



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

www.cwgd.com | 407.656.4111

JANUARY 2021

## City of Winter Garden Receives National Voice of the People Award

On September 26, 2020, the National Research Center (NRC) at Polco and the International City & County Management Association (ICMA) announced the City of Winter Garden as one of the ten Winners of the Voice of the People (VOP) Awards for Excellence.



The Voice of the People Awards are the only national awards that honor local governments based on survey opinions and feedback from residents. The awards for Excellence recognize communities that received the highest marks from their residents in the previous year and are at the top of the cohort of The National Community Survey™ (The NCS) participants. Each year about 100 local governments are eligible to participate in the awards from over 500 jurisdictions nationally.

This award recognizes Winter Garden's excellence in achieving high ratings on the NCS and for its intentional, data-informed decisions around the Natural Environment - one of eight community facets evaluated for award consideration. Other community facets include *Community Engagement, Safety, Mobility, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation & Wellness and Education & Enrichment.*

## NEW WEBSITE DEDICATED TO DOWNTOWN WINTER GARDEN



Have you been to the official online guide to our historic downtown yet? The Downtown Winter Garden website, [www.downtownwg.com](http://www.downtownwg.com), is a resource for residents, local businesses, as well as for visitors that displays Winter Garden's offerings to both residents and visitors, while providing exposure to our local businesses that are the heart of our small town charm. The launch of the website and social media platforms coincide with the City's Love Local campaign to encourage support of the local business community to help recovery efforts due to the pandemic.

The website features a directory of shops, restaurants, cultural/recreational venues, and hotels with information about the Winter Garden Farmers Market, the West Orange Trail and offerings beyond downtown. An online calendar of downtown happenings will keep you informed as well as a news section with announcements and feature articles every week.

Check out the Official Downtown Winter Garden social media accounts at [www.facebook.com/officialdowntownwintergarden/](http://www.facebook.com/officialdowntownwintergarden/) and [www.instagram.com/officialdowntownwintergarden/](http://www.instagram.com/officialdowntownwintergarden/) to find downtown news, travel ideas, local experiences, event information, and special offers.

## REMINDER: FIREWORKS

Recreational use of fireworks is legal for only Independence Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day, per Florida Statute 791.08.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

### New Year's Day, January 1

No trash, recycling, yard waste or bulk collection on Friday, January 1. Make-up pickup day for recycling only: Saturday, January 2. City government offices are closed.

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18

Regular waste and recycling collection services provided on Monday, January 18. Place all waste material at the curb by 7:00 am. City government offices are closed. If you have questions, please call 407.656.2256.

# Spring into FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Tai Chi, Yoga, Martial Arts, Tennis, Softball, Active 50+ Activities, Special Olympics Activities, Trips, Horticulture Lectures, Guitar Lessons, Art Classes, Kickball, Preschool Activities, Cooking Classes, Belly Dance and More! Find dates, details and prices at [www.cwgd.com](http://www.cwgd.com) or call 407.656.4155.

## Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons

Highly skilled instructor brings years of experience and knowledge to participants. Class space is limited, advanced registration required.

February 1 and April 5 | Six-week sessions

5 years and older

Varies, check [www.cwgd.com](http://www.cwgd.com) for details

Chapin Station Neighborhood Park, 501 W. Crown Point Cross Road

## Gentle Yoga

Great for beginners or anyone who wants to learn the basics of yoga. Yoga involves stretching and strengthening exercises, breathing techniques and relaxing meditation.

Tuesdays | 7:15 – 8:15 pm

16 years and older

\$9 City Resident; \$10 Nonresident per class

## Systema

This Russian Martial Art focuses on self-defense methods, greater strength and endurance, patience and working with others. Winter Garden is the only place in Central Florida to practice this art used by Russian Special Forces!

Mondays | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

18 years and older

\$15 per class

\$45 City Resident; \$55 Nonresident per four-week session

## Wii Bowling League\*

Do you still have a passion for bowling but do not have the time, energy or strength to make it to the lanes? Teams of two are forming now for a new Wii bowling 12-week league. Teams will choose their weekly bowling time and partner at the first meeting and pay their fee for the 12-week session.

Start-up Tuesday, January 19

Teams bowl January 19 – April 12

\$1 per person, per week (12-week session)

\*Must register before January 19

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

### Make 2021 the Year to Start a Sustainable Lifestyle

Why is it important? It keeps the environment healthy, it saves resources, and it can save money.

The Sustainable Living Guide offers these tips:

- Dry laundry on a line
- Unplug your devices when not in use
- Cook at home more
- Use your air conditioning and heating less
- Buy locally, buy seasonal foods
- Use a reusable bag
- Buy in bulk, less packaging to go to landfills
- Use less water
- Use less light, turn off lights when you leave a room, use the natural light during the day
- Recycle

For more tips, go to <https://thesustainablelivingguide.com>.

### What To Do With Plastic Bags

Plastic bags should never be placed inside the recycling cart. In a curbside recycling program, plastic bags can get tangled in the equipment at the sorting facility causing shutdowns and contaminating other recyclable material. The first option is to reuse those bags. They're great for pet waste, then just toss in the trashcan. If you can't reuse them, return them to the store. Retailers will take plastic bags and wraps to a facility where they will get recycled.

Recycle these at local retailers:

- Plastic retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bread bags (shake crumbs out first)
- Furniture wrap
- Electronic wrap
- Ice bags (remove metal closure, dry first)
- Bubble wrap
- Product wraps (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, diapers and more)

For more information or questions, call 407.656.4111 Ext. 5193.

## EXHIBITION

### Hand Made

View unique fine crafts and artisan works (sculpture, fiber, jewelry, mixed, etc.) in this exhibit. 2-D works relate to craftsmanship, or the creation of a craft, or include a 3-D aspect such as relief. This exhibition runs from November 24, 2020 – February 1, 2021.

## WORKSHOPS

Please visit the website for more details and updates: [wgart.org/workshops/](http://wgart.org/workshops/)

SOBO is ringing in the New Year with more classes, workshops, artist meet and greet around town, and more. Visit [wgart.org](http://wgart.org) for upcoming dates and times, as updates will be released monthly. The focus will be on offering introductory workshops to master classes and children's workshops, for all levels to enjoy and become a part of the growing Winter Garden Art Community.

Fun and inclusive new workshops will include stained glass painted bottle lamps, intro to oil, intro to watercolor, jewelry classes, air dry clay sculpting, plus live art around Downtown Winter Garden and more. SOBO wants to spark your creative side this New Year, so clear your calendar to gather your friends, make it a date night and get the family involved!

## ON-GOING EVENTS

### Artist Night Studio: Life Drawing

Model available to draw every Wednesday night. No pre-registration, no commitment, no instruction, just drop in.

Wednesdays | 6:30 – 9:00 pm

18 years and older only

\$10 Member; \$15 Nonmember

## Volunteer

We are currently accepting applications and interest for volunteer opportunities at SOBO on Saturdays! Sign up at: [wgart.org/volunteer/](http://wgart.org/volunteer/)

## PROGRAMS FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

\*Due to current restrictions for those at risk, please check the website for more information.

### Paint-A-Memory

Register in advance:

407.347.7996

### Musical Minds

*With Central Florida  
Community Arts*

Register in advance:

407.937.1800 ext. 719



## WINTER GARDEN TO CONDUCT RE-SURVEY OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS

The City of Winter Garden, in collaboration with the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, has received a grant of \$20,000 from the Florida Department of State's Division of Cultural Resources to conduct a survey of structures located within Downtown Winter Garden's commercial and residential Historic Districts. The nationwide archeological consulting firm, PaleoWest has recently been selected to undertake this project, which will be completed by May 2021.

When completed, the survey will be presented in a public meeting to the City of Winter Garden's Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board. A photo exhibit will be created and displayed in the lobby of Winter Garden City Hall that will showcase the process and the contributing structures, along with historic images picturing the region's pioneer beginnings. While the exhibit is displayed, the City and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation will host programs featuring industry experts presenting topics related to architectural history and historic preservation.



## WINTER GARDEN FIRE RESCUE *FIRE AND SAFETY ZONE*

Smoke alarms save lives (photoelectric alarms are recommended). Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and determine a meeting place. Know at least two ways out of every room and make sure all windows and doors open easily. To learn about the smoke alarm program or for fire safety information, call 407.877.5175.



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## Garden Theatre

gardentheatre.org | 407.877.4736

### THEATRE SERIES

#### ***A Class Act***

*Music and Lyrics by Edward Kleban | Book by Linda Kline and Lonny Price  
Originally directed on Broadway by Lonny Price*

He was one singular sensation. Twelve years after Edward Kleban won a Tony Award for his lyrics in *A Chorus Line*, his friends gather for a memorial service at the Shubert Theatre. As they reminisce about shared performances, jobs, and workshops, Ed joins them on stage to relive the struggles, triumphs, and important moments of his life. Sweet, funny, and at times poignant, *A Class Act* features songs written by Ed himself.

January 27 – February 7

Matinee and evening performances

Tickets from \$35. Discounts for youth, seniors, groups, and military members

[gardentheatre.org/plays](http://gardentheatre.org/plays)

### EDUCATION

Garden Theatre is proud to offer year-round classes for students of all ages, including adults! The curriculum is designed to empower students, create confidence, encourage teamwork, stimulate creativity, and teach essential theatre skills for the budding or experienced actor. Visit the website for more information.

#### ***A Chorus Line High School Edition***

Garden Theatre will host an auditioned production camp for students in grades 7 – 12! Students who are cast in *A Chorus Line High School Edition* will be required to register for the production camp.

Auditions: January 6 – 7

Rehearsals: January 11 – 30

Performances: January 31 – February 1

\$450 (Audition registration is free)

[gardentheatre.org/education](http://gardentheatre.org/education)

#### ***COVID-19 Update***

To best protect the health of guests, volunteers, performers, and staff, Garden Theatre will implement several safety precautions including but not limited to: physically-distanced seating, online playbills, paperless tickets, wearing face coverings inside the theatre, temperature checks, and no concessions.

[gardentheatre.org/plan-your-trip/](http://gardentheatre.org/plan-your-trip/)

## ***Did you know?***

Lake Apopka had the distinction of being the Large-Mouth Bass Capital of the world during its heyday.

*Courtesy of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation*

## Winter Garden Heritage Foundation



### **Dr. Albert Gleason: West Orange County's Eminent Physician**

Dr. Albert Gleason (1911 – 2015) began practicing medicine locally in 1945 after serving in World War II and he continued for the next 60 years. He was also instrumental in establishing and serving as chief of staff at both West Orange Memorial Hospital in Winter Garden, and Health Central Hospital when it was constructed in Ocoee.

The exhibit features photographs and vintage office equipment highlighting Dr. Gleason's life and legacy.

Winter Garden Heritage Museum, 1 N. Main Street

Fridays in January | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Or call 407.656.3244 for an appointment

### **Despite the Obstacles: Educating African American Students in the Days of Segregation**

Join the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the City of Winter Garden as we celebrate Black History. The exhibit features photographs documenting the challenges and successes experienced by African American students prior to the integration of Orange County's public schools in 1969.

Winter Garden's Public Art Gallery at City Hall

300 W. Plant Street

January 4 – February 26 | 8:00 am – 5:00 pm