



NEWS YOU CAN USE

www.cwgd.com • www.downtownwg.com | 407.656.4111

FEBRUARY 2025

Winter Garden Music Festival – February 22

Get ready for 11 hours of continuous live music at the 2025 Winter Garden Music Festival! Hosted by the City of Winter Garden, this FREE community event features 30+ musical groups performing across six stages throughout historic downtown.

A variety of music genres will be featured including contemporary, rock, pop, country, Latin, jazz, blues, reggae, and much more! A few of the many headliners include Foreigners Journey, Spazmatics, Big Ron Betts Trio, Violetric, O-Town Motown, Rumba Brothers, Tom Jackson Band, and so many more!

SIX STAGES:

- Loop Area Stage, 427 W. Plant Street
- Butterfly Sculpture Park, 240 W. Plant Street
- Centennial Plaza Gazebo, 101 W. Plant Street
- City Hall Stage, 300 W. Plant Street
- Lakeview Stage, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue
- Main Street Stage, 1 N. Main Street

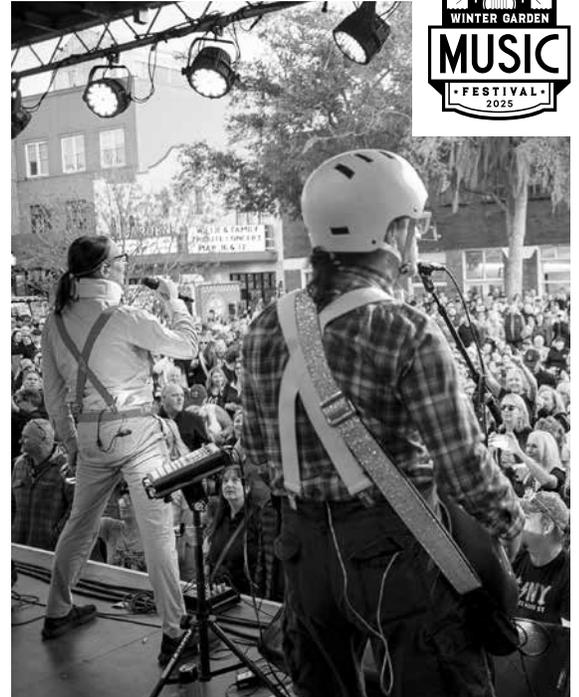
A kids' zone area will provide a variety of family-fun activities.

Bring a lawn chair to listen in comfort. Outdoor tents will offer beer and wine for purchase. No personal coolers and no outside alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Please note that West Plant Street from Dillard Street to Park Avenue, as well as a portion of adjoining side streets, will be closed for this event as downtown turns into a mega outdoor concert venue.

For event schedule and parking/shuttle information, please visit cwgd.com.

Saturday, February 22 | 11:00 am – 10:00 pm | Historic Downtown | Free to attend



CURBSIDE RECYCLING SUSPENDED FOR RESIDENTS

The City of Winter Garden recently decided to suspend its curbside recycling program effective January 1, 2025. This decision was due to escalating costs, contamination, and the inability of the recycling industry to find markets for the recycling material. After extensive research, we learned that most of the recyclables were being treated as trash, and that many of the commodities were being thrown away. Only 1% of the material was actually getting recycled. Last year, the recycling program cost more than \$1 million to operate.

City staff is currently in the process of removing residents' blue recycling carts per a preset schedule that continues through March. Please check the City's website, www.cwgd.com, for the schedule of when your blue recycling cart should be placed curbside for removal.

What to Expect:

- The City will continue to offer twice a week trash collection of one green trash cart per pickup.
- Cardboard boxes will be picked up on your yard waste/bulk collection day.
- The City will continue to collect (free-of-charge) and recycle large electronics and appliances (call to schedule) and repurpose yard waste.

- The City will continue to concentrate on community environmental events, such as the free annual document shredding event where the shredded paper is recycled.
- If needed, a second trash container may be requested for an additional disposal fee of \$24.32 per month.

While it may appear that environmental efforts are taking a step back, the City is looking for innovative ways to serve our residents, as well as being mindful of the environment. Although the City of Winter Garden has suspended curbside recycling, there are personal recycling alternatives to process household recyclables, such as taking acceptable recyclables to local retailers, Orange County drop-off sites, and private recycling companies such as AMT Recycling, 531 Susan B. Britt Ct., Winter Garden.

The City hopes you will join our campaign as we focus on the first two Rs of waste management that will decrease waste in a more environmentally conscious manner: **Reduce and Reuse**.

Questions, please call Public Services at 407.656.2256.



VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION AT THE MARKET - FEBRUARY 8

Bring the kids to the Winter Garden Farmers Market on Saturday, February 8, for a special Valentine's Day Celebration. Complimentary Valentine craft making will be held at the kids' tent at Parking Garage Plaza.

The market is one-stop shopping for Valentine gifts with over 100 vendors selling a variety of unique items including jewelry, scented soaps, flowers, plants, desserts, and more. Live music makes a trip to the farmers market a fun Valentine celebration for all!

Saturday, February 8

Market | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Downtown Pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue

Kids' Crafts | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Parking Garage Plaza

Free to attend



LITTLE CUPID'S CARNIVAL PRESCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM – February 14

Hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, bring your 3 - 5-year-old to this fun, free Valentine's Day program. Preschoolers will be treated to arts & crafts, fun games, face painting, and fun holiday themed activities!

Bring a friend or a group as all preschoolers are welcome. Preschool classes are also invited but call 407.656.4155 in advance for group registration.

Friday, February 14 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Age | 3 – 5 years old | Free to attend

Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street

KEEP A HEALTHY SEWER SYSTEM

It's the month of love, so show a little love to the one you rarely think about unless there is a problem: Your Sewer. Here are ways you can help maintain a long and healthy relationship:

- Reduce Food Scraps: Scrape food scraps into the trash instead of down the drain. Use a strainer for your sink.
- Avoid Pouring Grease Down the Drain: Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) can build up and harden in pipes, yours and the City's, causing clogs. Instead, pour grease in a can or jar, let it cool, and then place it in the trash. Free can lids are available for pickup at City Hall lobby desk to help store accumulated grease before discarding.
- Limit Garbage Disposal Use: Garbage disposals use a lot of water and can create large amounts of organic matter in your sewer or septic tank.
- Use Less Water: Don't let water run while you are brushing your teeth, shaving, etc.
- Wash Full Loads: Fill up the dishwasher and washing machine before washing.
- Think Before You Flush: If it's not from your body, don't flush it down the potty. Yes, you can flush toilet paper.
- Keep Sanitary Wipes Out of the Sewer: These products, even the flushable wipes, can accumulate and cause blockages and overflow.

For more information, call 407.877.5193.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY REGISTRATION Course Starts March 5

Sign up now for the next Citizens Police Academy. During this free, nine-week course, Winter Garden police officers and staff host weekly discussions on such topics as crime prevention, investigations, and police procedures. Class participants will also be eligible to go on a ride along with an officer!

Curious about what goes on inside your police department? Get your questions answered at the next Citizens Police Academy class!

Class Dates | March 5 – April 30 (makeup date: May 7)

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 wgpd.com and at the Winter Garden Police Department, 251 W. Plant Street. Seats fill quickly so act now.

Questions, contact Officer Gail Michaud or Officer Timothy Thatford at 407.656.3636 ext. 5416.

COOKIES WITH A COP STORY TIME - FEB 18

Enjoy milk and cookies while Winter Garden Police Officers read books to children.

Tuesday, February 18 | 10:30 am | Free to attend

Winter Garden Branch Library, 805 E. Plant Street

WINTER FUN with PARKS & RECREATION

Yoga, Tennis, 50+ Activities and Trips, Art Classes, Pickleball, Kickball, Esports Video Game Club, 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 cwgd.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.

AARP FOUNDATION TAX- AIDE

AARP is offering free tax help to low-to moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. Appointments available at www.tinyurl.com/JBrockWG.

Wednesdays | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
February 5 – April 9 | Free

A MATTER OF BALANCE

This four-week nationally recognized program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Empowering the participant to view falls as controllable, the class teaches exercises specifically designed to help prevent falls, as well as the small changes one can make to increase confidence. Advance registration is required; space is limited.

Tuesdays & Thursdays | February 4 – 27
1:30 – 3:30 pm | Free

BABYSITTING 101

This 2.5-hour course is for students ages 11+ interested in babysitting. It covers basic childcare, safety, first aid, understanding of developmental stages and relevant activities, health, nutrition, sleep information, Heimlich maneuver, and EpiPen usage. Students also create a babysitting ad and earn a certificate. This class can also be used to earn the Girl Scouts babysitting badge.

Tuesday | February 25
6:00 – 8:30 pm
Ages 11+ | \$89

BEGINNER ARCHERY

This is a course for youth and adults in barebow category archery (without sighting devices). All equipment is provided. Class welcomes beginner and advanced Archers and provides a variety of skill development training and fun archery games.

Session 2 | February 5 & 6
5:30 – 6:20 pm
\$25 City Resident / \$30 Nonresident, per class
\$50 City Resident / \$60 Nonresident, per 2 class session

PICKLEBALL 101

Course introduces players to pickleball beginning with the very basics. Three, 1.5-hour classes provide instruction on rules, equipment (paddles & balls provided), basic shots, strategies, skills, and techniques. The goals of the course are to enable the students to participate confidently, with an understanding of the game along with possessing the necessary technical and tactical skills for open and/or doubles play. Minimum of 4 participants, maximum of 8 participants, per course session.

Tuesdays | February 4 – 18
Saturdays | February 1 – 15
12:30 – 2:00 pm

\$100 City Resident / \$125 Nonresident
Veterans Memorial Park, 420 S. Park Avenue

PICKLEBALL 102

Course builds on the fundamentals learned in Pickleball 101 and delves deeper into various shots, court positions, strategy, and rules to increase skill level. Designed for players who have been playing for less than a year or desire to elevate their game, the three 1.5-hour classes will help to improve shots, game knowledge, game strategies, techniques, and instill confidence to participate equally with players during open and/or doubles play. Equipment to play available as needed. Minimum of 4 participants; maximum of 8 participants, per course session.

Tuesdays | February 4 - 18
Saturdays | February 1 - 15
2:30 – 4:00 pm
\$100 City Resident / \$125 Nonresident
Veterans Memorial Park, 420 S. Park Avenue

PICKLEBALL ADVANCEMENT

Course focuses on advancing game play by working on the strategy and theory of pickleball. Each 1.5-hour class will provide in-depth discussion and explanation during simulated games and specific scenarios. Designed to assist players who consistently play and are interested in elevating their game by providing a better understanding of the nuances of pickleball. Equipment to play available as needed. Minimum of 4 participants; maximum of 8 participants, per course session.

Thursdays | February 13 & February 27
12:30 – 2:00 pm
\$30 City Resident / \$40 Nonresident
Veterans Memorial Park, 420 S. Park Avenue

ACTIVE 50+ DAY TRIP

SOLOMON'S CASTLE AND LIPIZZANER STALLIONS – ONA, FL

Experience a guided tour of the home, galleries, and workshop of internationally renowned artist Howard Solomon. Enjoy the visually delightful Castle and more than 80 interpretive stained-glass windows and countless metal sculptures, followed by lunch at the Boat in the Moat restaurant.

After visiting Solomon's Castle, we will proceed to watch Herrmann's Royal Lipizzaner Stallions perform. The Lipizzan is one of the rarest breeds in the world and are known for being the "ballerinas of the horse world." The Herrmann's have proudly trained and shown these horses right here in Florida for you to see.

Thursday, February 20 | 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
\$78 City Resident / \$85 Nonresident (includes transportation)

City Government Serving You

MAYOR

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

COMMISSIONERS

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

Iliana R. Jones, District 2
407.877.5132
iliana.jones@cwgd.com

Chloe Johnson, District 3
407.877.5133
chloe.johnson@cwgd.com

Colin Sharman, District 4
407.877.5134
csharman@cwgd.com

CITY MANAGER

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

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

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

www.cwgd.com

www.downtownwg.com

  @OfficialDowntownWinterGarden

PRESIDENT'S DAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

Arts and crafts, activities, sports, and much more! A qualified, well-trained Winter Garden Parks & Recreation staff will provide a safe and fun day 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 DATE:

President's Day | February 17
7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Grades | Kindergarten through 8th grade
\$26 City Resident / \$32 Nonresident
Jessie Brock Community Center,
310 N. Dillard Street

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



NEWS YOU CAN USE

www.cwgdn.com • www.downtownwg.com | 407.656.4111

FEBRUARY 2025



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

EXHIBITION

FROM HOUSE CALLS TO HOSPITALS: CARING FOR WEST ORANGE COUNTY

Enjoy this interesting and informative exhibit of how convenient hospital care was brought to our region in 1952 with the opening of the West Orange Memorial Hospital in Winter Garden. This exhibit traces the evolution of healthcare from the days when doctors drove horse-drawn wagons to their patients' homes, to today's state-of-the-art medical facilities.

Now – March 31

WINTER GARDEN HISTORY HUNT

Downtown Historic District is the setting for the Winter Garden History Hunt! Twelve QR-coded treasure boxes scattered throughout downtown lead you to a series of questions about local history. Mark your answers on the History Hunt Map, and then claim your Winter Garden Activity Book and a certificate awarding you a Master of Winter Garden History. Suitable for all ages!

Purchase the History Hunt Map (\$2.00 each) at the Healthy West Orange Heritage and Cultural Center, 21 E. Plant Street, Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.



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

NEW EXHIBITION OPENS AT RAILROAD MUSEUM

MAGIC ON THE RAILS: THE TRAINS OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

Journey through time as we look at the history of the trains at the Magic Kingdom. These century-old locomotives pull millions of guests annually on their grand circle tour at Walt Disney World.

February 4 – August 30 | Free Admission

EXHIBITION

Carnival of Color

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

February 28 – March 29

Opening Reception | February 6, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
| Public Invited

The Young Creatives Showcase

A showcase of artwork by high school and college-age artists in the Studio Gallery.

Now – February 28

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 Tuesdays at Two

Sponsored by Duke Energy
Schedule and details, wgart.org/Tuesdays.

A different instructor and technique is featured every week. Pick up new tips and techniques while enjoying the Open Artist Studio Space.

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 every session.
Wednesdays | 6:30 – 9:00 pm
18 years and older only
\$10 member / \$15 nonmember

ART FOR KIDS

Details and registration, wgart.org/kids.

Wednesday Art Clubs:

Preschool Art Group (NEW)

Young artists ages 3-5 are invited (with an adult) to Storytime followed by a Fun Craft!

Wednesdays | 1:00 – 1:45 pm
\$10 per adult/child team

Young Artists Club

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

Classes for Homeschoolers

SOBO is excited to offer Standards Based Art classes for small groups of homeschool students led by Lenore Eastham, Certified Art Educator.

\$15 per child, per 55-minute session
Minimum: 8 students
Subject to room and staff availability.

Reflections of Time III Exhibit at City Hall



This exhibition highlights African American artists from Winter Garden and the surrounding areas and demonstrates how their works serve as a testament in preserving time. Curated by Patrick Noze, Crealdé School of Art, this exhibit displays artwork of a variety of disciplines. Located on the first floor of City Hall, visit the Art in Public Places Gallery to see this impactful exhibit.

Now – February 28

Art in Public Places Gallery in City Hall, 300 W. Plant Street
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm | Free