

Maitland History

Maitland, one of the oldest incorporated municipalities in Central Florida, is a city rich in history. The area was once called Fumcheliga (Musk Mellon Place) by the Seminole Indians before it was established as Fort Maitland in 1838 by the U.S. Army. The fort was named after captain William Seton Maitland, a hero of the Seminole Wars who, ironically, was never in this area, having died in a battle near Tampa. At that time, the only way of getting to Central Florida was by boat from Jacksonville down the St. Johns River to Fort Mellon (Sanford), then by horse or foot. Fort Maitland was a small fort built on the west shore of Lake Maitland as a rest stop between Fort Mellon and Fort Gatlin (Orlando).

What is now Maitland Avenue was part of the Old Black Bear Trail which ran from Montreal, Canada to St. Petersburg, Florida, and passed by the fort.

In the 1960's, Maitland Avenue and Orlando Avenue (U.S. Highway 17-92) came alive with building construction. Supermarkets opened, as did restaurants, service stations, condominiums, garden apartments and churches. Even though the nation was in a recession, the arrival of Disney World, in 1971, to the Orlando area, had a strong impact on the continuous growth of Maitland.

The growth of the city continued to spiral during the 1970's. Between 1972 and 1979, five branch banking establishments moved to Maitland, and twelve new residential subdivisions were developed. Late in the 1970's, 226 acres of land were purchased by an Atlanta, Georgia firm and developed into Maitland Center west of Interstate 4. Maitland Center is within the city limits and continues to grow.



While growth continues, residents of the city are proud of the city's past and actively pursue preservation of historical residences.

A “historical corridor” has been established. This corridor encompasses old residences still standing and occupied in the Lake Lily-Lake Catherine area and extending through the Central portion of the city. Examples of these homes are: the Arthur O’Heir House (1885), Chadburne Hall or High Oaks (1890), the James Arch House (1885), the Robert L. Wagner House (1881) and the Hill-Stone House (1908). Also, the Florida Audubon Society was founded in Maitland and continues in its protection of wild birds on Lake Sybelia.

The Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey is a leading raptor rehabilitation facility in the Southeast which has treated over 7,000 eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites and vultures since opening in 1979. Release rate averages 39% of all admissions, and has totaled more than 3,000 birds of prey, including over 200 Bald Eagles.



In addition to the wildlife rehabilitation facilities, the Center includes real estate dedicated to a lakeside exhibit aviary which houses non-releasable raptors of 20 species. The aviary is a favored destination of school and civic organization tours, and includes a visit to the Audubon Birding Store, a resource for novice and expert birders.

Public primary/middle schools:

- **MAITLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL** (Grades: 06 - 08)
- **DOMMERICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** (Grades: PK - 05)
- **LAKE SYBELIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** (Grades: PK - 05)
- **SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL** (Grades: KG - 08)

Private primary/middle schools:

- **PARK MAITLAND SCHOOL** (1450 S ORLAND P O BOX 1095; Grades: PK - 6)
- **THE KENWORTHY SCHOOL** (866 LAKE HOWELL RD; Grades: PK - 5)
- **HEBREW DAY SCHOOL** (851 N MAITLAND AVE; Grades: KG - 7)
- **MAITLAND MONTESSORI SCHOOL** (236 N SWOOPE AV; Grades: PK - 6)
- **MAITLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** (1185 N WYMORE RD; Grades: PK - 6)