



NEWS YOU CAN USE

www.cwgd.com | 407.656.4111

MARCH 2021

Watch Out For Pet Scams

A good way to pass the time in quarantine is to get a furry friend. Dogs and cats are in high demand and that is giving rise to scam artists.

Here is how the scam often works:

- You see a puppy or kitten for sale on the internet and contact the owner.
- The owner asks you to wire money up front before you even get to pet the dog or cat.
- They then tell you to meet somewhere, but never show up.
- Often the picture is not even a pet the scammer had, just a stock photo.

If you are buying a pet, try checking out local shelters and animal rescue organizations instead.

It is also important to ask to see the pet's vet records. The Better Business Bureau recommends that aspiring pet owners make a point to see the pet in person before paying any money, employ tactics like reverse image searches and compare prices to see what other breeders are selling. The median loss reported to Scam Tracker in 2020 was \$750.

WINTER GARDEN FIRE RESCUE FIRE AND SAFETY ZONE



National Poison Prevention Week: March 21 – 27, 2021. Keep the Poison Control Hotline number 1.800.222.1222 available at all times.

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

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, Pickleball and more! Find dates, details and prices at www.cwgd.com or call 407.656.4155.

School Holiday Camp

Arts and crafts, activities, sports and much more! Spend this year's spring break with your friends, counselors and the Winter Garden Parks and Recreation staff. A qualified, well-trained staff will provide a safe and outstanding break for your child. Camp is open to all children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Campers must bring a packed lunch, snacks and a water bottle to camp every day.

March 12, 15 – 19 | 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Holiday camp is open to children kindergarten through 8th grade.
\$21 City Resident; \$26 Nonresident per day

Gentle Yoga

Great for beginners or anyone that 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

Check Your Credit Scores

With the holiday season behind us and tax season around the corner, this is a great time to check your credit to verify that you have not been a victim of fraud. You can request a **free** copy of your credit report from each of three major credit-reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. If you locate anything suspicious: **File a dispute!** Errors or fraud can lower your credit scores and cost you money.

The IRS has a list of tax scams at www.irs.gov.

Listed below are some scams reported to the Winter Garden Police Department.

Fake Payments with Repayment Demands

Criminals are always finding new ways to trick taxpayers into believing their scam including putting a bogus refund into the taxpayer's actual bank account. Here is how the scam works:

A con artist steals or obtains a taxpayer's personal data including Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and bank account information. The scammer files a bogus tax return and has the refund deposited into the taxpayer's checking or savings account. Once the direct deposit hits the taxpayer's bank account, the fraudster places a call to them, posing as an IRS employee. The taxpayer is told that there has been an error and that the IRS needs the money returned immediately or penalties and interest will result. The taxpayer is told to buy specific gift cards for the amount of the refund.

The IRS will never demand payment by a specific method. There are many payment options available to taxpayers and there's also a process through which taxpayers have the right to question the amount of tax we say they owe. Anytime a taxpayer receives an unexpected refund and a call from us out of the blue demanding a refund repayment, they should reach out to their banking institution and to the IRS.



Scams targeting non-English speakers

IRS impersonators and other scammers also target groups with limited English proficiency. These scams are often threatening in nature. Some scams also target those potentially receiving an Economic Impact Payment and request personal or financial information from the taxpayer.

Phone scams pose a major threat to people with limited access to information, including individuals not entirely comfortable with the English language. These calls frequently take the form of a "robocall" (a text-to-speech recorded message with instructions for returning the call), but in some cases may be made by a real person. These con artists may have some of the taxpayer's information, including their address, the last four digits of their Social Security number or other personal details – making the phone calls seem more legitimate.

A common one remains the IRS impersonation scam where a taxpayer receives a telephone call threatening jail time, deportation or revocation of a driver's license from someone claiming to be with the IRS. Taxpayers who are recent immigrants often are the most vulnerable and should ignore these threats and not engage the scammers.



Winter Garden Art Association

SoBo Art Gallery | 127 S. Boyd Street | www.wgart.org

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Driven to Abstraction Exhibition

Abstract works in 2D, 3D and photography. The exhibition ends March 27.

Central Florida Watercolor Society

Collection of watercolors from CFWS and a curated group of 3-dimensional artworks, watercolor and mixed medium. The exhibition ends March 27.

The World Outside

2D & 3D works related to getting outside again in life, thinking outside the box, or other fun interpretations of the "outside" theme. The exhibition runs from March 30 until May 29.

Opening Reception: April 1 | 5:30 – 8:00 pm

CALL TO ARTISTS

Interested artists can submit online between the first and the eighth of the month prior to the exhibition. Please visit the website for monthly updates: wgart.org/artists/call-to-artists

Senior Fraud

Senior citizens and those who care about them need to be on alert for tax scams targeting older Americans. The IRS recognizes the pervasiveness of fraud targeting older Americans along with the Department of Justice and FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), among others.

Seniors are more likely to be targeted and victimized by scammers than other segments of society. Financial abuse of seniors is a problem among personal and professional relationships. Anecdotal evidence across professional services indicates that elder fraud goes down substantially when the service provider knows a trusted friend or family member is taking an interest in the senior's affairs.

Older Americans are becoming more comfortable with evolving technologies, such as social media. Unfortunately, that gives scammers another means of taking advantage. Phishing scams linked to Covid-19 have been a major threat this filing season. Seniors need to be alert for a continuing surge of fake emails, text messages, websites and social media attempts to steal personal information.

WORKSHOPS

Please visit the website for more details and updates: wgart.org/workshops/

ON-GOING EVENTS

Artist Night Studio: Life Drawing

Model available to draw every Wednesday night.

Wednesdays | 6:30 – 9:00 pm

18 years and older only

Register online at wgart.org

VOLUNTEER

Currently accepting applications for volunteer opportunities at SOBO for Saturdays! Sign up at: wgart.org/volunteer

PROGRAMS FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

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

Musical Minds

With Central Florida Community Arts

Visit cfcarts.com/musicalminds or call 407.937.1800, Ext. 719

Don't Recycle Takeout Food Containers

Takeout containers should not be placed in your blue recycling cart. If they can't be reused, throw them away. Most takeout containers are designed to keep food fresh, protect the food during reheating and to prevent leaks. However, they're not designed to be recycled in curbside recycling programs.

Please dispose of:

- Takeout Containers
- Cups
- Straws
- Plastic forks, spoons and knives
- Wrappers
- Napkins

Need more information regarding sustainability? Call 407.877.5193.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

www.cwgd.com | 407.656.4111

MARCH 2021



Garden Theatre

gardentheatre.org | 407.877.4736

THEATRE SERIES

A Raisin in the Sun

By Lorraine Hansberry

Directed by Roberta Emerson

What happens to a dream deferred? In the South Side of Chicago, a poor black family struggles to stay afloat as they search for financial stability and a place to call home. Tensions flare as the generations reach for different dreams and prejudice seeps into their lives. Filled with passion, humor, and humanity, *A Raisin in the Sun* is an iconic piece of American dramatic literature that will move audiences of all ages.

March 3 – 14 | Matinee and evening performances

Tickets start at \$30. Discounts for youth, seniors, groups, and military members

gardentheatre.org/plays

MOVIES

***Spaceballs* (1987, PG)**

Jump on board the Eagle 5 with Lone Starr and Barf to save Princess Vespa from the notorious Dark Helmet. Will the Schwartz be with you?

Interactive Movies feature pre-show games, trivia, and costume contests hosted by live actors.

March 28 | 7:30 pm | \$15

EDUCATION

Talent is blooming at the Garden! At every age level, students are encouraged to try something new, develop their theatre skills, and become more confident in everything they do. Classes are tailored to fit the needs of each grade or skill level, and are taught by experienced local theatre professionals.

Spring Break Camps | March 15 – 19

- Production Experience: Seussical Kids | Grades 1 – 3
- Your Pop Musical | Grades 3 – 6
- Design Intensive | Grades 3 – 9
- Musical Theatre Scene Study | Grades 7 – 12

COVID-19 Update

Garden Theatre: March Events 2021

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/



Did you know?

The Shelby Hotel, constructed in 1913, stands today as the site of Tony's Liquors.

Courtesy of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation

Water Lawns Before 10:00 am or After 4:00 pm

The City of Winter Garden's conservation ordinance for landscape irrigation requires no watering before 10:00 am or after 4:00 pm. There's a reason for that. That's when temperatures and wind speeds are the lowest, reducing losses from evaporation and wind that can occur in the middle of the day. This allows the water to seep into the ground to the roots, promoting healthier plants with a deep root system.

Daylight Saving Time

Second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November

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| Odd # Homes or No # Homes | Wednesday/Saturday |
| Even # Homes | Thursday/Sunday |
| Nonresidential Properties | Tuesday/Friday |