

# CITY OF SEMINOLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

myseminole.com

Fall / Winter 2023

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## YOUR SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL



Mayor  
Leslie Waters



Vice Mayor  
Chris Burke



Councilor  
Thom Barnhorn



Councilor  
Ray Believeau



Councilor  
Jim Olliver



Councilor  
Jim Quinn



Councilor  
Trish Springer

## 2023 SEMINOLE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Two seats were open for the 2023 municipal election; both for Seminole City Council. Former Councilor Jim Quinn and candidate Ray Believeau were the only candidates to qualify for these seats. Therefore, according to the City's Charter, each unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for him / herself, and no election shall be held. Congratulations to Councilor Jim Quinn and newcomer Ray Believeau.

Congratulations also to Councilor Chris Burke who was selected to serve as the 2023 - 2024 Vice Mayor at the November 27th City Council Meeting.

## SEMINOLE CITY OFFICIALS NAMED "HOME RULE HEROES"



From left to right: Mayor Leslie Waters, Councilor Thom Barnhorn, Councilor Jim Olliver, Councilor Trish Springer, and City Manager Ann Toney-Deal.

Five Seminole City Officials have been recognized as 2023 "Home Rule Heroes" by the Florida League of Cities for their tireless work on behalf of the City of Seminole and Florida cities during the 2023 Legislative Session. Their efforts in advocating for local self-government have garnered this recognition.

Mayor Leslie Waters, Councilor Thom Barnhorn, Councilor Jim Olliver, Councilor Trish Springer, and City Manager Ann Toney-Deal were recognized for their commitment and efforts to defend "Home Rule".

Home Rule gives a city autonomy from the State, to address local issues with local solutions and with minimal State interference. The Florida League of Cities is a league for united voices for Florida's municipal governments.

## FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK



Mayor Leslie Waters with students from Bauder Elementary School and Indian Rocks Christian School.



Mayor Leslie Waters, Seminole City Council, and Recreation Director Becky Gunter with the Seminole Recreation Teen Board.

Florida City Government Week, held annually in October, is a time for cities across the state to celebrate, showcase and engage citizens in the work of municipal government.

This year, Florida City Government Week was held from October 16 – 22, 2023. To celebrate Florida City Government Week, 4th grade students from Indian Rocks Christian School and the Student Council from Bauder Elementary School visited Seminole City Council Chambers. The students learned about our government, our community and about fire safety.

The Seminole Recreation Teen Board also attended a City Council meeting on October 10, 2023, in recognition of Florida City Government Week.

## CITY OF SEMINOLE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION'S AWARD

The Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA's) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by the City of Seminole. It reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award, the City has to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. This is the 16th consecutive year that the City has received this award.





# ZOM HEE NAMED BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT IN FLORIDA



Mayor Leslie Waters and the City Council, along with the Mui family; owners of the Zom Hee Chinese Restaurant.

Family-run restaurant, Zom Hee, was named the best Chinese restaurant in the state of Florida by the Epicurean website, lovefood.com. Zom Hee has been a Seminole staple since 1985.

Mayor Leslie Waters, Vice Mayor Roger Edelman, and Councilor Thom Barnhorn presented a Proclamation which recognized the owners of the Zom Hee Chinese Restaurant, at the August 8, 2023, City Council Meeting.

# SEMINOLE LIBRARY CELEBRATED 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Seminole Community Library celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the St. Petersburg College (SPC), Seminole Campus, on August 14, 2023, with a reception, and a public celebration on August 19, 2023.

In 1998, shortly after the opening of SPC's Seminole Campus, the City of Seminole and SPC began discussions on how both entities might work together to provide library services to the community. They agreed to the creation of a joint-use Library for the mutual benefit of the general public and the SPC students and faculty. The Library opened August 10, 2003, as both a public library and a college library in one integrated facility, drawing award-winning attention for its innovative merging of both high-end technology and digital information in addition to traditional library collections and services.



St. Petersburg College President Dr. Tonjua Williams

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICER

As we approach the holiday season, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office wants to take this opportunity to remind you of some helpful safety tips you should keep in mind:



Deputy Alex Siem

- Always stay alert and vigilant of your surroundings. Beware of strangers approaching you; they might try to distract you with the intention of taking your belongings or money.
- Park in well-lit areas, and make sure to lock your car doors / windows.
- Do not leave any personal belongings or shopping bags / gifts in plain sight. If possible, leave them in the trunk of the vehicle.
- Residents within the City of Seminole can also request a vacation home check by calling the non-emergency number at (727) 582-6200.
- Refrain from posting photos, status updates or "check-ins" on social media while on vacation, wait to post pictures upon your return.
- Have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped if you are traveling out of town; overflowing mailbox and newspapers stacked up can be signs that no one is home.
- Only let people you trust know when you are going out of town. Perhaps they can be a point of contact in case of an emergency.
- If paying by credit or with debit card, use the tap to pay option when available.

Remember that your partnership plays an important role in helping us identify and apprehend any subject(s) involved in any illegal activity. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office appreciates and values your support in keeping the City of Seminole safe for everyone!

Again, to report any suspicious activity, please call (727) 582-6200 (non-emergency) or in case of an emergency please dial 911.

On behalf of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, we wish you a Happy and safe Holiday Season!



# KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB OF SEMINOLE 2023 FIELD OF HONOR



Left to right: Kiwanis Secretary, David Green; Kiwanis Member, U.S. Air Force Colonel Wayne McKenney (Ret.); American Legion Post 273 Color Guard; City Councilor Jim Quinn (U.S. Navy Veteran); Keynote Speaker, U.S. Army Colonel R. Ramsey Oliver; U.S. Army Colonel Zachary Norsworthy; and Mayor Leslie Waters.

The Field of Honor is a spectacular display of patriotism that honors and recognizes past and present veterans from every service branch, who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom.

The Kiwanis Breakfast Club of Seminole started the Field of Honor display in 2015 with just 24 flags, and it has grown the display to more than 600 flags this year with each flag honoring a Veteran for their service to our country. At the conclusion of the display on December 1st each flag sponsor will be able to pick up their customized streamer(s) from Extreme Signage to keep in memory of their honored veteran(s). May these flags serve as a reminder that we live in the "Land of the Free, Because of the Brave"!

The Kiwanis Breakfast Club's "Field of Honor" ceremony took place on November 3, 2023, in the Seminole Council Chambers. Seminole Mayor, Leslie Waters, and Kiwanis Treasurer, David Green, provided introductions; Chaplain, Retired U.S. Army Colonel, Tony Clark, provided the invocation; Seminole City Councilor and U.S. Navy Veteran, Jim Quinn, was the guest speaker, and the keynote speaker was U.S. Army Colonel R. Ramsey Oliver, Director of Operational Test Evaluation, U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base.



Portion of the 2023 Field of Honor display in front of Seminole's City Hall.

# SEMINOLE FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The City of Seminole's 2023 Fire Rescue Annual Open House was held on Sunday, February 5th at Fire Station 29. This educational event included demonstrations, food and refreshments, arts and crafts, and activities for the kids.

The 2024 Annual Fire Rescue Open House will be held on Sunday, February 4th. For more information and to stay up to date on all upcoming Fire Rescue events please visit the Fire Rescue Facebook page at [facebook.com/SeminoleFire/](https://facebook.com/SeminoleFire/)



Images from the 2023 Fire Rescue Open House.

# Holiday Fire Prevention Tips



- Do not leave food cooking unattended.
- Make and practice a fire escape plan.
- Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging) away from the stove top.

Cooking safety starts with YOU! Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn the burner off. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. If a fire starts in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



**\$18.3 million**

The cost of property damage caused by Christmas tree fires each year



## Picking the Tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

## Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to add water daily.





## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

**Baby Sign Language:** Mondays at 9 am, for ages birth - 24 months.

**Wiggle, Giggle and Sing!** Mondays at 9 am and 10 am, for ages 5 and under.

**Toddler Storytime:** Tuesdays at 9 am, for ages 18 - 36 months.

**Preschool Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10 am, for ages 3 - 5 years.

**Baby Time:** Wednesdays at 9 am, for ages birth - 18 months.

**Hands On!** First and third Thursday of each month at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Grades K - 5. Drop in on the first and third Saturday of each month and enjoy using your hands and imagination to construct, create, build, and play! Educational manipulatives, games, puzzles, building blocks, LEGOs and more will be provided.

**Tween Graphic Novel Club:** Third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Grades 5 - 8. Join us for a fun book club featuring a different graphic novel each month geared for tweens. Stop by the Children's department beginning the first of the month to register participants and pick up a copy of the book to check out. Some titles selected for this book club may cover sensitive topics, therefore, it is the responsibility of the caregiver to determine whether or not the book is appropriate for their tween. Space is limited and registration required.

**Homework Help:** Stop by the Children's department, call us at 727-394-6913, for details on homework help.

*For additional information about children and teen programming, call (727) 394-6913.*

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

**SHINE Medicare Counseling:** Select Tuesdays by appointment. Specially trained volunteers can assist you with your Medicare, Medicaid, and Health insurance questions by providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 727-394-6909 to schedule your appointment.

**A Thinker's Haven discussion group:** Second Tuesday of each month from 1 - 2:30 pm. Examine and discuss a broad array of contemporary issues. Visit [www.athinkershaven.com](http://www.athinkershaven.com) or email [info@athinkershaven.com](mailto:info@athinkershaven.com) for a list of upcoming meeting topics and readings.

**Backward Travelers book group:** Third Tuesday of each month from 2 - 3 pm. Join us as we explore a different novel each month depicting the people, cultures, and events of the past. Call 727-394-6918 for a list of upcoming selections.

**Instructional American Mah Jongg:** Wednesdays from 12 - 4 pm. Learn how to play the American version of this Chinese matching game of skill, strategy, and luck.

**Seminole Chess Club:** Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. For players who have a basic familiarity with the rules and etiquette of chess to practice and hone their skills.

**Tech Help:** Thursdays at 5:30 pm. Learn how to borrow free ebooks from the library or get help with a specific issue on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

**Riveting Reads book group:** Second Thursday of each month from 2 - 3 pm. Discover and discuss books written by women authors. Call 727-394-6918 for a list of upcoming selections.

**Florida's Lit:** Join us for the inaugural meeting of this Florida-themed book discussion group on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 2 - 3 pm. We will be discussing *Totch: A Life in the Everglades* by Loren G. Brown. A limited number of copies are available at the circulation desk. To check availability, please call 727-394-6013.

**Friday Movie Matinee:** Fridays at 1 pm. Enjoy a free movie along with soda and freshly popped popcorn. Call 727-394-6918 for a list of upcoming movie titles.

**Pinellas Fiction Writers Group meetings:** Saturdays, November 18, December 16, January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced writer, you'll find a welcoming space to hone your craft and connect with fellow wordsmiths.

**Sunday Musicales:** November 5, December 10, January 7, February 4, from 3 - 4 pm. Enjoy a free live performance on select Sundays from a variety of talented musicians. Call 727-394-6918 for a list of upcoming performers.

**Crafty Adults:** November 16, December 28, January 25, February 22, from 1 - 2 pm. Get creative with a new craft every month. Free supplies are provided but in limited quantity. Doors open at 12:45pm until filled.

*For additional information about adult programming, call (727) 394-6918.*

# THE SEMINOLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY AT ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

## ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCES

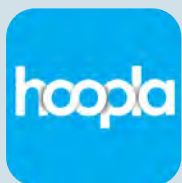
### Ebooks & Streaming Videos



**Libby:** Borrow a variety of ebooks, digital audiobooks and digital magazines right on your devices. Download the libby app or visit [libbyapp.com](http://libbyapp.com)



**Kanopy:** Each month, watch up to three movies and three Great Courses series. All available on demand. Download Kanopy app from your app store or visit [myseminole.kanopy.com](http://myseminole.kanopy.com)



**Hoopla:** Each month borrow up to five ebooks, audiobooks, and more, all available on demand. Download the Hoopla app.



**CloudLibrary:** Borrow popular ebooks and digital audiobooks. Download the CloudLibrary app or visit [yourcloudlibrary.com](http://yourcloudlibrary.com)

Visit [bit.ly/scldl](http://bit.ly/scldl) for links to the websites for these services

### Online Learning Resources

Access by visiting [pplc.us/countywide-services](http://pplc.us/countywide-services)

**Ask a Librarian:** Get answers from a real librarian by chat, email, or text. From homework to research to just want-to-know, they are here to help.

**NetSmart Kidz:** Offers interactive, engaging, and age-appropriate resources to help children ages 5-17 learn how to be safer online and offline.

**Pinellas Memory Project:** A collection of historical newspapers, photographs, pamphlets, postcards, and other digitized historical media.

Access by visiting [bit.ly/semdb](http://bit.ly/semdb)

**Pronunciator:** Offers personalized language courses in over 130 languages, including American Sign Language.

**Mometrix eLibrary:** Study guides, flash cards, and practice questions for SAT, ACT, ASVAB, FTCE, TOEFL, LSAT, CDL, nursing, medical, real estate, police, nail tech and many more exams.

**AtoZ Databases:** Our premier reference and marketing database is ideal for sales leads, market research, finding friends, relatives and more.

**Florida Electronic Library:** Offers a wealth of comprehensive, reliable, and accurate information on a variety of topics for all ages.

**Ancestry Library Edition:** Information for conducting genealogical and local history research.

**Fold3 by Ancestry:** Search U.S. military record of the men and women who served.

# RECREATION CENTER

## 2023 & 2024 FALL AND WINTER EVENTS

### **Pickleball Poinsettia Holiday Tournament - Recreation Center**

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

**8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

This doubles tournament will be double elimination. The bracket will be paired randomly, with no minimum or maximum skill score required. Register as a team or as a free agent. First match begins at 8:30 am.

\$20 team registration

\$15 free agent registration

### **Holiday Sail-a-Bration - 113th Street**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

The annual Holiday Sail-a-Bration Water-less Boat Parade returns to Seminole for another year. This one-of-a-kind parade features Seminole's best and brightest. The parade route starts at the Seminole Recreation Center and ends at the Seminole City Center.

If you are interested in participating please contact Kacy Little at (727) 391-8345 or [klittle@myseminole.com](mailto:klittle@myseminole.com)

### **Winterfest - Recreation Center**

**Friday, December 8, 2023**

**5:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

A cherished Seminole tradition continues. It wouldn't be the Holidays without a tree lighting, great food, entertainment, inflatables, crafts and more! We can even count on a visit from someone special. The entrance to this event is FREE with the option to purchase a \$7 activity band which includes access to both the snow hill and bounce house zone.

### **Breakfast with Santa - Recreation Center**

**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

**9:00 am - 10:30 am**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Holiday event for all ages. Witness the joy on a child's face as they meet Santa and treat your family to a delicious breakfast! There will be activities to keep everyone happy. We'll have two events which are guaranteed to sell out. Tickets must be purchased in advance. \$7 Per Person

### **Food Truck Rally - Recreation Center**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

**5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

The food truck rally is back with more trucks; you can count on good food and cold drinks!



# RECREATION CENTER

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

### INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL

This introductory league provides youth the opportunity to explore the sport of basketball. This program meets weekly and includes 30 minutes of instruction followed by 30 minutes of scrimmages. Volunteer coaches are needed. Ages 6-8

Fridays, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
January 5 - February 23

\$40 Members / \$60 Non-Members

### JUNIOR & SENIOR BASKETBALL

This recreational league builds on the fundamentals of the sport with practices and games. Practices are held Mondays and Wednesdays beginning in December with games held on Saturdays and some weeknights beginning in January. All teams will participate in an end-of-season playoff in early March. A full schedule can be found at [www.Quickscores.com/GetSeminole](http://www.Quickscores.com/GetSeminole).

Junior League: Ages 9 - 11

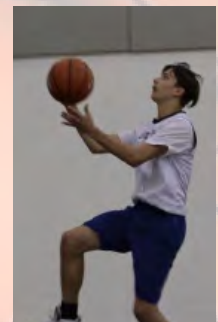
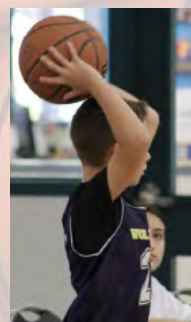
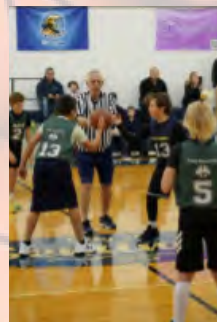
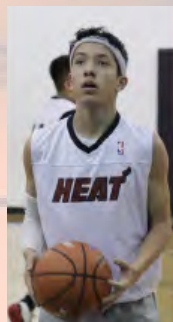
Mandatory Skills Evaluation: Monday, November 13th at 6:00 pm

Senior League: Ages 12 - 14

Mandatory Skills Evaluation: Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00 pm

Players not in attendance for the skills evaluation will be placed on a team by the League Coordinator. Registration closes Friday, November 10.

\$102 Members / \$153 Non-Members





City of Seminole  
9199 113th Street North  
Seminole, FL 33772

## Addresses, Telephone Numbers, & Web Information

<b>City Hall</b> 9199 113th Street North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	(727) 391-0204	<b>Library</b> 9200 113th Street North Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun. 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	(727) 394-6905
<b>City Manager &amp; City Clerk's Office</b> 9199 113th Street North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	(727) 391-0204	<b>Recreation Center</b> 9100 113th Street North Hours: M-F 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	(727) 391-8345
<b>Building/Code Enforcement/ Occupational Licenses</b> 9199 113th Street North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	(727) 392-1966	<b>Waste Pro</b> Trash Services, Special Pickups, Brush Disposal	(727) 452-5278
<b>Community Development</b> 9199 113th Street North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	(727) 391-0204	<b>Pinellas County Utilities</b> Water Services, Watering Restrictions	(727) 464-4000
<b>Public Works</b> 11195 70th Avenue North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	(727) 397-6383	<b>Seminole Historical Society</b> 7464 Ridge Rd.	(727) 399-0587
<b>Fire Administration</b> 9199 113th Street North Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	(727) 393-8711	<b>Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce</b> 9200 113th Street North - SC Building	(727) 392-3245
<b>Pinellas County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)</b> *If call is an emergency, Dial 9-1-1	(727) 582-6200		



[City of Seminole City Council](#)  
[City of Seminole Fire Rescue](#)  
[Seminole Community Library](#)  
[City of Seminole Recreation](#)  
[City of Seminole Public Works](#)



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