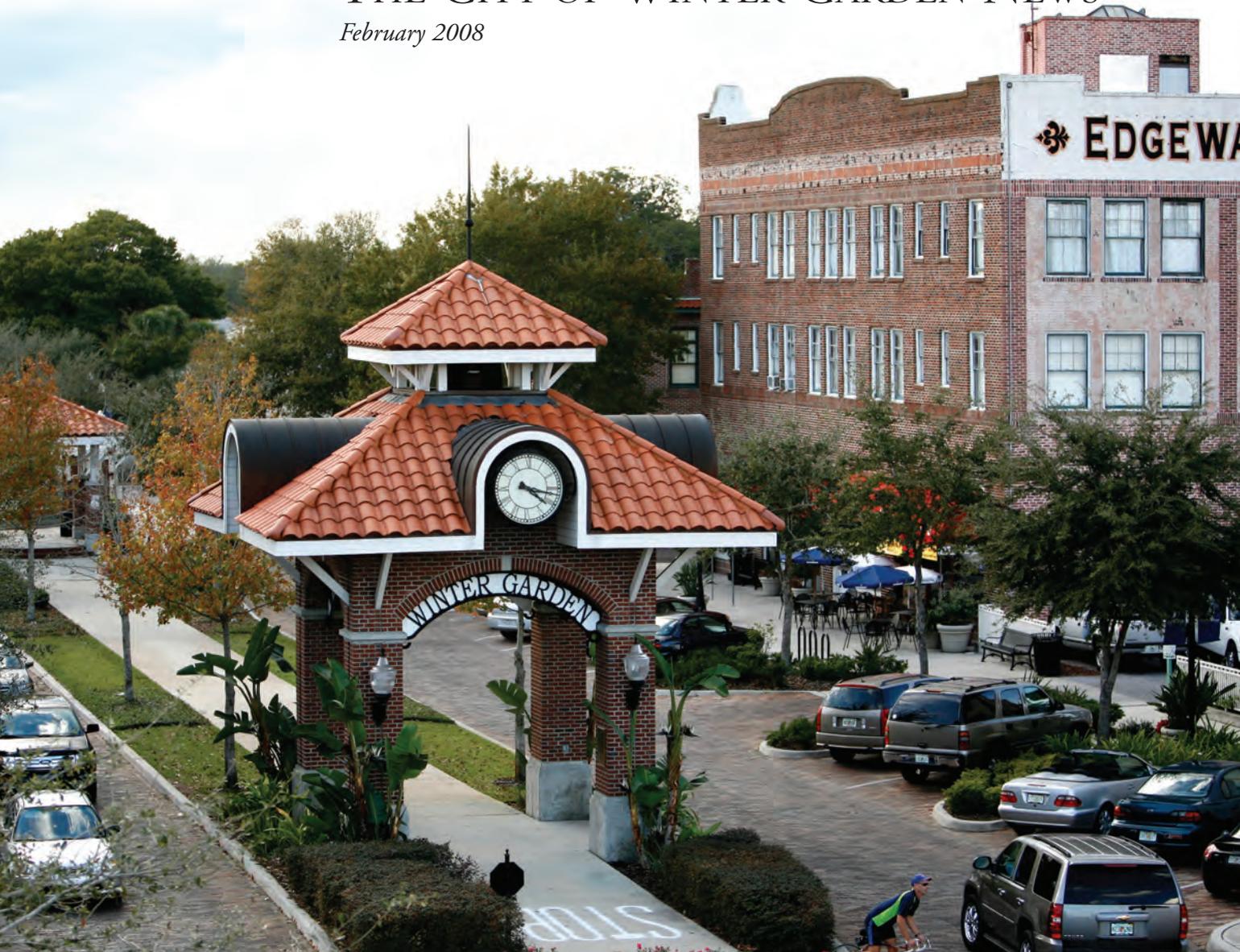


Live. Work.

THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN NEWS

February 2008



A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WINTER GARDEN

If it seems as if you are running into a project in progress wherever you drive in Winter Garden, it's because you probably are. The City recently began the most significant capital improvements plan in the Winter Garden's history. This year alone, there is over \$40 million budgeted in capital expenditures; over the next five years, \$84 million. The good news: most of this is being paid with funds other than tax dollars.

Parks and Recreation Projects

Four parks and recreation projects are budgeted this year.

First is the \$1 million dollar renovation of Zander's Park in east Winter Garden. The swimming pool has already been renovated and the renovations of the rest of the park are currently under construction. The playground is being replaced; the basketball courts refurbished; and new amenities are being added including a pavilion, bathrooms and extensive landscaping.

Also in this year's budget is \$100,000 for the new park at the intersection of Warrior Road and Windermere Road. The funds will be used to build a new fence, a pavilion, picnic tables and benches. The park will eventually be a converted into a trailhead for the southern extension of the West Orange Bike Trail.

We are currently selecting a contractor for the construction of the new Southside Park on the corner of Lake Butler Boulevard and CR 535. The expected cost of construction is \$2.75 million. The park will include two softball fields, two soccer fields, a play ground, and extensive landscaping. It will be one of the nicer parks in West Orange County.

Another major project is the conversion of the old Dillard Elementary school into a recreation campus. This \$2.5 million project will provide recreation services for all age groups. There will be a wing for youth programs and a separate wing for senior programs. It will be the City's first true recreation center.



“Our goal continues to be the best small city in the State of Florida.”

– MIKE BOLLHOEFER, CITY MANAGER

Infrastructure Improvements

Several road projects are budgeted this year. Currently, the storm water system on old CR 535 is being upgraded using a \$500,000 developer contribution. As soon as the upgrade is completed, the road will be repaved.

The \$14 million four-laning of CR 545, from Tilden Road north to the Hickory Hammock subdivision, should begin this year. The project includes intersection improvements at Tilden Road and CR 545—including a traffic light—and improvements to the Marsh Road and CR 545 intersection, all funded with impact fees.

Intersection improvements at Plant Street and West Crown Point Road should begin this summer. Once completed, a traffic light will be installed at 9th and Plant Street followed by the four-laning of Plant Street from 9th Street to West Crown Point Road. Several other street projects are also planned this year.

One of the most important projects is the construction of our reclaimed water system. The project will take 5 years to complete and will cost between \$12 and \$14 million. The project will bring reclaimed water to a majority of our residents, reducing our reliance on ground water – a critical endeavor as conservation of our underground aquifer is one of the most important issues facing our State. It should also significantly increase the

water pressure in the southern portion of the city.

There are far too many projects to discuss in one article. However, you may view our ongoing projects on our website at www.wintergarden-fl.gov. Simply click on the Capital Improvements Project tab to learn about all the City funded projects.

We will do our best to minimize inconveniences caused by all the infrastructure improvements taking place in the City. In the long-run, these improvements will serve you – our residents - with the quality services that you deserve.



Santa Run 2007

Thanks to the generosity of the local business community, sponsorship dollars covered the costs associated with producing SANTA RUN 2007.

Sitting high upon a sleigh built by local firefighters and paramedics, Santa was escorted through City neighborhoods by Winter Garden Fire/Rescue and Police. The Santa Run has become a beloved tradition by children and adults, alike. Weaving along the streets of Winter Garden, the jolly old elf was preceded by a police car and a fire engine with horns a-blaring and Santa's elves tossing candy to residents that lined the parade route each night the first week of December.

SANTA RUN 2007 was considered a non-essential service to be cut from the city budget. Thanks to the generosity of the local business community, sponsorship dollars covered the costs associated with producing SANTA RUN 2007. Heartfelt thanks go to Santa's sponsors for ensuring the successful run for the 6th wonderful year!



MANHEIM ORLANDO • WINDSOR REALTY • WINTER GARDEN VILLAGE • THE WEST ORANGE TIMES
A.R. Miller Engineering, Inc. • Battaglia Fruit Co., Inc. • Fishback, Dominick, Bennett, Stepter, Ardaman, Ahlers & Langley, LLP
Health Central Park • Hillcrest Insurance Agency • Rotary Club of Winter Garden • Williams Development Service, Inc.

2007 Toys for Needy Children

What started in 1976 as one Winter Garden Police Officer taking the initiative to solicit donations and provide toys for the children of two underprivileged families has blossomed to a host of volunteers, sworn officers and civilian employees, working together to make Christmas special in Winter Garden. Thirty one years later the Police Department's Toys for Needy Children program provided gifts for over 154 underprivileged families and toys for over 400 children for Christmas in 2007.

This community effort involves cash donations from local businesses, change jugs being placed throughout the City at local stores, toy donations from citizens and civic groups, and then the actual family registration event. Each family registers with names, ages, and requests from each family member so that toys can be matched up to a specific wish. Once families are registered the process of purchasing and separating the toys in individual age groups and family needs begins.

On distribution day, families arrive and are given their individual family bundle of toys. This program has had many changes throughout the years but one thing remains the same - the dedication and hard work provided by the citizens and members of the Winter Garden Police Department to ensure those less fortunate within the City have an opportunity to have a Merry Christmas.



Utility Bill Assistance Program for Seniors

It is that time of year again for the Senior Citizens' Utility Assistance Program application and renewal process to begin.

Program Qualifications

- You must be over 65 years of age, or
- You must be over 62 years of age and receiving Social Security benefits, and
- You must have been a City resident continuously for the past five years, PRIOR to your application date, and
- Your water bill must be in your name and billed to you directly, and
- Your annual income in 2008 from ALL sources must not exceed:

Single - \$1,092.79 month / \$13,113.47 year
Married - \$1,527.76 month / \$18,333.09 year

Needed Documentation

- Completed application form and
- Copy of your 2007 Federal Income Tax Return or
- 2008 Social Security Benefit Statement and documentation of all other sources of income

Deadline for Submitting Application and Proof of Income

May 1, 2008

Program Applications are available at:

City Hall Lobby, 251 West Plant Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787

Program Benefits:

Qualified residents will receive a \$35.00 reduction on their City Utility Bill. *Only those residents not qualifying will be notified.*

Questions?

Contact the Assistant City Clerk
407.656.4111 ext. 2297

Attention

CITY COMMISSION INSTITUTES MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Understanding that there are times that small businesses may have a difficult time in obtaining conventional financing, the City Commission approved the creation of a micro-loan program at the December 13, 2007 Commission meeting. The MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM has been designed to provide small business a borrowing option utilizing a portion of City dollars invested in the SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BANKING PROGRAM as collateral. Both programs are managed by BankFIRST.

MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM

- Company must be located within Winter Garden
- Company must obtain City Commission approval
- Company must be certified by approved by SBA provider prior to receiving funding
- Company must complete standard protocols as required by BankFIRST for SBA loans, including disclosure of financial records
- Loan amounts between \$5,000 - \$25,000
- Loans may be used for operating expenses
- City's investment serves as collateral
- Prime + 1%
- No bank originating fees shall be charged



Entrepreneurs

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FORMED WITH SCORE COUNSELORS TO AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS

The City of Winter Garden is pleased to announce the formation of a strategic alliance with SCORE Chapter #0138. Through the execution of a Technical Assistance Service Agreement between the City and SCORE, local businesses may receive business counseling, assistance in developing a business plan, certification of their business plan and a myriad of other services at no charge to the business. SCORE is approved by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as a technical provider and may be used to prepare documents necessary to qualify for the MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM offered by the City of Winter Garden.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Located at the Disney/SBA National Entrepreneur Center
- Approved by SBA as a technical provider
- Company may complete business plan at their own pace/convenience
- Access to support across a myriad of industry sectors
- Internet resources
- Conference rooms for meetings
- Gives business tools to succeed
- No charge to the business

SCORE[®]

Counselors to America's Small Business

If you are interested in taking advantage of the services offered by SCORE, please contact Pat Smith at:

SCORE

Counselors to America's Small Business

Disney/SBA National Entrepreneur Center

315 East Robinson Street, Suite 100

Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: 407.420.4843

A W A R D A N N O U N C E D

CITY TAKES TOP HONOR AT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE WINTER GARDEN SHOWCASE was presented the 2007 Excellence in Economic Development Promotional Award by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) at the annual conference held in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Economic development efforts have always played a vital role in shoring up the nation's economy, one locality at a time," said Ronnie L. Bryant, IEDC chairman. "The award serves as a salute to pacesetter organizations and entities like the City of Winter Garden for leading the charge."

Judges comments included: Competing in the category of Special Event by organizations serving areas of populations less than 50,000, Winter Garden was a clear standout. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is headquartered in Washington, DC. Its mission is to provide leadership and excellence in economic development for communities, members, and partners.

Special thanks to Shelly Weidenheimer, the City's former Economic Development Director; Nancy Williams; and Joe Alarie, of Alarie Design Associates, for earning such a prestigious honor for the City.



UF Research and Education Center

A TREASURE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

A hidden resource in the Winter Garden area is the University of Florida's Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC). Not sure why your winter garden isn't thriving? Answers abound through the outreach program available at UF MREC! At least one veteran Master Gardener is assigned to this volunteer position and

often, two are on site to provide help to homeowners with landscaping and gardening questions associated with horticultural practices, plant disease, insect, and plant identification. In addition, soil pH tests are available on-site at no cost and when needed. UF/IFAS publications are printed for the homeowner to provide further information.

WHAT: Residential Plant Clinic:
Diagnose Plant & Turf Problems

WHERE: UF Research & Education Center
2725 Binion Road, north of Magnolia Park

WHEN: Every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

.....
For More Information: 407.836.7573

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM BETTER THAN A BUSINESS CARD WINS TOP AWARD FROM AWWA

With recent drought conditions in Florida, the City of Winter Garden Public Services Department developed a program that would inform residents of the proper days to water lawns and gardens in a friendly manner in order to conserve water. Additionally, many new residents are originally from other states and countries and are not familiar with local irrigation requirements.

A business card size sticker was designed and printed with irrigation days, times, and the water conservation office phone number. It was felt that a business card would be lost, but a sticker would remain in place indefinitely - hence, naming the new program BETTER THAN A BUSINESS CARD.

The irrigation stickers are given to customers when they open a new utility account. The customer can put the sticker directly on their

irrigation timer or other convenient location. Hundreds of stickers have also been given to builders when new communities are started and to existing customers upon request. With over 50% of the City's potable water supply being used for irrigation, it is imperative that each of us do our part to conserve the most precious resource - water.

Objective: provide customers with a friendly and convenient reminder of irrigation rules. So far, over 5,000 stickers have been issued.

Result: Water consumption, within pinpoint-ed subdivisions, has decreased by over 35%.

BETTER THAN A BUSINESS CARD was awarded Best-In-Class for Public Education, Florida Section by the American Water Works Association Award for Excellence 2007. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in water efficiency, water supply and resource development initiatives throughout Florida.

The sticker has proven to be BETTER THAN A BUSINESS CARD



Fire Rescue

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PROVIDER STATUS AWARDED

With the much anticipated arrival of a large envelope via the US Postal service Christmas came a little early for the citizens and visitors of Winter Garden. On December 12th the Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department was awarded an Advanced Life Support provider license from the State of Florida. This license dramatically enhances the level of emergency medical services (EMS) that the department can provide.

With license in hand the department made the transition on December 17th from a Basic Life Support (BLS) department using only Automated External Defibrillators to an Advanced Life Support (ALS) department providing Paramedic services with the ability to establish intravenous lines, administer life saving medications, perform endotracheal intubations, and perform 12-lead electrocardiograms.

This achievement is a culmination of almost two years of preparation, training and hard work on behalf of the men, women and administration of the fire rescue department. Of the 37 member department 11 are now Paramedics with two more nearing the completion of their training. Initially the Paramedic

unit will be centrally staffed out of station #24 on Palmetto Street. This will allow them to quickly respond north to help station #23 in the Fuller's Cross area or to the south to assist station #22, which is the new station being constructed near the Winter Garden Village.

To complete the transition to ALS the department will be replacing its old pick-up style rescue vehicle with a fully equipped ambulance style vehicle that is capable of taking patients to the hospital. This would only occur if a Health Central Ambulance is not on the scene and our Paramedics determine that immediate transport in the Winter Garden unit is in the patient's best interest. Since patient transports are not covered

by normal fire taxes a user fee comparable to other fire based transport models will be utilized to cover the transport costs. This vehicle will be called a medic unit and will bear the name Medic-24.

Fire Chief John Williamson and Deputy Chief Matt McGrew are thankful for all of the support they have received from the City and its administrators which have allowed them to realize this monumental achievement. This license carries with it the commitment to the citizens that there will always be Paramedics on duty 24/7 in the City of Winter Garden providing the highest level of emergency medical care available.



Fire Safety House

MOBILE FIRE SAFETY HOUSE TEACHES EMERGENCY ESCAPE TECHNIQUES

The numbers are startling. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, among children age 14 and under, an estimated 2,800 are injured and 850 are killed each year in residential fires nationwide.

In an effort to educate and protect local children, the Winter Garden Fire Department has used a \$50,000 grant to purchase a new high-tech fire safety training house for kids. Lighthouse Underwriters and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company teamed up to donate the money. Progress Energy, The Committee of One Hundred of Orange County, and Lake Apopka Natural Gas also donated funds to make the FIRE SAFETY HOUSE become a reality. Awnings were provided by Giant Recreation World and flat panel TV's were supplied by Best Buy in Winter Garden to help equip the FIRE SAFETY HOUSE.

"We have been very happy with the amount of community support we have received with this project". It's nice to see this kind of commitment to our children here in Winter Garden," said Fire Chief John Williamson.

Heated doors, smoke-filled rooms, and simulated fire – all part of the newest training tool to educate local youth.

The mobile unit will be used to educate children on how to respond in certain home emergencies. The safety house is a large modified trailer which can simulate fire, smoke and heat in a kitchen and bedroom in order to teach safety and fire escape techniques. As part of each tour, the instructor fills a room in the house with simulated smoke and uses a heated door to teach kids about the fire on the other side. The safety house will be set up at local schools and other community events.

"This is one of the most thorough and hands-on fire safety training tools available today," added Chief Williamson. "It exposes children to real life scenarios and we expect thousands of local kids to tour this house in the years come." The Fire Safety House was designed by Winter Gardens Deputy Fire Chief Matt McGrew and Fire Marshal Tom Anderson. The trailer was also designed to provide a dual-role function as a mobile command post for large emergency incidents or at city functions.



Citizen Activism

The Citizens Action Center, located in City Hall, is a resource for all citizens of Winter Garden to address requests for information or action. Whether you need the phone number of a county government office or want to report a pothole in a road, the Citizens Action Center is there for you. Just a phone call or a click on the City's website and you are on your way to having your questions and concerns answered.

The City of Winter Garden and the Citizens Action Center is dedicated to bringing you the highest possible level of customer service satisfaction. The goal: to provide quicker responses to your inquiries and requests for action. You may also use the Center to comment on service levels and give praise when praise is due.

REACH THE CITIZENS ACTION CENTER

407.656.4111, Option "0"
Internet: www.wintergarden-fl.gov

Go to *GovQA* link at the bottom of the homepage. *GovQA* allows you to enter your request in our Citizens Action Center system via the internet and receive updates if you provide specific contact information. This special feature is another way that the City seeks to serve you.

WAYS TO SERVE YOUR CITY

The City of Winter Garden has a number of advisory boards and committees which provide assistance to the City Commission. There are six standing advisory boards/committees and other boards that may be organized as

needed which would require new members. In addition, during the year vacancies may arise and the City Commission is always interested in finding residents who would like to serve their community.

Advisory boards and committees usually meet once a month and only require a few hours of a volunteer's time. For little effort the rewards are great such as: serving the residents; serving the City Commission; meeting new members of our community; learning more about the City; and working alongside with the City's professional and technical staff. All advisory boards and committee members are appointed by the Mayor and City Commissioners.

For more information or to obtain an application form, contact the City Clerk's office at 407.656.4111 ext. 2254 or ext. 2297. You may also download an application at www.wintergarden-fl.gov via the City Clerk's web page.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES INCLUDE:

- Code Enforcement/Nuisance Abatement Board (*7 Members*)
- Planning and Zoning Board (*7 Members*)
- Community Redevelopment Agency (*1 seat appointed by the City Commission*)
- Community Redevelopment Agency/Brownfield Advisory Board (*9 members of which a majority must either own, reside, or operate a business within the designated redevelopment area*)
- General Employees Pension Board (*2 seats appointed by the City Commission*)
- Fire/Police Pension Board (*2 seats appointed by the City Commission*)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER
District 5, Jack Quesinberry
407.656.5000

COMMISSIONERS:
District 1, H. Gerald Jowers
407.656.3495

District 2, Bob Buchanan
407.656.2646

District 3, Harold L. Boulter
407.427.6442

District 4, Colin Sharman
407.654.9353

City Manager, Mike Bollhoefer
407.656.4111 ext. 2267

City Clerk, Kathy Golden
407.656.4111 ext. 2254

Chief of Police, George Brennan
407.656.3636 non-emergency

Chief of Fire Rescue, John Williamson
407.656.4689 non-emergency

Citizens Action Center
407.656.4111 ext. 0

Code Enforcement
407.656.4111 ext. 2026

Community Events
407.656.4155

Employment - 407.656.4111 ext. 2281

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN
251 West Plant Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787
407.656.4111
www.wintergarden-fl.gov

Learn. Play.

THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN RECREATION

February 2008





SPECIAL EVENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Winter Garden Lions Club will be hosting their annual EASTER EGG HUNT.

Date: Saturday, March 22; 1:00pm

Place: Newton Park, 29 West Garden Avenue.

Cost: FREE

Age: 0-12 years old. *Children with disabilities are encouraged to attend. For special arrangements, contact the Recreation Department at 656.4155 one week prior.*



Illustrator: Andy Crabtree, Crabtree Ink

8TH ANNUAL SPRING FEVER IN THE GARDEN

Join the Bloom 'n Grow Garden Society and the City of Winter Garden for SPRING FEVER IN THE GARDEN.

Date: Saturday, April 12, 9:00am-5:00pm;

Sunday, April 13, 11:00am-4:00pm

Place: Plant Street, Downtown Winter Garden

For information, or if you are interested in being a vendor, visit www.springfeveringarden.com.

GARDEN THEATRE

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES

THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS: THE MUSICAL!

Music by Eric Rocwell, Lyrics by Joann Bogart
February 1-17, 2008

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling
March 7-22, 2008

SPORT

By El Tricicle, Barcelona
April 4-13, 2008

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

By Jeffrey Hatcher & Mitch Albom
April 25-May 4, 2008

MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS

By Ron Hutchinson
May 9-25, 2008



Youth Programs

YOUTH ACTING LESSONS Want to star in your own show? Want to be part of a great production? Acting lessons are offered for those looking to be a performer. Lessons include instruction on auditions, headshots, improvisation, monologue, and scene script. Classes are offered to interested participants of all ages and consist of six-week sessions.

Dates: Tues. for six week sessions
Please call for current start date.

Times: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Fees: \$65 Resident

\$68 Non-Resident

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

WINTER GARDEN FENCING ACADEMY FOR YOUTH Join the staff of the Academy and learn the latest craze hitting Winter Garden. Basic to advanced foot work and blade work will be taught to beginners as well as experienced fencers. The Academy coaches cover all the basics and also prepare fencers for local tournaments. Join this award winning Academy to learn a new sport and have a great time. For more details, visit www.wgfencingacademy.com.

Dates: Wed. and Sat. (ongoing)

Times: Wed. 6:00pm-8:30pm

Sat. 9:30am-12:30pm

Fees: Varies depending on class size

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

KID'S CAFÉ Come and hang out with the Recreation staff each day for an afternoon of fun and food. KID'S CAFÉ is a unique, free dinner program designed for children of low-income families. The KID'S CAFÉ program is a joint program offered by the Orange County Community Action Division, the Second Harvest Food Bank, and the City of Winter Garden. Hang out with friends, make art projects, play games, and eat healthy.

Dates: Weekly, Mon.-Thurs.

Times: 3:30pm-5:00pm

Fees: FREE children 18 and under

Place: Maxey Community Center, 830 Klondike Street

TENNIS LESSONS Pick up a racket and start swinging! Highly skilled instructors bring years of valuable teaching experience and tennis skills knowledge to our programs. Lessons are offered for all ages and various skill levels. You will be swinging like a pro in no time. Due to the popularity of our tennis lessons, space is limited. Be sure to register early. **For current class times and start dates, call the Parks and Recreation Office at 407.656.4155.**

ORANGE COUNTY'S "THE CLUB"

Winter Garden Parks and Recreation is a proud partner of Orange County's "THE CLUB", a membership program open to all Orange County youth between the ages of 5 and 18. All you need to do to become a member is enroll in a Winter Garden Parks and Recreation program and fill out "THE CLUB" membership form. You will be eligible for store discounts, free transportation on Lynx transportation and invitations to special CLUB-ONLY events. For more information, visit www.theocclub.net.

BASKETBALL CLINICS *New in '08*

For the first time the Parks and Recreation Department is excited to offer basketball clinics for all ages! Join Quentin Freeman, owner of *Freeman Fundamental Fanatics*, and learn how to take your game to the next level. Whether you are new to the game or want to improve your skills, participate in innovative drills and practice sessions that will be sure to give you a renewed confidence for your next game. Come out to the courts and show your stuff.

Dates: Sat. March 8, 15, 22 and 29
Times: 9:00am-11:00am

Ages: 5 and up

Fees: \$35 session or \$10 per week

Place: Mildred Dixon Center, 303 West Crown Point Road

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCES Come out each month and enjoy friends, music, games and prizes! Middle School Dances are fun, exciting and safe! Dances are supervised by Recreation staff and are open to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students only. Current school ID and school dress code are required. Dances are limited to the first 250 participants.

Dates: Fri., Feb. 22; Fri., Mar.14; Fri., Apr. 25

Times: 7:00pm-10:00pm

Fees: \$5 per student

Place: Tanner Hall, 29 West Garden Avenue

Camps

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS A fun way to spend time with friends from school and your favorite Recreation staff! Camps are held on most Orange County Public School breaks. Campers must bring a packed lunch, snacks, and a water bottle to camp every day.

Dates: Mar, 28 & 31; April 1-4

Times: 7:00am-6:00pm

Ages: 5*-13

**must have begun Kindergarten*

Fees: \$15 per day Residents;

\$18 per day Non-Residents

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

SUPER SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION Join us for a special Saturday registration day at Tanner Hall! This will be the first opportunity to sign up for summer camp programs. Any remaining spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis in the Parks and Recreation Office during normal business hours.

You must register in person; provide proof of City residency (valid photo ID or Winter Garden utility bill); show a current report card; and complete a day camp enrollment packet for each child. A two-week payment is due at the time of registration. Space is limited.

Date: Sat., Apr.19

Times: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Place: Tanner Hall,
29 West Garden Avenue

SUMMER CAMP Games, sports, art, crafts, swimming, field trips, theme days and much, much more! A great way to spend the summer and make lifelong friends! Winter Garden Parks and Recreation Summer Camp is an awesome experience for your school age child. They will experience the outdoors, friends and FUN! A qualified, well-trained staff will provide a safe and outstanding summer for your child. Open to Winter Garden residents only. Campers must bring a packed lunch, snacks and a water bottle to camp every day. Space is extremely limited.

Weeks: June 9, 16, 23 and 30*

**there will be no camp Fri., July 4*

July 7, 14, 21 and 28; August 4

Times: 7:00am-6:00pm

Ages: 5*-13

**must have completed Kindergarten*

Fees: \$95 per week, per child

Place: **Ages 5 & 6** Little Hall, 31 West Garden Avenue; **Ages 7-13**

Old Fire Station Recreation Center,
127 South Boyd Street

Limited scholarships are available upon request with proof of Orange County Public Schools free or reduced lunch.



Adult Programs

ADULT ACTING CLASS Want to star in your own show? Want to be part of a great production? Acting lessons are offered for those looking to be a performer. Lessons include instruction on auditions, headshots, improvisation, monologue, and scene script. Classes are offered to all interested participants of all ages and consist of six week sessions.

Dates: Tues. (ongoing 6-week sessions Call for current session start date.

Times: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Fees: \$65 Resident; \$68 Other

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

ADULT FENCING CLASS Fencing is now being offered by the Winter Garden Recreation Department through a partnership with *Salle Des Chevaliers de Winter Garden*. Take a stab at something new and be the talk of the town! You will be sure to test your agility, coordination, footwork, and blade work with this extraordinary sport! Classes are offered to all ages from youth to adult and skill levels from beginner to advanced students.

Dates: Weds. and Sats.

Times: Wed. 6:30pm-8:00pm;
Sat. 9:30am-12:30pm

Fees: Varies depending on class size

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

PARENT & TOT TENNIS Parent & Tot Tennis is available to all parents interested in getting their tots up and moving! Lessons are a great way to spend time with other parents while at the same time teaching your child a great lifetime sport. A hands-on introduction to tennis for all pre-schoolers ages three to five. Parents will participate on court

assisting the experienced instructor in teaching hand/eye coordination and basic tennis skills. Tennis shoes, water and patience are required! No experience necessary. Lessons are run for a six week session. Please call the Recreation Office for more information on days and times.

Fees: \$36 Residents;

\$42 Non-Residents

Place: Chapin Station Tennis Courts, 501 West Crown Point Cross Road

SEWING The Winter Garden Recreation Department in partnership with the Orange County Community Action Division is now offering sewing classes. Have you always wanted to be able to sew that button on? Or make your own clothes? Our experienced instructor will have you sewing like a professional in no time at all. Simply bring your fabric and patterns and you are ready to start!

Dates: Mon. and Tues.

Times: 3:30pm

Fees: Free

Place: Maxey Community Center, 830 Klondike Street

ADULT SOFTBALL The City of Winter Garden hosts three softball seasons a year including Fall, Polar Bear, and Spring. The City's softball fields are regarded as some of the best in West Orange County. Leagues offered are Men's C/D, Co-ed, Church and Women's softball. **For league meeting dates, fees and other information, call the Recreation Department.**

YOGA A fun way to learn one of the country's most popular forms of exercise with an experienced instructor. **Please call the Recreation office at 407.656.4155 office for the most recent dates, times and prices.**

WATER AEROBICS Come beat the heat and get in shape at the same time. Join our experienced instructors that will have you exercising in the comfortable waters of Farnsworth pool. Participate in individual classes or sign up for an entire month at reasonable prices. No previous experience or swimming ability is necessary. **Classes run from May through September, weather permitting.**

SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB Come on out and play shuffleboard with all your friends, a unique way to share time with old friends and make new friends. New players are always welcome.

Dates: Weds.

Time: 12:30 pm

Fees: Free to play or \$4 annual fee to join the club

Place: Trailer City Courts, 21 East Crest Ave



50 Plus

DAY TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL Enjoy the famous Florida Strawberry Shortcake or walk through crafts, booths, and exhibits in Plant City. Test your luck on the carnival games or be adventurous on the rides! There will even be a chance to bring some strawberries home with you! Lunch is on your own.

Date: March 6, 2008

Time: 8:30am-6:00pm

(Please arrive at the Recreation Office 15 min. early.)

Fees: \$16 Residents;

\$18 Non-Residents (includes transportation and admission)

Place: Meet at the Recreation Office, 1 Surprise Drive

LUNCH AND LEARN Are you a history buff? Come learn about the city you live in! Hear guest speaker Kay Cappleman present A Walk Through the 20th Century in Winter Garden.

Note: This is not a walking trip.

Date: April 18, 2008

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm

Fee: \$5 per person (lunch included)

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

ROCKABILLY USA MUSIC SHOW is one of the world's largest traveling oldies shows. Feel young again by going back in time with songs and dances from the 40s, 50s, and 60s. This event is held at the Osceola Performing Arts Center (formerly Tupperware Convention Center). Dinner is not included so please eat before you attend. There are concession stands available at the event.

Date: May 31, 2008

Time: To Be Determined

Fee: \$30 Residents;

\$32 Non-Residents

Place: Meet at the Recreation Office, 1 Surprise Drive

DUPLICATE BRIDGE Join the Bridge Club for exciting games that are held weekly at the Tanner Hall on picturesque Lake Apopka. Enjoy an action packed afternoon of cards, developing friendships, and conversation at one of the most beautiful locations in West Orange County. Newcomers are welcome.

Dates: Thursday

Time: 1:00pm

Fees: \$3 per person

Place: Tanner Hall, 29 West Garden Avenue

WEST ORANGE PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB Join our Literary Book Club and discuss your favorite books each month. What a great way to discover current and classic authors. Enjoy a round-robin discussion of old classics and make new friends at the same time.

Date: 2nd Monday of each Month

Time: 2:00pm

Fee: FREE!

Place: Old Fire Station Recreation Center, 127 South Boyd Street

MY CRITIC'S CHOICE Join us each month as we travel to a new restaurant and critique the overall dining experience. Spend quality time with friends over a casual lunch while rating the food and service of the restaurant.

Date: Last Friday of each month

Time: 11:00 am

Fee: \$8 Residents; \$10 Non-Residents

Place: Recreation Office, 1 Surprise Drive

For more information and to sign-up for the programs and day trips offered, contact the Recreation Office at 407.656.4155.



Aquatics

Farnsworth Pool
1 Surprise Drive

MAY 1-JUNE 6
JUNE 9-AUG. 16
AUG. 16-SEPT. 27

SAT. ONLY
MON.-SAT.
SAT. ONLY

1:00-5:00 PM
1:00-5:00 PM
1:00-5:00 PM

Bouler Pool
362 11th Street

JUNE 7 – AUG. 15

MON.-FRI.

1:00-5:00 PM

Family Passes: \$50 City Residents; \$75 Non-Residents (limit six persons/family)

Cost: \$2 ages 12 and up; \$1 ages 2-11; ages 2 and under FREE



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER AQUATIC PROGRAMS WILL BEGIN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008

ELLIS AND ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL LIFEGUARD TRAINING PROGRAM This program provides the highest level of lifeguard training. While in this program you will learn lifesaving, safety, and service skills that far exceed current industry standards. E&A lifeguards consistently demonstrate their excellence through accountability, professionalism, competency, and service. **Participants must be 16 years of age.**

Dates: Mar. 31, Apr. 1, Apr. 2

Time: 8:00pm-6:00pm

Fees: \$175

RED CROSS WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTION (WSI) Are you good with children and looking for some extra part-time income this summer? This 44-hour course will train swim instructor candidates to teach all seven levels of the learn-to-swim program, community water safety, Longfellow's Whales Tales, and Water Safety Aid. **Participants must be 17 years of age.**

Dates: May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, & 11

Times: Fri. 6:00-10:00; Sat. and Sun. 9:00am-6:00pm

Fees: \$225

JR. LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

For children ages 11-14, this is a fun instructional program that combines swimming with learning the basics of becoming a lifeguard.

Dates, Times, and Fees: TBD

SWIM LESSONS Certified instructors teach your children the skills to move, be safe, and have fun in the water at all levels. This program is offered at different times of the day to all ages and skill levels. Beginning in May, a full schedule of dates and descriptions can be found at www.wintergarden-fl.gov or call the recreation office for more information at 407.656.4155. Group lessons and private lessons are also available.

Registration begins on April 19 at Tanner Hall

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Fees: Resident \$40; Non-Resident \$55

Other programs to be offered by the Winter Garden Aquatics Division are in development - Scuba classes, Youth Swim League, Water Aerobics, Birthday Parties. Inquire with the Recreation Office in May at 407.656.4155 for more information.

LIGHT UP WINTER GARDEN

A SHINING SUCCESS! A record crowd descended on downtown Winter Garden on November 30, 2007 to take in the sights and sounds of the season. The City of Winter Garden and Progress Energy once again turned the downtown district in to a winter wonderland for the annual LIGHT UP WINTER GARDEN. Patrons of the event were treated to an assortment of activities ranging from a snow play area and visits with Santa to sing-along carols capped with an outdoor holiday movie sponsored by the Garden Theatre.

This annual tradition, dating back to the mid 1980's, has come to signify the start of the holiday season in Winter Garden. Mayor Jack Quesinberry threw the switch to illuminate thousands of decorative lights adorning the downtown area. Holiday performances by the West Orange Ministerial Association and various caroling groups set the mood with sing along carols and a candlelight ceremony.

Other event amenities included twelve-tons of snow brought in from the North Pole for children to experience, food and craft vendors, and the traditional visits with Santa Claus. New to this year's event was an outdoor showing of the holiday classic A Christmas Story on a two-story outdoor screen courtesy of the Garden Theatre.

One event attendee was heard saying, "It is nice to live in a place where hometown events like this make you feel connected as a community."

Planning has already begun for next year's LIGHT UP WINTER GARDEN, slated for Friday, December 5, 2008.

PROJECTS UPDATE

SOUTHSIDE PARK The design phase is now complete for the new Southside Park coming to the corner of Lake Butler Boulevard and Winter Garden Vineland Road. Ground should be broken on this project this spring and completion is slated for December 2008. Look for new soccer fields, softball fields, and a playground coming soon.

ZANDERS PARK NEARING COMPLETION Zanders Park, an east Winter Garden Park, is getting a facelift! This redevelopment includes a new playground, picnic shelter, and restrooms that will enhance this neighborhood park for the entire community. Completion is scheduled for April 2008.

NOW HIRING Do you have a talent or skill that you would like to share with others? Earn some extra income by leading a class with the Winter Garden Parks & Recreation Department. Summer employment opportunities are also available. Openings are available for camp counselors, lifeguards, swim instructors, water aerobics instructors, synchronized swim instructors, pool managers, and more. Flexible schedules allow you to work as little or as much as you like. Fill out an online application at www.wintergarden-fl.gov or call 407.656.4155 for more information.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP The Winter Garden Parks and Recreation Department is involved in many programs and special events throughout the year. Business partners in our community continue to help our programs grow and be the best. In return, they receive prominent exposure throughout the community at our events and in our literature distributed to thousands of households each year. If your business is interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact 407.656.4155 for further details.

"It is nice to live in
a place where hometown
events like this make you feel
connected as a community."

– WINTER GARDEN RESIDENT

Where to play

Veteran's Memorial Park

420 South Park Avenue
Basketball Courts, Leashed pet Allowed, Picnic Area/Grills, Multipurpose Fields, Softball Fields, Tennis Courts, Volleyball Court, Playground

Walker Football Field

415 South Park Avenue

Sam Williams Little League Complex

415 South Park Avenue
Baseball Fields

Old Fire Station Recreation Center

127 South Boyd Street
Recreation Programs

Maple St. Park

135 Florida Avenue
Basketball Courts, Leashed Pet Allowed, Picnic Area/Grill, Playground, Skate Ramps, Racquetball Courts, Volleyball Court

Newton Park

31 West Garden Avenue
Boat Ramp, Fishing, Leashed Pet Allowed, Picnic Area/Grills, Playground

Dr. Bradford Memorial Park

220 West Division Street
Fishing, Leashed Pet Allowed, Picnic Area/Grills

Chapin Station Neighborhood Park

501 West Crown Point Cross Road
Basketball Courts, Bicycling, Leashed Pet Allowed, Picnic Area/Grills, Playground, Tennis Courts

Zanders Park and Bouler Pool

362 11th Street
Basketball Courts, Picnic Area/Grills, Playground, Swimming

Recreation Office and Farnsworth Pool

1 Surprise Drive
Fishing, Picnic Area/Grills, Swimming

Southside Community Park

4109 Winter Garden Vineland Road
Soccer, Softball, Playground
(Opening December 2008)