avenue T in the Florence Villa neighborhood. Long-time Avenue T residents Edythe J. Hunter and Fred Gaffney, Jr. cut the ribbon, as residents and officials from the City of Winter Haven, the Winter Haven CRA and the Florence Villa CRA looked on. This project was five years in the making with the goal of restoring and rejuvenating Avenue T from First Street North to 11th Street Northeast; the main thoroughfare in the Florence Villa Neighborhood.



Project features include new pedestrian lighting, benches, trash receptacles, new sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, new curb and gutter for improved roadway drainage, center landscaped medians with Washingtonian Palms, a decorative concrete paver brick center-turn-lane, wooden power poles replaced with concrete poles and all road-crossing utility service drops placed underground. The total project cost was \$3.5 million with six separate sources of funding from the City of Winter Haven, the Winter Haven CRA and Polk County.

July, August and September Special Events

Cruisin' Winter Haven	Downtown Winter Haven	First Saturday of every month	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bike Fest	Downtown Winter Haven	Third Saturday of every month	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Library Dedication	Winter Haven Public Library	July 15	11 a.m.
Community Coming Together	Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	Sept. 30	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For further information on current and future special events, please call Leisure and Environmental Services at 291-5656.



City Response - Before, During and After a Hurricane

BEFORE THE STORM

STAFF PREPARATIONS

City staff participates in briefings to assure every department is prepared to respond after a storm. Maintenance equipment is checked, fueled and staged for the recovery process.

SANDBAGS

When a storm is approaching, the City has sand and bags available at Fire Station One located on Third Street Northwest, and Fire Station Two located at 4700 State Road 544. Sandbags are not filled, but fill material and shovels will be available at both sites. Up to 25 sandbags are permitted per family. Volunteers are always welcome to assist the public with this task.

DURING THE STORM

RESPONSE PLAN

The City Emergency Operations' Center is staffed before, during and after a storm to ensure an effective recovery. Shortly after a storm passes and conditions are safe, City crews respond to assess the damage, remove debris, repair damaged water and sewer lines, repair traffic signals/signage and restore order.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency personnel are on hand throughout a storm to respond to emergency situations. Response is halted once winds reach a sustained speed of 55 m.p.h. and resume full operations once winds drop below 35 m.p.h.

AFTER THE STORM

WATER

Most boil water notices are localized to a specific area and the notices are hand delivered through door hangers. Boil Water notices could also be announced to the media. These notices are rescinded once satisfactory sample test results are confirmed. If in doubt, please boil drinking and cooking water for at least one minute. Questions concerning the City water system can be directed to 291-5767 or 291-5768.

WATER USAGE

If you experience prolonged power outage, it is important to limit water usage.

The City currently has 12 permanent generators at regional and master sewer lift stations and five existing portable generators are available for use at the remaining 150+ lift stations. Eight additional permanent generators are on order. Your limited water use will minimize the sewer discharge; thereby, assisting the system to work more effectively until power is restored.

REFUSE AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

Refuse service will occur as scheduled, once roads are cleared. It is vital to separate household waste, landscape debris and construction material. Place household waste ONLY in the hobo trash receptacle. Keep waste and debris in the right-of-way, away from water meter boxes, power lines and poles. This will assist the water repair crews and the power company, as they continue to make repairs. Household waste is the priority after a storm. All other waste will be removed in an orderly fashion. The City will work with private contractors to assist with debris removal, should the need arise.

TREE DAMAGE

Please call the City Storm Assistance Line at 291-5858 to report downed trees in City rights-of-way and other types of damage needing immediate attention. Crews will respond to damage as soon as possible. Please be patient.

INTERSECTIONS AND ROADWAYS

When traffic signals are not operating, it is important to treat the intersection as a four-way stop. Many roadways could be partially blocked by storm debris and flooding. Do not drive after a storm unless it is absolutely necessary.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

If necessary, the City will coordinate with other agencies to provide ice and water assistance. Local media will be contacted should this occur.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

City Damage Assessment Teams may make personal house-by-house visits in heavily damaged areas to assess the storm damage. They may also distribute recovery

service information.

RECREATION SERVICES

Leisure and Environmental Services will provide youth day camps at various sites should Polk County schools close to accommodate coastal evacuations. If Winter Haven is affected, every effort will be made to provide day camp where possible. There will be a nominal fee. The media will be alerted.

LAKE USE

The lakes will be assessed after a major storm for bacteria levels. All residents are asked to refrain from using any lake until the City alerts the media that lakes are safe. Please call 291-5858 to report any spills or lake related problems following a storm.

BUILDING PERMITS

Check with the Building and Permitting Division at 291-5695 regarding any storm damage to your home or buildings.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

City of Winter Haven Citizen Information Line
291-5600

City of Winter Haven Storm Assistance
291-5858

City of Winter Haven Water Plant
291-5767 or 291-5768

Polk County Citizens Information Line
(863) 534-0321

Polk County Emergency Management Office
534-5600

American Red Cross 294-5941

United Way Information Referral Service
648-1515

The Salvation Army 291-5107

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

www.mywinterhaven.com
www.polk-county.net
www.floridadisaster.org

The Winter Haven Insider is a City of Winter Haven publication intended to inform area residents and businesses. If you have any questions or comments, please call 863-291-5600, ext. 250 or write Donna Sheehan, editor, at 451 3rd St., N.W., Winter Haven, FL 33883.