

# Insider

WINTER HAVEN  
*The Chain of Lakes City*

CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

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## Motoring through Winter Haven Revved for Improvement

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has started work on a \$4.1 million project that will ultimately improve traffic flow through Winter Haven. The Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project consists of design and installation of a traffic control system for signalized intersections, Intelligent Transportation System devices, and vehicle detection devices at several dozen intersections in and around the City.

FDOT had scheduled the project for a future year, but in the interest of safety, City of Winter Haven officials made the decision to budget for the system now, with FDOT to reimburse the City at a later date.

In about a year, when the project is finished, there will be 15 closed-circuit televisions that will be monitored during peak traffic periods. During this time, adjustments can be made when needed to signal timing to help traffic flow more smoothly. This will reduce traffic delays and maintain the flow of traffic during heavy travel periods and other unexpected occurrences throughout the City. Forty-four intersections in the City will be controlled by the ATMS when the project is complete. The cameras will not be used to monitor for traffic citations.

Work started in December at the project's south boundary – Cypress Gardens Boulevard – and will move north to Havendale Boulevard (State Road 544). Twelve miles of underground fiber optic cable will be installed as part of the project. During construction, sidewalks located near the 44 intersections will be impacted intermittently. Temporary lane closures will also be required at various times throughout the project area; however, traffic flow will be maintained while some lanes are closed. The project will also require replacement of new controller cabinets for the 44 intersections. Traffic signals will not be operating during this work, so law enforcement will be in place to direct traffic through the affected intersections. This work will normally last two to four hours at each intersection.

When finished, three hubs will be equipped for traffic monitoring, each located at an existing City facility. Some major intersections where traffic will be improved are: Ha-



The intersection at Havendale Boulevard and U.S. Highway 17 North is one of the major intersections included in the Winter Haven traffic management improvement project.

vendale Boulevard and U.S. Highway 17; Havendale Boulevard and 21<sup>st</sup> Street Northwest; First Street North and Avenue T; U.S. Highway 17 and Lake Mirror Terrace Northwest; U.S. Highway 17 and Avenue M Northwest; Avenue G Northwest at Inwood Elementary; U.S. Highway 17 and Avenue D Northwest; Central Avenue and Third Street Northwest; First Street and Central Avenue; Cypress Gardens Boulevard and First Street South; Cypress Gardens Boulevard and U.S. Highway 17; and Cypress Gardens Boulevard and Sixth Street Southeast.

New mast arms and signals will be placed at two locations on First Street North: one at South Lake Silver Drive and another at North Lake Silver Drive.

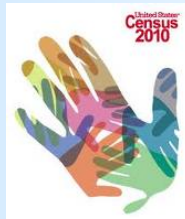
To cause as little impact on traffic as possible, construction will take place mostly during night hours, but some work will be done during the day, as well. Completion of the project is estimated to be December 2010.

## 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

**A**s a 2010 Census partner, the City of Winter Haven wants to help educate residents about the importance of participating in the census and ensure no one is left uncounted. You can help your community receive its fair share of fiscal and social benefits.

Census facts:

- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years.
- The census is a count of everyone residing in the U.S.
- No indentifying census data is shared for 72 years.
- More than \$300 billion in federal funds goes to states and communities based on census data.
- Census data guides local decision makers about where to build new roads, schools and hospitals.
- Census data determines how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.



For the 2010 Census, questionnaires will be mailed February—March; March—April questionnaires will be available at community locations for those who did not receive one by mail; April 1 is Census Day; May—July Census takers will visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail; by Dec. 31, 2010, the Census Bureau must deliver population counts to the President; and finally, by March 2011 redistricting data is delivered to individual states.

Help make sure everyone is counted. For more information, call **Kaye Boone**, Neighborhood Services, at 863-291-4482.

## SKIP A WEEK OF IRRIGATION

**D**id you know that during cooler months of fall and winter, your lawn doesn't need watering every week? Consider watering your lawn every other week, and then only if needed. Visit [www.watmatters.org](http://www.watmatters.org) for more about water restrictions and skipping a week of irrigation.

**Have you visited the Winter Haven Airport lately? The public is welcome at Richard's Fine Coffees Café and Deli at the Airport, 2073 U.S. Highway 92 W., offering gourmet sandwiches, salads, soups, pastries and more. Richard's is open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.**

## VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

**L**earn about being a Winter Haven Public Library volunteer at one of two Volunteer Orientation sessions. The meetings will be January 11 at 6:30 p.m. and January 12 at 4 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Library, 325 Ave. A NW. Orientation is open to everyone, age 12 and older, interested in becoming a Library volunteer. For more information, call 863-291-5880.



**A**re you in jeopardy of losing your home to foreclosure? If so, you may benefit from the Florida Housing Help program, sponsored by the Florida Department of Financial Services.

The program is designed to educate and assist families facing foreclosure. A workshop is offered 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 23, 2010, at the University Area Community Development Center, 14013 N. 22nd St., Tampa.

For more information, visit the City of Winter Haven website, at [www.mywinterhaven.com](http://www.mywinterhaven.com), or [www.myfloridacfo.com](http://www.myfloridacfo.com); or call toll-free 1-877-693-5236. Information is available in English and Spanish.

## PLEASE BAG YOUR TRASH

**B**agging all your trash is important. Bagged trash not only helps keep your trash container, including your "hobo," more sanitary, it also helps keep Winter Haven clean and beautiful.

It only takes a light breeze for loose trash and garbage to end up lying around the community.

Be sure all trash is bagged and tied when placed curbside.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO? CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

City Commission Meeting  
Cruisin' Winter Haven  
Pickin' in the Park  
Winter Haven Farmers' Market  
MLK, Jr. Day Parade  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Presidents' Day  
Big Bass & BBQ Bash  
Chain of Lakes Cycling Classic  
Rock, Walk & Run  
Central Park Art Festival

City Hall  
Downtown  
Central Park  
Third Street & Avenue G NW  
S. Lake Silver to Avenue T NE  
City offices closed  
City offices closed  
Lake Shipp Park  
Downtown  
Downtown  
Downtown

Second/fourth Mondays of each month; 7:30 p.m.  
First Saturday every month; 4-9 p.m.  
First Friday every month; 6:30-8 p.m.; music event  
Every Thursday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; fresh local produce  
Jan. 16; 10 a.m.  
Jan. 18  
Feb. 15  
Feb. 28; 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
March 7; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
March 13; 5k race to benefit the Library  
March 20-21; Central Park area; all day



The Winter Haven Insider is a publication of the City of Winter Haven. It is intended to inform area residents and businesses about City news and events. If you have questions or comments, or want to receive the newsletter by email, please call 863-291-5600, or write Joy Townsend, editor, at 451 Third St. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881, or email at [jtownsend@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:jtownsend@mywinterhaven.com).