

Local History Room
N.P. Library

Club Organizations
+ Events

Keep Winter Park
Beautiful
Farmers Market

Pride swells in Central Florida

Brick by brick, the dusty parking lot of the Winter Park Farmers Market is being transformed into an eye-catching plaza.

Tonight, the community members who donated money and sweat to the project will gather to admire their handiwork and accept the city's thanks.

They deserve all the plaudits they get, as do volunteers throughout Central Florida who show how much they care about their communities.

Winter Park is one of 30 Florida counties and communities that are associated with the Keep Florida Beautiful program, an offshoot of the nonprofit Keep America Beautiful. Volunteers in affiliated groups in Lake, Brevard and Volusia counties and the city of Orlando pick up litter on roadways and shorelines as part of a program to protect the environment.

The Winter Park group took its mission a step further.

The 30 volunteers on the Keep Winter Park Beautiful committee approached the city when it was planning renovations of the old train depot at the Farmers Market and offered to raise money for landscaping

and a new parking lot on the site.

Committee members donated the design, enlisted help from the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, sold bricks at community events and even laid some bricks themselves. Hundreds of residents and businesses purchased the bricks in a demonstration of community pride.

Thanks to the committee's leadership, private donations will pay for more than 77 percent of the \$134,545 cost of the project.

Throughout Central Florida, other groups are showing similar pride in their communities.

Keep Lake County Beautiful, for example, hopes to improve the Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis and the school district's environmental resource center.

Community beautification efforts, of course, come from many sources, not just those associated with Keep Florida Beautiful. In Volusia County, the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Committee has rounded up volunteers for more than 10 years for a city cleanup on Keep DeLand Beautiful Day.

Such community involvement is a trend all of Central Florida can be proud of.

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