



CITY OF
SANFORD
FLORIDA



City Manager's
Quarterly Update
October 2025-
December 2025

Content

City Project Highlights

Development Services

Parks and Recreation

City Clerk

Public Works

Utilities

Police

Fire

Finance/IT

Human Resources

Performance Management

Communications

Public Art

Community Development

Economic Development



New Look New Fiscal Year

**Welcome to the new City of Sanford
Quarterly City Manager Updates. A
glimpse into Departmental
accomplishments over the last three
months.**

Each quarter follows the Sanford fiscal year calendar, for this issue the highlights cover the months of October 2025 to December 2025.

Additional updates and information can be found by visiting the public information dashboards. See links below.

Project Updates
Capital Improvement Projects
Objective Updates
Strategic Plan



City Project Highlights



Mayfair Country Club Completed!

Witnessing the restoration of this historic site to its former glory is truly remarkable. Years of unwavering commitment, patience, and dedication have culminated in a rewarding outcome, demonstrating the transformative power of steady progress for Sanford.

[Click the picture for the video!](#)



Sanford City Hall First Floor Open!

A ribbon cutting and open house event welcomed residents and customers back to city hall. The upgrades include sleek, modernized spaces, improved accessibility, and expanded parking—designed to better serve our residents, businesses, and visitors. In addition to City Hall a new outdoor 3-D Illuminated Mural by the talented artist Kirk Seese was unveiled.

[Click the picture for the video!](#)

Marina updates

No updates to provide at this time, The City is currently working to get funds from FEMA (The Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Opportunity Site

Site has gone back to bid for proposals, as previous bids did not match Sanford Community feed-back and overall goals for that site.

Reuse of County Buildings

he City Manager is currently in discussion with the County Manager on this matter

Development Services

Planning

Successfully completed the relocation of the Front Porch project to the Westside Center, allowing the transfer of the former site to support future development of the Goldsboro Museum.

Staff coordinated negotiations and successfully secured a joint drainage easement with Seminole County to ensure proper drainage for Fire Station #40.

After months of coordination, the new Citizen Portal interface was launched on CitizenServe, Providing a streamlined platform for electronic application submissions.

[Click here for link to additional updates.](#)

Building

Moved into the new expanded space downstairs.

Acquired new technology to expedite plan review (Plan review tables)

Code Enforcement

All officers are now certified as "Civilian Parking Enforcement Specialists".

Acquired new technology to expedite plan review (Plan review tables)

Business Tax & Licensing

Sent out approximately 400 second "late" notices.

Permitting Process Updates

This project has entered the final phase of data collection. To date, we have solicited input from staff as well as external stakeholders. I have received initial recommendations from the study, but await the final revision. Raftelis will be on site next week working with staff.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Grounds

City Hall Landscape Enhancements

Parks staff completed the installation of new shrubs and hedges along the north and south sides of City Hall as part of an effort to enhance the overall appearance and landscaping. These improvements contribute to improved aesthetics, increased visual consistency, and a more welcoming environment for visitors. The installation included a diverse mix of plant materials consisting of 163 Podocarpus, 80 Azaleas, 72 Viburnum, 200 Mexican Heather plants, and 6 Bottlebrush trees. The selected plants were chosen to provide year-round visual interest, durability, and compatibility with the existing landscape design.

Pathway to History Signage Enhancements at Veterans' Memorial Park

Parks staff completed the installation of the newly updated Pathway to History interpretive panels at Veterans' Memorial Park. These interpretive signs are designed to educate visitors by highlighting the history of the various conflicts and wars in which the United States has participated, providing historical context and honoring those who served. As part of this effort, staff collaborated with a contractor to design and fabricate custom cantilevered pedestals to support the interpretive panels along the pathway. The updated design enhances visibility, durability, and overall presentation, creating a cohesive and informative experience for park visitors.

Improved Plaque Solutions for the Adopt-a-Bench Program

Parks Operations Manager Robert Beall worked in partnership with a trusted contractor to evaluate and implement improved plaque options for the Adopt-a-Bench program. Through ongoing maintenance and observation, it became evident that the original plaques were not withstanding weather exposure and daily use, leading to frequent replacements and increased maintenance costs. As a result, staff identified a more durable and visually appealing plaque solution that better withstands environmental conditions while maintaining a respectful and polished appearance. This updated approach enhances the longevity of the plaques, reduces ongoing maintenance needs, and ensures Adopt-a-Bench families are honored with a lasting and meaningful recognition for years to come.

Holiday Heights: The 29 foot wonder

Parks and Public Works staff worked corroboratively to install a 29-foot Christmas tree in preparation for the holiday season. Due to the size and weight of the tree, the installation required coordinated teamwork, specialized equipment, and careful planning to ensure the tree was placed safely and securely. Through a unified effort, the team successfully installed the tree in Magnolia Square, creating a festive centerpiece for the community to enjoy throughout the Christmas season. The project highlights the strong cooperation between departments and their shared commitment to delivering safe, high-quality enhancements to public spaces.

Parks & Recreation Continued

Recreation

Both youth programs and team sports programs were filled to capacity during fall sessions.

Produced four holiday special events. Attendance estimated at approximately 16,000.

Museum

The Sanford Museum opened their temporary exhibit A Cut Above: Barber Shops and Beauty Salons and Community which highlighted the importance of Hair cutters to community here. Long time barber Rosell "Butch" Walker who loaned the museum a significant collection gave a lecture about his memories to the November Historical society.

The Sanford Museum worked with the Sanford Trust to be the main hub location for the Holiday Homes Tour where we had over 1,000 people come into the museum to check in and check out the museum.

The Sanford Museum has worked with our partners such as the Museum of Seminole County History, Georgetown Steering Team, and UCF to help with off site events such as Knowledge on Tap, and Goldsboro Art Walk where the museum were able to get new crowds into the museum and or learn about Sanford History.

City Clerk

Prepared the City Commission Workshop and Regular Meeting Schedule for 2026.

Started work with the IT Manager and the Strategic Performance Manager to move the City toward a digital agenda memo platform.

Public Works

Fleet

Completed 197 Scheduled Preventative Maintenance services.

Completed 23 road side repairs for breakdowns of disable vehicles.

Facilities

25 utility locates completed. Installed Christmas lights in Downtown. Installed Christmas lights & decorations on street poles.

46 streetlights repairs competed.

Solid Waste

Submitted questions to Seminole County on second draft of new Interlocal Agreement with Seminole County, to include a substantial increase in cost for recycle processing fees.

Streets

Delivered and mounted new art sculpture (Bridge to the Future) beside the Sanford Information Center.

Several sidewalk repairs for upcoming Sanford Tour of Home event.

Stormwater

Pipe Repair/Investigation: Alley 6th to 7th between Park Ave. and Oak Ave., Locust Ave. and Rosalia Ave., and Washington Ave.

Sieve materials at 26th St. Stock yard. Approximately 50 cubic yards of millings. Approximately 1 cubic yards of dirt/fill.

Public Works Continued

Georgetown Stormwater Basin

[Click here for additional project updates.](#)

Phase 1 construction is complete and closed out. Phase 1A construction is underway and should be completed in approximately 12 months. Public Works is exploring grant options for Phase 2 which may include additions to the scope of work to improve existing utilities if we can obtain the grant. Start of Phase 2 will be at the completion of Phase 1A and Phase 2 completion will be between 2028 and 2030 depending on the final scope.

2nd Streetscape

2nd street Streetscape project per the project manager is 80% complete as of December.

Aero Ln Stormwater

Aero Lane and 5th Street stormwater project is underway. Construction starts January with mobilization anticipated for January 12th.

Utilities

Water

Staff continues to address water related work orders.

Sewer

Rehabilitation of 49 manholes on SR 46 and in the Pinecrest neighborhoods.

On the draft SRF waiting list (ranked 2nd) for \$19,166,503.00 in forgivable loan funding.

Plants

Lift Stations Projects: A) Removed generator from Celery Lake and placed Sanora. B) Batteries installed at the Riverbend generator. C) Installed and wired-up new generator at Vacuum Station.

Removed exhaust fan and installed new fan on the Odor Unit.

New Bar Screen Replacement put online.

Administration

The city is once again preparing to send out letters to all customers with unknown service line material types under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Improvements Rule. Last year the city mailed 7,450 tri-fold letters to customers and this year the number will be reduced to 2,700 letters as we continue to investigate service line material types. The notices are required to be sent no later than November 15, 2025. The city has started sampling at primary schools and day cares ahead of EPA's November 15, 2027, deadline to begin sampling. The city's consultant sampled 5 different fixtures within nine elementary schools and only one fixture within the Midway Elementary school exceeded EPA's lead action level. School staff replaced the fixture the very next day and re-sampling confirmed the absence of lead.

The main water treatment project improvements for PFAS (Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and 1,4 Dioxane treatment is moving forward. A request for qualifications (RFQ) was advertised on October 15th for the purpose of selecting a design-build firm to complete the design of the water treatment improvements followed by construction to build the improvements. Two qualification documents were submitted on December 1th and the review committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection received their FY 20206 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding and will be increasing the city's DW590161 forgivable loan amount to \$52,127,004.

Utilities Continued

1,4 Dioxane Update

2 qualification proposals received on December 12th for the design-build. Evaluation to start in January, more details to be provided in the Quarter 2 update.

Mayfair & Pulmosa Update

Smoke Testing and sewer rehab planned for Quarter 2.

North Plant Update

Campaign with Communications office to help with public awareness and provide updates as exhaust fan matter was being address. New Fan installed at the end of November.

Customer Service Training

Customer Service training was introduced last fiscal year, a reevaluation of this service is currently underway.

Police Department

Investigations

Sanford Police Investigators arrested Moses Mitchell (D.O.B. 12/02/1995) and Damarious Ditrell Cofield (D.O.B. 11/24/1994) in connection with the November 1, 2025, homicide of La-Don Ja Quan Williams.

Financial Crimes Investigators participated in a multi-jurisdiction operation with the Secret Service aimed at protecting consumers in Central Florida. Payment terminals at 40 businesses were voluntarily inspected over a two-day period. Multiple skimming devices were discovered, including one located in the City of Sanford,

Community Relations - Professional Standards

Hosted another great Coffee with a Cop Event at Winn-Dixie on French Ave.

The Community Relations Unit joined Masjid Al Hayy and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for Shop with a Sheikh. This event brings holiday cheer to children in our community and supports their families to ensure they have a wonderful holiday season.

The Community Relations Unit partnered with Target and Ladies327 to give the Young Women of Excellence of Seminole High School a day to remember. Each student was given their own shopping spree to make their holidays merry with the toys or products they wanted.

Sanford Police Officers recently assisted Bicikleta Bike Shop , Get Sanford Cycling, and UF IFAS Extension Seminole County with the Get Sanford Cycling 4-H Bicycling Workshop. Officer Locher, one of the Sanford Police Patrol Bicycle Team members, worked with various SPD units to give the kids a great tour of the department, multiple police demonstrations, and lunch at the department."

Administration

Two cadets graduated from the Seminole County Law Enforcement academy and were sworn in as police officers.

There were no 287g requests for the month of December.

There are currently 12 sworn vacancies and no support staff vacancies.

Police Department

Patrol

Sanford Police participated in the Holiday Season Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and agencies across Florida participated in this high-visibility impaired driving awareness campaign from December 11, 2025, through January 1, 2026.

Sanford Police Department joined local and state agencies in increasing traffic-related community education, with the goal of improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety. "Through May 2026, the Sanford Police Department will have additional officers on patrol at specific corridors with a high occurrence of pedestrians and bicyclists' crashes."

Agency -Wide

Sanford Police Department hosted another "Sanford Joyfest", celebrating the holidays with our community! The event was packed with treats and activities provided by numerous community organizations.

Members of the police department participated in the annual Cops for Christmas, hosted by the Sanford Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 140 in partnership with Ladies 327. 130 kids were able to partner with officers and shop for holiday gifts.

Members of the Police Department participated in the City of Sanford Holiday Parade of Lights. Members of the department drove vehicles in the parade, Command Staff walked, and many officers worked traffic posts, ensuring it was a safe and successful event."

Crime Stats

As of December 28, 2025, there was a reported 7.77% reduction in Part I crimes.

Fire Department

Fire Administration

Station 40 (March completion), Training Captain Position Filled, Battalion Chief EMS replacement in place.

Fire Operations

3349 calls this quarter, 81% SFD unit on scene of calls in the city, 13,609 calls this year, still down 4 firefighters.

Fire Prevention

Completed 2260 Annuals, 1205 New Construction, 111 Food Trucks, 1781 Plans Review, 107 Smoke Alarms Installed, 11,860 Citizens contacted with Public Educational Events.

Station 40 Update

Staff worked through Sanford Airport drainage issues. The station is currently dried in, with doors and roof. They are currently priming the walls and doing the outside paving. As of January, the finish date is around end of March with the Station and off site work around June.

Finance/IT

Accounting

Received notice from the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) that the Distinguished Budget Award was awarded for the 2024 ACFR (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report). 2024 Budget as well as the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 38th consecutive year for the 2025.

Hosted training on purchase cards, policy revisions, and contracts for employees to learn processes and ask questions.

Purchasing

Completed the work with Gray Robinson for the much needed contract template updates for small projects, bonds, good and services, and construction contracts.

Purchase order process improvements: All NIGP (National Institute of Governmental Purchasing) recommendations have been completed with the exception of hiring a new employee.

Information Technologies

New Service Delivery Coordinator hired.

Have trained four additional staff members (parks and public works) in work order system.

Technology Improvements

Added new Development Tool for Enterprise applications.

Human Resources

Policy Review Committee made of City of Sanford employees and lead by the Human Resource Director, have updated 4 City Policies.

Successful hosted another Benefits fair for all City employees in October to talk with vendors and learn more about City Benefits available to staff.

In partnership with the C.A.R.E. week, HR presented "caring for employees create employees who care", an overview about additional benefits staff may not be aware of and how there are many resources available to them.

Hosted Florida Retirement System Luncheon for City employees to learn more about the retirement system.

Hosted annual ethics training.

Training Update

Various trainings have been conducted during quarter 1, but a reevaluation of the training program accessible for all employees is currently under review.

Employee Survey Update

As a follow up to the comments on internal communication, HR and the Strategic Performance Manager worked together to reintroduce an employee newsletter that is by employees for employees.

Performance Management

Created and published the City of Sanford's new Strategic Plan, the plan was presented to the Commission and has been made available to public via the City's Website.

Created a "performance and progress" page on the City website to allow for a simple and convenient location to stay up to date on performance related matters.

Utilized the new employee portal and city wide available software to create an internal performance hub, that creates a simpler process for data collection, as well as centralized place for employees to reference dashboards and more.

The curating and development of a new Quarterly report has been given to the Strategic Performance Manager for the time being, the current issue is the final product of that switch.

As a part of the new Strategic Plan, the City's values were updated, known as C.A.R.E. (community focused, accountable, resilient, environmentally responsible). A week of workshops, discussions and interactive events were hosted to allow employees to remember City values and understand how it plays into everyone's role within the City. This event was called C.A.R.E. week.

Communications

Launched "Sanford Sound Stage" a new initiative bringing live, intimate musical performances to City Hall.

Issued the First Community Newsletter "the clockwork chronicle" for the fiscal year (January 2026).

Completed class 23 of Citizen Academy.

Public Art

Installation of the "Bridge to the Future" sculpture.

Update of "Art in Chambers" rotating art display. From October till March the work of Patty Kane.

Community Development

CDBG

Thirty three applications were received and reviewed for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing and Rehabilitation Program. Additionally, 2024 CDBG housing rehabilitation activities continued, with four projects successfully completed and two projects remaining in progress.

In partnership with Community Legal Services, a Money Management Workshop was delivered at the Westside Community Center to enhance financial literacy among residents. The session focused on practical strategies for managing household finances and improving credit scores, reinforcing the City's commitment to economic self-sufficiency and long-term financial stability for community members.

LIHEAP

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provided energy assistance to 480 households, supporting residents in maintaining essential utility services.

MBK

My Brother's Keeper (MBK) programming engages students from Markham Woods Middle School (26 participants) and Sanford Middle School (46 participants) through a variety of enrichment and experiential learning opportunities. Students attended multiple Orlando Magic games, strengthening community exposure and mentorship connections. In addition, 10 MBK families were supported through the Orlando Magic Holiday Adoption Program, and all MBK participants received gift cards and gifts provided by the Unity Youth Association, reinforcing community partnerships and student morale.

MBK students participated in a financial literacy workshop focused on budgeting fundamentals and establishing savings plans, supporting long-term personal development. Program outcomes indicate measurable improvements in school attendance and overall student behavior, demonstrating the positive impact of MBK interventions on student engagement, accountability, and success.

REEI

The Race, Equality, Equity, and Inclusion (REEI) Advisory Committee formally presented its 2025 Final Report to the City Commission, which was accepted. The report outlines strategic, community-centered recommendations focused on expanding youth forums and neighborhood-based town halls; investing in youth centers, mental health resources, and safe community spaces; strengthening mentorship and intergenerational initiatives; modeling respectful dialogue and collaboration at public meetings; and continuing to grow Sanford Speaks community dialogues.

Economic Development

Over a three month period Economic Development conducted 347 business interactions. Additionally they handled 52 Community Engagements during this time.

Launched of the Small Business Training Platform, to assist businesses throughout Sanford.

Assisted the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) with the sun setting of the their board. This meant any CRA approved projects needed to commence by CRA sunset, December 31, 2025, and be completed within the one-year project closeout period, ending December 31, 2026.

Airport Updates: Presented Andre Hickman, the owner of the under construction, Comfort Inn and Suites on Lake Mary Boulevard, to the Sanford Airport Authority at the November meeting. This project represents the only Sanford hotel east of US 17-92 and is long overdue for the Airport/ Boombah market. The proposed indoor sports complex by Seminole County will increase the demand for hotel space dramatically, and we are currently working with a number of parties interested in filling the needs.

Mall Updates: Significant commercial activity continues to occur as a result of the Mall changing ownership. Multiple brands have announced publicly, and privately, their commitment to the market and are filling vacant space at a pace that is resulting in demand for additional product.



Stay Connected. Stay Informed



City of Sanford:

sanfordfl.gov
407.688.5000
300 N. Park Ave, Sanford, FL 32771

City Manager:

Norton N. Bonaparte jr.
407.688.5009
norton.bonaparte@sanfordfl.gov