



NEWS YOU CAN USE

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DECEMBER 2024

'TIS THE SEASON 2024

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN DOWNTOWN WINTER GARDEN

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN EVENTS

November 30

- Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Sale & Live Music

December 6

- Light Up Winter Garden, 6-9 pm

December 7

- A Very Merry Farmers Market, 8 am-1 pm
- Winter Garden Christmas Parade, 10 am
- Holiday Night Market & Entertainment, 4-8 pm
- Winter Garden Christmas Golf Cart Parade, 6 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 8

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 9

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 10

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 11

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 12

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 13

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm
- Live Holiday Music - Fridays on the Plaza, 7-9 pm

December 14

- A Very Merry Farmers Market, 8 am-1 pm/ Santa Visit, 9 am-12 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 15

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 16

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 17

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 18

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 19

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 20

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm
- Live Holiday Music - Fridays on the Plaza, 7-9 pm

December 21

- A Very Merry Farmers Market, 8 am-1 pm/ Santa Visit, 9 am-12 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 22

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 23

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 24

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 26

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 27

- Live Holiday Music - Fridays on the Plaza, 7-9 pm

December 28

- A Very Merry Farmers Market, 8 am-1 pm

Holiday Happenings listed are limited to those sponsored/co-sponsored by the City of Winter Garden.

For additional downtown holiday happenings, scan the QR code or visit:

www.cwgd.com
www.downtownwg.com



*reservation/fee required (www.soulhavenranch.com)

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



Winter Garden Fire Rescue Annual SANTA RUN

The Winter Garden Fire Rescue's annual "SANTA RUN" brings Santa and his sleigh through City neighborhoods! This moving parade takes place between 5:45 pm and 9:00 pm each night as Santa, along with his firefighter, police, and city helpers spread holiday music, treats, and good cheer along the way.

Santa Run Schedule, 5:45 – 9:00 pm:

- Monday, December 9 – North West Winter Garden
- Tuesday, December 10 – North East Winter Garden
- Wednesday, December 11 – South Winter Garden: CR 545 Corridor (West Side)
- Thursday, December 12 – South Winter Garden: CR 545 Corridor (East Side)
- Friday, December 13 – South Winter Garden: CR 535 / Daniel's Road Corridor
- Saturday, December 14 – South Winter Garden: Beulah / Windermere Road Corridor

An alternate date is scheduled for December 16 if weather interrupts one of Santa's visits.

Please check Santa's nightly route maps on cwgd.com for the estimated time of Santa's arrival and/or to find a nearby viewing location. Due to significant community growth, not all neighborhoods/streets can be accommodated.

Due to safety concerns, please refrain from parking on the street during your neighborhood's Santa Run. Street parking, especially parking on both sides of street, may prohibit the parade from going down a street.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES AND NO SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Christmas Day – December 25:

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25.
- There will be NO Solid Waste Collection Services (trash, recycling, yard waste, bulk items) on Wednesday, December 25. Services will resume on your next scheduled collection day.
- There will be a RECYCLING ONLY Makeup Day on Saturday, December 28.



DE-LIGHT-FUL DECORATIONS CONTEST FOR RESIDENTS

Drag out the lights, hang the garland, put up your outdoor holiday yard decorations, and enter your residence in the City of Winter Garden De-light-ful Decorations Contest! Festive presentations of outdoor decorations could win prizes up to \$100 – plus bragging rights!

Judging will take place on Tuesday, December 10, and Wednesday, December 11, starting at 5:30 pm. The contest is free to enter, and all residences must be within the City limits of Winter Garden.

Entry form deadline is December 6, 2024. Enter online on the contest page at cwgd.com/special-events or by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department at 407.656.4155.



DOWNTOWN ROADS CLOSED FOR COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS, DECEMBER 6-7



West Plant Street from Dillard Street to Park Avenue, and portions of adjoining side streets, will close to vehicles and become pedestrian only from Friday, December 6, at 2:00 pm through approximately 11:00 pm on Saturday, December 7, for community holiday events. In addition, on December 7 from 9:45 am to 10:30 am, there will be an intermittent closure of Dillard Street from Highway 50 to Plant Street for the Winter Garden Christmas Parade.

Parking will be available at the City's public parking lots and at designated offsite locations. Free shuttle service will be available at Dillard Elementary School (311 N. Dillard St.) and 848 E. Plant St. (across from Winter Garden Library) for the following events: Light Up Winter Garden, Holiday Night Market, and Winter Garden Christmas Golf Cart Parade. The downtown pickup/drop off shuttle location will be at the corner of Dillard and Plant Streets.

Have Yourself a More Sustainable Holiday Season



You will definitely get on the good list with the guy from the North Pole and Mother Earth by following these tips this holiday season:

- Shop Local – supporting local businesses is more sustainable.
- Use eco-friendly gift wrap and get creative with old newspapers and paper bags.
- Gift an "experience" – less packaging waste and recipient will have something to look forward to and memories that linger. Gift tickets to a show, play, museum, concert, game; or a gift card to a favorite local restaurant.
- Give a second life to those gently used items by donating them to a charity.
- Switch to LED holiday lights.
- Buy produce from the Winter Garden Farmers Market – supports local farmers.

WINTER FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Boot Camp, Ballet, Yoga, Tennis, Tai Chi, 50+ Activities and Trips, Art Classes, Pickleball, Kickball, ESports, Super Soccer Stars, Amazing Athletes Preschool Activities, Little Medical School, Cardio Drumming, Zumba, and more! For details about programs, classes, athletic leagues, and more, visit the "Parks & Recreation" page at [cwgdn.com](https://enroll.wgplay.com) or call 407.656.4155. **Register at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>.**

All programs are held at Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street, unless noted otherwise.

TAI CHI

An ancient Chinese exercise that emphasizes relaxation, breath control, correct posture, balance, and flexibility to develop the mind and body.

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9:00 – 10:00 am
\$60 City Resident / \$65 Nonresident, per month

SOCCER – YOUTH SPRING LEAGUE

Cheer on your child while they have a great time with friends! This recreational program emphasizes an environment that is fun for all ages. We focus on each child through positive coaching, teamwork, sportsmanship, skill development, and more! Fee includes an eight-week season, an end of season award, and a team jersey.

We want you! Coaches pay only \$10 for one child's registration.

Paid officials are also needed.

City Resident Registration | December 4 – January 3
Nonresident Registration | December 18 – January 3
Registration may close early due to limited availability in each age division.

Practices begin the week of January 27
Games begin February 8
4 – 13 years old (age as of September 1, 2024)
\$110 City Resident / \$140 Nonresident
Braddock Park, 13460 Lake Butler Boulevard

ACTIVE 50+

CHAIR BEACH BALL VOLLEYBALL

Seniors are excited about Indoor Chair Volleyball using a beach ball. It is an activity that includes physical activity, social interaction, competition, and most of all, lots of laughs! Come and join in on the fun.

Wednesdays | 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Free

I WANT TO KNOW

Come to this presentation and walk away learning something new. Bring a brown bag lunch if you wish. Register at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>.

"Effects of Music Therapy" by Abby Marotta,
Music Therapy Intern at Orlando Health Hospital
Tuesday, December 31 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Free

SCHOOL HOLIDAY YOUTH CAMP

Arts and crafts, activities, sports, and much more! A qualified, well-trained Winter Garden Parks & Recreation staff will provide a safe and fun school break camp 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.

Camp Dates:

Winter Break | December 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31
and January 2, 3

Student Holiday | January 6
President's Day | February 17

7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Grades | Kindergarten through 8th grade
\$26 City Resident / \$32 Nonresident, per day
Jessie Brock Community Center,
310 N. Dillard Street

Advance registration required at
<https://enroll.wgplay.com>.
Questions, 407.656.4155



Hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) are invited to enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and story time with Ms. Claus, create a holiday themed craft, and a meet and greet with Santa Claus! Welcome to bring a friend or a group.

Friday, December 20
10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Free
Jessie Brock Community Center,
310 N. Dillard Street



City Government Serving You

MAYOR

John Rees, District 5 – Citywide
407.656.7372 | jrees@cwgdn.com

COMMISSIONERS

Lisa L. Bennett, District 1
Mayor Pro-Tem
407.877.5131
lisa.bennett@cwgdn.com

Iliana R. Jones, District 2
407.877.5132
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Chloe Johnson, District 3
407.877.5133
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csharman@cwgdn.com

CITY MANAGER

Jon C. Williams
407.656.4111 ext. 2267
jwilliams@cwgdn.com

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

300 W. Plant Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-656-4111

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING 2025 CITY EVENTS:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community
Celebration: Monday, January 20

Winter Garden Music Festival:
Saturday, February 22

For more City events, stay tuned to:

www.cwgdn.com
www.downtownwg.com

@OfficialDowntownWinterGarden



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DECEMBER 2024



Winter Garden Heritage Museum
1 N. Main Street | wghf.org | 407.656.3244
Tuesday – Saturday | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Free Admission



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

Seminole Attire: History and Culture through Design

During the 19th century, the Indigenous people we know as the Seminole established a presence in our region. After three Seminole wars in the 19th century, many were forcibly relocated to Oklahoma, while many fled to the Everglades. The exhibit features Seminole art, artifacts, dolls, and clothing.

The style of clothing displayed originated in the 1920s and continues to develop today with its trademark, intricate patchwork designs.

Now – December 31
Winter Garden Heritage Museum
1 N. Main Street | wghf.org | 407.656.3244
Tuesday – Saturday | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm | Free Admission

EXHIBITION

Carnival of Color

This exhibition celebrates the vibrant and dynamic spectrum of hues with artwork that bursts with color, energy, and creativity.

December 3 – February 1
Opening Reception | December 5,
5:30 – 8:00 pm | Public Invited

CALL TO ARTISTS

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 & CLASSES

Details and registration,
wgart.org/adults.

Technique Tuesday @ Two: Sponsored by Duke Energy

A different instructor and technique are featured every week. Pick up new tips and techniques while enjoying the Open Artist Studio Space. Schedule and details, wgart.org/Tuesdays.

Tuesdays | 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Studio Room
Open to all. Free to members & first-time visitors.

Artist Night Studio: Life Drawing

Model is available to draw every session.

Wednesdays | 6:30 – 9:00 pm
18 years and older only
\$10 member /
\$15 nonmember (collected at sign in)

ART FOR KIDS

Details and registration,
wgart.org/kids.

Wednesday Art Clubs
2nd grade – Middle School
4:00 – 5:00 pm | \$15 each session, includes all materials

Attention Home Schoolers!

SOBO is excited to offer Standards Based Art classes for small groups of Home School students led by Lenore Eastham, Certified Art Educator. Minimum 8 students. Subject to room and staff availability.

\$15 per child, per 55-minute session.

Small Group Custom Classes at SOBO

We are excited to offer custom classes on your schedule (including weekends) for your groups of any age artists. Limited availability. Minimum 8 students.

\$15 per child, per 55-minute session

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE IN WINTER GARDEN EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL

The exhibition tells the visual story and written narrative of contemporary life in downtown Winter Garden, one of Central Florida's most authentic and picturesque small towns, through the lenses of 10 experienced Crealdé School of Art master class students.

Black and white photographs highlight Winter Garden's history; its diverse community of residents and business owners; and Winter Garden's unique way of connecting historic preservation, economic development, and overall quality of life.

Stop in City Hall to appreciate the wonderfulness of Winter Garden visually displayed.

Now – January 3
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm (excluding holidays)
Art in Public Places Gallery in City Hall,
300 W. Plant Street | Free



Central Florida Railroad Museum

101 S. Boyd Street | cfrhs.org | 407.656.0559
Tuesday – Saturday | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm | Free Admission



EVENTS

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

Enjoy a 90-minute, one-mile walking tour of downtown Winter Garden while learning the history and impact of the railroads on the community. Meet at the railroad museum at 101 S. Boyd Street.

Saturday, December 14 | 8:30 - 10:00 am
Free Admission

RAILROAD GHOST TOWNS AND PHANTOM TRAINS

Presentation by Rick Cronin

Learn the history and stories of these forgotten Central Florida ghost towns and railroads.

Saturday, December 14 | 1:30 - 3:00 pm | Free Admission

EXHIBITION

IT'S ABOUT TIME: HOW THE RAILROADS CREATED OUR TIME ZONES

The United States once had more than 140 time zones, usually set by the position of the sun. To operate safely over long distances, the railroads proposed a standardized timekeeping for the country. Learn how we came to live and work by the system the railroads created.

Now – February 1, 2025
Free Admission