



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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FEBRUARY 2023

## Winter Garden Heritage and Music Festival *Celebrating City's 120th Anniversary*

Established in 1903, the City of Winter Garden commemorates its heritage with a free 120th anniversary extravaganza for the community on **Saturday, February 11**. The Winter Garden Heritage & Music Festival in historic downtown will include 30 entertainment acts across five stages, strolling performers, history walking tours, historical exhibitions and presentations, a kids' zone area, and more!



### LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT AND A KIDS' ZONE

Simultaneous and continuous performances will be held at various outdoor stages throughout downtown stretching from Central Avenue to Dillard Street. The entertainment kicks off at 11:00 am and continues nonstop through 10:00 pm. The event is fun for all ages.

A few of the many high caliber performances include Selwyn Birchwood, L & G Live Duo, Flight Scene, Big Ron Betts, and Michael Andrew & Swingerhead.

As part of the Festival, the First Baptist Church of Winter Garden (125 E. Plant Street) is celebrating its 135th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of its Old Sanctuary building with a host of "Back to the Future" activities and entertainment. Guests will enjoy the nostalgic stage show with Doc, Marty McFly, and a DeLorean, as well as

live music and special guest Blippi, a popular children's entertainer and educator. Visit the large kids' zone area and hop on board the children's train. In addition, fifteen 1920 vintage cars will be on display and there will be tours of the Old Sanctuary as well as historical displays. Hot dogs, popcorn, cakes, and pretzels will be available at roll back prices.

Additional entertainment can be found throughout downtown at various restaurants, Plant Street Market, and at the Winter Garden Farmers Market.

### HISTORY WALKING TOURS, SPECIAL HISTORICAL EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a great way to learn about the history of downtown is by taking a walking tour. The Winter Garden Heritage Foundation will host guided Walking Tours during the Festival.

The Winter Garden Heritage Museum and its Heller Hall, the SOBO Art Gallery, and City Hall's Art in Public Places Gallery will all host special historical exhibitions.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum, bursting with amazing historical railroad artifacts and memorabilia, will host special presentations on the history of local railroads.

Come celebrate your hometown's momentous 120th anniversary brought to you by the City of Winter Garden, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, and other generous partners.

For event schedule, visit [cwgd.com](http://cwgd.com) and/or [downtownwg.com](http://downtownwg.com).

Saturday, February 11 | 11:00 am – 10:00 pm  
Historic Downtown | Free

### ***Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Farmers Market on February 11***

Fun, sweets, flowers, and gifts – everything you need to celebrate Valentine's Day can be found at the Winter Garden Farmers Market on Saturday, February 11.

Complimentary special holiday craft making for children will take place at the KidZone tent at the Parking Garage Plaza, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The wide selection of vendors are perfect for shopping for something special for that someone special. Jewelry, scented soaps, flowers, desserts, and more can all be found at the market. In celebration of the Winter Garden Heritage Festival taking place at the same time, the first 120 market goers that visit the Information Tent at the entrance of the Pavilion will receive a complimentary commemorative City of Winter Garden 120th Anniversary tote bag.

Valentine's Day Celebration at the Market | Saturday, February 11  
8:00 am – 1:00 pm | Downtown Pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue

### **Railroad Museum Hosts Special Presentations for Winter Garden Heritage & Music Festival**

In conjunction with the Winter Garden Heritage & Music Festival, the Central Florida Railroad Museum will present *Railroads of Winter Garden*. The presentations will provide highlights of the history of the railroads that served Winter Garden.

In addition, the museum will have extended operating hours for festivalgoers to pop in to see the amazing historical artifacts and memorabilia. For more information, visit [cfrhs.org/events](http://cfrhs.org/events).

Saturday, February 11  
*Railroads of Winter Garden* Presentation | 1:00 & 2:00 pm  
Extended Museum Hours | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Central Florida Railroad Museum | 101 S. Boyd Street  
407.656.0559 | [cfrhs.org](http://cfrhs.org) | Free Admission

# City Hall Exhibit is a Tribute to Local African American Artists

Visit the City Hall Art in Public Places Gallery this month to see the exhibition that explores a small portion of the continuous American struggle, which is an African American struggle.

The exhibition showcases artwork by local artists of different artistic disciplines, unified under one brushstroke that shares one common denominator—Black excellence. Patrick Noze, Crealdé School of Art Senior Curator of Exhibitions, curated the exhibit.

*Reflection of Time: Tribute to Local African American Artists*

Now – February 28 | Art in Public Places Gallery at City Hall | Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm (Feb. 11, 9:00 am – 10:00 pm) | 300 W. Plant Street | Free

## Free Basic Self Defense Class for Women

The Winter Garden Police Department is hosting a free basic self-defense class for women ages 13 and older on Thursday, February 2. A police officer who is certified using S.A.F.E. self-defense techniques will instruct the class. Make it a “ladies night” and learn some self-defense!

February 2 | 6:00 - 8:30 pm | Free

Winter Garden Police Department Training Room, 251 W. Plant Street  
Women only ages 13 and up

To register, contact Officer Michaud at 407-656-3636 ext. 4405 or at gmichaud@wgpdp.com. Register soon as the class fills quickly.

## Citizens Police Academy Accepting Applications

Curious about what goes on inside your police department? Get your questions answered at the next Citizens Police Academy to be held March 1 – April 26.

Winter Garden police officers and staff present this free, nine-week course. The class meets on Wednesday evenings to discuss such topics as crime prevention, investigations, and police procedures. Class participants will also be eligible to go on a ride along with an officer!

Academy Class Dates | March 1 to April 26 (May 3, make-up date)

Wednesdays Only | 6:00 – 9:00 pm | Free

Winter Garden Police Department Training Room, 251 W. Plant Street

Eligibility requirements:

- at least 18 years old
- live or work in City of Winter Garden
- no criminal record

Applications are available at wgpdp.com and at the Winter Garden Police Department. Seats fill fast so turn in your application quickly!

Questions, contact Officer Gail Michaud or Officer Luis Velasquez at 407.656.3636 ext. 4416.

## Fire Hydrant Flow Testing Will End Mid-Month

The Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department will continue conducting fire hydrant flow testing through mid-February. Residents may notice a brief reduction in water pressure and some discoloration of the drinking water. Discolored water poses no threat to the public's health. If you experience continued loss of water pressure or water discoloration, please contact the Public Services Department at 407.656.2256.

## BATTERY DISPOSAL HELPFUL TIPS

Batteries are a useful energy source, but how to dispose of the various types of batteries is often puzzling. In observance of National Battery Day on February 18, take the time this month to properly dispose of your batteries by using the following helpful guidelines.

### NON-RECYCLABLE BATTERIES

**Alkaline Batteries**, sometimes called “flashlight batteries,” are usually single use batteries in 9 volt, C, D, AA and AAA. Mercury was eliminated in alkaline batteries in the 1990s. Under state law, these batteries can now be disposed of in the trash.

**Lithium Batteries** (non-rechargeable) - Battery label should distinguish between Lithium and Lithium Ion. Completely discharge the battery and securely tape the ends of each battery before disposing in the trash. Put multiple batteries in a plastic bag before placing in the trash.

### RECYCLABLE BATTERIES (But NOT in the recycling cart)

These batteries should be taken to a retailer or a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection location. **Recyclable batteries should never be placed inside your recycling cart or trashcan. These batteries can cause fires in waste trucks and at the recycling facility or landfill.**

**Lithium Ion Batteries** (rechargeable) Uses: laptops, other small electronics

**Small Sealed Lead Acid Batteries** (rechargeable) Uses: smaller equipment and backup power supplies

**Wet Cell Lead Acid Batteries** – Uses: autos, boats, trucks. Retailers are required to take back for recycling as trade-ins for new batteries.

**Portable Power Tool Batteries** – Uses: any brand of portable, cordless power tool

**Old-Style Cell Phone Batteries** – Cell phones should also be recycled.

**Button Batteries** – Uses: hearing aids, watches, calculators

**Nickel-Cadmium Batteries** – Uses: portable electronics and toys

**Nickel Metal Hydride Batteries** – Uses: consumer electronics

**Battery Pack** – These batteries are packaged together with one single connector. Uses: phones, small equipment

Many stores that sell batteries, phones, or electronics will take used batteries back for recycling. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a retailer near you. Orange County provides free drop-off Household Hazardous Waste collection sites. Visit [ocfl.net/HHW](http://ocfl.net/HHW) for list of locations.

For more information, call 407-656-4111-ext. 5193.

# WINTER FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Tai Chi, Yoga, Systema, Tennis, Softball, 50+ Activities & Trips, Art Classes, Kickball, Preschool Activities, Zumba and more! All programs are held at Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street, unless noted otherwise.

For details about programs, classes, and athletic leagues, visit the "Parks & Recreation" page at [cwgd.com](http://cwgd.com) or call 407.656.4155. **Register at [enroll.wgplay.com](http://enroll.wgplay.com).**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RUNNING AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM

Participants will receive training that develops speed, stamina, and an understanding for fast-twitch/slow-twitch muscle fibers. The four-week program will conclude with an in-class versatility contest that will test their abilities in the 100-meter and a 1-mile race.

11 – 14 years old

Tuesdays | February 28 – March 28 (no programming the week of March 13)

6:00 – 6:50 pm

\$100 City Resident / \$120 Nonresident

## BOOT CAMP WITH BRAD

Looking for cardio and strength training exercises that utilize both weights and body weight? Join this bi-weekly boot camp to learn how to develop a more physically healthy body and the mental well-being that comes with exercise.

Mondays & Thursdays | 5:30 – 6:20 pm

16 years and older

\$16 City Resident / \$18 Nonresident, per class

\$55 City Resident / \$65 Nonresident, per month (8 classes)

## CARDIO DRUMMING

This Cardio Drumming beginner's class is a cardiovascular-based full-body workout that requires you to move and play drums along to music. Except it does not actually involve any drums! It will raise your heart rate and help you burn hundreds of calories, improve your coordination and ability to focus, and help strengthen many muscle groups, including your core. Must register, as space is limited.

Mondays | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm or 6:00 – 7:00 pm

\$12 City Resident / \$15 Nonresident, per 4-week session

(Rate may increase or decrease for months with 5 or 3 weeks.)

## POWER YOGA FLOW

Utilizing flexibility as a means to focus on linking poses together with continuous movement, Power Yoga Flow will bring awareness to one's body and breath, all while increasing cardiovascular health and muscular strength.

Thursdays | 6:30 – 7:20 pm

Monthly | \$30 City Resident / \$34 Nonresident

Single Day | \$12 City Resident / \$14 Nonresident

## XTREME HIP HOP WITH TARCIA

This is a revamp of traditional step aerobics and includes routines set to hip-hop and R&B that will give you a great caloric burn. Please note, steps are not provided.

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

\$10 City Resident / \$12 Nonresident, per class



## City Government Serving You

### MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

**John Rees**, District 5 – City Wide

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### COMMISSIONERS

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### CITY MANAGER

**Jon C. Williams**

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### CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

300 W. Plant Street

Winter Garden, FL 34787

407-656-4111



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## SOBO Art Gallery

127 S. Boyd Street | wgart.org | 407.347.7996

Tuesday – Friday, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm | Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm | Free Admission

### EXHIBITION

#### Art in Motion

A variety of 2D and 3D artwork that celebrates movement and motion. From sports and exercise to concepts like energy, fluidity, and mechanics. This theme has a broad range!

January 31 – March 25

Opening Reception

February 2, 5:30 - 8:00 pm | Public Invited

#### CALL TO ARTISTS

March 1 - 8 | *Top Choice Annual Awards*: Open to all types of artistic entries. We are looking for your best 2D & 3D Works. Awards: Best of Show, People's Choice, Curator's Choice, and Multiple Medium Category Winners. The exhibit will be highlighted during Arts in April and will be on display from April 1 to May 27. Send online submissions to [wgart.org/artists/call-to-artists](http://wgart.org/artists/call-to-artists).

Visit the "Call to Artists" website page regularly for themes of upcoming exhibitions, and submit online the FIRST through the EIGHTH of the month prior to an exhibition.

#### WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

Details and registration, [wgart.org/adults](http://wgart.org/adults).

#### Expressive Floral & Still Life Painting in Oils

Instructor: *Stacy Barter*

Wish your paintings popped from across the room? In this three-day workshop, you will learn how to

by painting still life and florals from life. Through demonstrations and discussion, followed by plenty of one-on-one instruction, you can learn to make your paintings sing with light, color, depth, and movement in this all from life class.

April 15 – 17 | Fee required

#### Technique Tuesday at 2PM

A weekly "CREATE" event and opportunity for ALL SKILL LEVELS to learn, grow, and be inspired through the talents of other artists. Schedule and details, [wgart.org/tuesdays](http://wgart.org/tuesdays).

Tuesdays | 2:00 pm | Studio Room

Free for members, first-time visitors, and guest of members.

#### Artist Night Studio: Life Drawing

Model is available to draw every Wednesday night.

Wednesdays | 6:30 – 9:00 pm

18 years and older only

\$10 member / \$15 nonmember

(collected at sign in)

#### Open Studio Saturdays for Members

Bring your own supplies and enjoy creating in our studio room — or on our outdoor front patio with the Farmers Market (open through 1:00 pm) just steps away. Must bring your own drop cloth (and shading if necessary) when painting outside. Reserve your space today at [wgart.org/studio-time](http://wgart.org/studio-time).

Saturdays | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm | Members Only

#### ART FOR KIDS

Details and registration, [wgart.org/kids](http://wgart.org/kids).

#### Wednesday Art Clubs

2nd grade – 5th grade | 2:45 – 3:45 pm

Middle and High School | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

\$15 each session, includes all materials

#### VOLUNTEER

Currently accepting applications for volunteer opportunities at SOBO for Saturdays! Sign up at [wgart.org/volunteer](http://wgart.org/volunteer).

#### LIVE MUSIC PROGRAM FOR ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA ADULTS

##### Musical Minds with Central Florida Community Arts

Free live music sing along program for adults with early stages of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease and their care partners.

Thursdays | 10:30 am – 11:30 am

For more information and to RSVP, visit [cfarts.com/musicalminds](http://cfarts.com/musicalminds) or call 407.937.1800 ext. 719.

## Lakeview and Drew High Schools: A History Exhibit at the Heritage Museum

With artifacts and photographs dating back almost a century, the exhibit features the history of Lakeview and Drew High Schools. Established in 1927, Lakeview High School did not admit African American students until 1969 when desegregation changed the educational system in Orange County. Charles R. Drew High School rose on Winter Garden's east side in the 1950s, ensuring that black students received an education without having to travel to Orlando.



Be sure to stop in while attending the Winter Garden Heritage & Music Festival on Saturday, February 11, to see this exhibit that highlights the history of both schools from their inception to the day when all students in Winter Garden could attend classes together

Now - February 28 | Winter Garden Heritage Museum | 1 North Main Street | [wghf.org](http://wghf.org) | 407.656.3244 | Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm (Feb. 11, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm) | Free Admission