



History

1965

- ✧ March 15, WMFE-TV Channel 24 went on the air as an instructional television station.
- ✧ The studio was located in southwest Orange County on Oak Ridge Road on the campus of Mid-Florida Vocational-Technical School. Its transmitter was in Winter Garden, Fla. on Story Road.

1965 – 1970

- ✧ Channel 24 telecast from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year, September through May, broadcasting live and locally produced instructional television programs for kindergarten and elementary students in seven public school districts in Central Florida counties.

1967

- ✧ Due to shifts in community priorities and educational environments the Orange County Public School District became the sole proprietor and funding source for Channel 24.
- ✧ The Orange County School Board meets as the newly re-constituted Board of the TV station.
- ✧ Congress and United States President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

1970

- ✧ Instructional transitioned to educational television and then to what we know today as public television.
- ✧ A month-long test was launched for nighttime public television under the slogan of *Discover-View-Support: Channel 24*. A limited Thursday through Sunday evening schedule of early public television programs such as *The Forsythe Saga*, *The Great American Dream Machine*, William F. Buckley's *Firing Line* and the *French Chef* were telecast in black and white.
- ✧ Channel 24 launched its first local program, *Feedback*, a discussion program with live telephone calls from viewers to program guests.

Early 1970s

- ✧ A 40-person lay Board of Trustees initially came together under the leadership of Dr. Hugh F. McKean then serving as President of the private and independent liberal arts institution, Rollins College in Winter Park.

- ✧ Orange County School District transfers the assets, equipment and license to broadcast on Channel 24 to a non-profit community group.

1972

- ✧ Stephen McKenney Steck became the first President & CEO of WMFE
- ✧ WMFE-TV launched *Ballot*, a candidate debate program, featuring primary and general election candidates in state and county government races.

1979

- ✧ WMFE relocated to east Orange County – 11510 East Colonial Drive.
- ✧ Channel 24 successfully applied for and received a Federal Communication Commission license to activate and operate a non-commercial educational radio station.

1980

- ✧ July 14, 90.7 WMFE-FM went on the air.

1991

- ✧ 90.7 WMFE-FM premiered *Central Florida in Concert*. The program is intended as a community-service providing a gateway to some of the finest music-making taking place right here in our own back yard.

1992

- ✧ 90.7 FM launched *The Arts Connection*, a weekly newsmagazine program which looks at the arts and culture in Central Florida.
- ✧ The front first floor of WMFE's building was renovated.

1993

- ✧ WMFE launched the Audio Reading Service, which provides news and information from local and national newspapers and magazines to 35,000 visually impaired and print disabled of Central Florida.
- ✧ 90.7 WMFE-FM premiered the weekly program, *Opera with Robert Swedberg*. The director of the Orlando Opera shares his wealth of knowledge on individual operas, composers and artists, and other themes of topical interest.
- ✧ WMFE-TV produced and broadcast the first annual *Florida Teacher of the Year* program (through 2005).

1994

- ✧ Established *Cornerstone Society* for members who donate an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.
- ✧ WMFE-TV debuted *Opinion Street* (through 1996), a weekly public affairs series, which consisted of a panel of government leaders, media, educators and pundits who discussed the issues of the week.

1995

- ✧ WMFE-TV premiered *Assignment* (through 2004), a forum for governmental and other service agencies to provide a media resource for Central Florida citizens.

1996

- ✧ 90.7 WMFE-FM launched *Lawmakers* (through 2002) a weekly interview series of local, state and federal elected officials.

1997

- ✧ WMFE-TV premiered *Family Works* (through 1998), a 30-minute program dealing with family issues.
- ✧ WMFE-TV produced *Community Views* (through 1998) a series that focused on local non-profits.

1998

- ✧ WMFE-TV launched All Kids/All Day (WMFE Kids) television programming.
- ✧ WMFE-TV produced and aired the documentary *Voyage of the Be Back Maybe*. The program documented a two-week boat trip down the Indian River Lagoon on the seagoing trawler, the Be-Back Maybe. The special highlighted how residents made their living from the Lagoon.

2000

- ✧ Time Warner (Bright House Networks) launched WMFE/PBS Kids digital channel (through 2005).
- ✧ WMFE-TV produced *Wekiva: Legacy or Loss?* documentary with a grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- ✧ Began audio streaming on Web site.

2001

- ✧ Held first Speaking of Women's Health Conference.
- ✧ WMFE-TV launched *UCF Metro hosted by Linda Chapin*. Each of the 30-minute programs focus on how the University of Central Florida is helping to build a better community.
- ✧ WMFE-TV produced the special *A Citrus Legacy*, funded by a grant from the Dr. P. Phillips Foundation.
- ✧ 90.7 FM launched *On the Line*, a radio call-in program.
- ✧ Re-launched Web site as wmfe.org – added audio archiving.
- ✧ *Central Florida in Concert* goes on location to record music performances.

2002

- ✧ Premiere of *WMFE In-Depth*, a five-day series on one topic examined through news reports, interviews and commentaries.

2003

- ✧ Oct. 14, launched WMFE-DT, digital channel 24.
- ✧ Oct. 15, Florida Knowledge Network launched as a multicast channel.
- ✧ *Earl Cunningham: The Dragon of St. George Street* premiered and is Central Florida's first HD produced program.
- ✧ Launched *Masterworks*, a quarterly music discussion series.

2004

- ✧ Held the first Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer conference for Hispanic women.
- ✧ Talk to Us ... We're Listening launched.
- ✧ 90.7 FM produced and distributed the documentary *Columbia Remembered ... Atlantis, Go For Launch*, which aired on more than 100 NPR member stations nationwide and won a first place 2005 National Headliner Award and a Regional Edward R. Murrow Award.

2005

- ✧ Completed renovation of WMFE-TV's control rooms and editing suites, allowing for the transition to digital transmission. Additional refurbishments enhanced WMFE's boardroom and in-house catering facilities.
- ✧ May 16, WMFE-DT launched multicast channels WMFE-ED, WMFE-CFAN, WMFE-HD.
- ✧ July 17, WMFE-DT launched multicast channel WMFE Encore!
- ✧ Aug. 6, expanded the Audio Reading Service to seven days.
- ✧ 90.7 FM produced and distributed the award-winning *Countdown Discovery* documentary.
- ✧ WMFE supports PBS KIDS Sprout, the 24x7-preschool digital-cable network.
- ✧ WMFE-TV airs the documentary *Future Vision*, which reveals and promotes Central Florida's booming, high-tech industry as an international leader in the world's high-tech arena.

2006

- ✧ 90.7 FM launched one-year celebration for the 250th birthday of Mozart with *Mozart Cafe*.
- ✧ 90.7 FM premieres *One World, Many Stories*, an anthology series of local and national documentaries and features.
- ✧ Nov. 1 launched a re-invented wmfe.org with WMFE E-store, audio archives, WMFE event calendar, podcasting, classical music play list and more.

2007

- ✧ José A. Fajardo appointed as WMFE's only second President & CEO.
- ✧ Launched V-me un servicio de WMFE, the nation's first Spanish-language public television network, in May.
- ✧ July 26, premiered two new local weekly programs. *This Week* goes beyond the run-of-the-mill local newscast for an in-depth look in the news. *The Arts Connection* for television connects you to all things creative in Central Florida – whether it's pop

culture, high culture, folk culture or something new. The programs can also be watched on wmfe.org

- ✧ With the installation of a new radio transmitter, 90.7 FM began broadcasting in digital.
- ✧ Sept. 5, launched the weekly radio call-in program, *Intersection*.
- ✧ On Dec. 7, WMFE dedicated its building in memory of Hugh F. McKean naming it The Hugh F. McKean Public Broadcasting Center.
- ✧ In December, wmfe.org began offering podcasts of *Intersection* and the *Fishkind Commentaries*

2008

- ✧ 90.7 FM launched *Central Florida StoryCorps* on Jan. 2. The weekly program will run through June 2008.
- ✧ After a 16-year run, *The Arts Connection* on 90.7 FM was taken off the air.
- ✧ The General Election series of *Ballot '08* scored some notable firsts for WMFE: it was made available on Bright House On Demand; one edition (Grayson/Keller) was picked up by CSPAN and aired several times; and the views on YouTube and wmfe.org amounted to nearly 10,000.
- ✧ After a little more than a year on the air, *This Week* telecast its last program on Nov. 20.

2009

- ✧ WMFE-TV's *The Arts Connection* was cancelled after a 1 ½ year run.
- ✧ On Feb. 17, WMFE turned off its analog signal. The station now broadcasts only in digital.
- ✧ On April 1 WMFE Encore! and WMFE-CFAN merged. The new WMFE Encore! broadcasts national and local programs.
- ✧ On April 1 WMFE-TV began broadcasting in HD all day.
- ✧ June 30 marked the last day for local readings for the WMFE Audio Reading Service. The service continues only with streams of the national In-Touch Radio Network.
- ✧ On June 30, the new HD radio channel 90.7-2 Classical officially launched. The station airs classical music 24/7 from Classical Music 24.
- ✧ At midnight on Sept. 30, the WMFE Audio Reading Service ceased broadcasting due to InTouch Networks ceasing its operations.
- ✧ At 4 p.m. on Nov. 20, 90.7 FM added news, culture and talk programs to the midday and overnight schedules to give the station an all news and information focus 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2010

- ✧ In June, WMFE provided classical music fans more access to 90.7-2 Classical by making it available through the Second Audio Programming (SAP) on WMFE-TV.