



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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APRIL 2025

## Spring Fever in the Garden – April 5 & 6

The 23rd annual, two-day festival transforms downtown's Plant Street into a celebration of spring with gardening vendors lining the downtown streets, entertainment and activities for all ages, and much more!

### FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Vendor Booths selling a wide array of flowers and plants
- Chalkin' It Up Sidewalk Art Contest
- Live Music & Entertainment
- Kid Zone Area
- Arts and Crafts
- Ask the Experts Booth
- Avian Reconditioning Center Birds of Prey
- And Much More!



Hosted by the Bloom & Grow Garden Society in conjunction with the City of Winter Garden and presenting sponsors Orlando Health and Healthy West Orange, the festival is a long-standing tradition enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Rain or shine event. For up-to-date event schedule, visit [springfeverinthegarden.org](http://springfeverinthegarden.org).

Saturday, April 5 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sunday, April 6 | 11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Historic Downtown | Free Admission

## NEW & IMPROVED UTILITY BILLING ONLINE PORTAL PROVIDES FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS & HANDY ACCOUNT FEATURES

### All Utility Customers are Encouraged to Create Online Account

A new online Utility Billing portal (BS&A) on the City of Winter Garden website was recently launched. The new online portal expands the available payment options to include ApplePay® and GooglePay®, in addition to the credit and debit card options. Besides using the portal to make a payment, its modern user-friendly interface allows utility customers to track usage, view bills and payment history, conduct property searches, and more.

To take advantage of the many features of the new portal, all utility customers are encouraged to create an online account by visiting [cwgdn.com](http://cwgdn.com) and selecting "Pay Utility" in footer.

## LITTLE PEEPS CARNIVAL – April 11 Preschool Holiday Program

Enjoy snacks, crafts, face painting, and photos with the Easter Bunny! Conclude the morning with an egg hunt.

Hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, all preschool children and their friends are welcome. Interested preschool classes must register in advance at 407.656.4155.



Friday, April 11  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
(Easter Egg Hunt starts at 11:30 am)  
Age | 3 – 5 years old | Free  
Jessie Brock Community Center,  
310 N. Dillard Street

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES SCHEDULE – April 18

### Good Friday (April 18):

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Friday, April 18.
- There will be Regular Solid Waste Collection Services on Friday, April 18.



The City of Winter Garden is commemorating Earth Day 2025 with a variety of FREE community activities and workshops that align with the City's **REDUCE** and **REUSE** waste management campaign to decrease waste in an environmentally conscious manner.

## Celebrate Earth Day at the Farmers Market - April 19

### FREE REUSABLE TOTE BAG GIVEAWAY

Commemorate Earth Day at the Winter Garden Farmers Market by getting a free reusable Winter Garden tote bag to reduce the use of plastic bags. Stop by the City of Winter Garden table next to the Pavillion for the free tote and to find out ways you can continue to keep our planet clean.

Use the bag for your purchases at the Farmers Market and bring it back to use each Saturday. The rest of the week, use the bag at retailers across our area. Saying no to plastic is one way to reduce waste and honor our dear Mother Earth.

Earth Day at the Farmers Market | Free Bag Giveaway (while supplies last)  
Saturday, April 19 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm | Downtown Pavillion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue

## Earth Day: Let's Talk Trees – April 22

### REGISTER FOR FREE WORKSHOP

On Earth Day, come learn more about the trees in Winter Garden. Find out their history and how you can do your part to take care of them, whether in your yard or on your street. Discover who is responsible for those questionable trees you encounter: is it you, your neighbor, the HOA, or the City? Learn the steps required to get a permit in the event you need to cut down a tree. You will also find out how tree debris should be placed at the curb for the Solid Waste crews to pick it up efficiently.

Three trees will be given away in a raffle. You must be present to win. Advance registration required: send email to [dcorbus@cwgdn.com](mailto:dcorbus@cwgdn.com) or call 407.877.5193.

Earth Day: Let's Talk Trees Workshop | Tuesday, April 22 | 11:00 am – 1:30 pm  
Free | Winter Garden City Hall, 300 Plant Street

## Composting: Back to the Basics – May 3

### REGISTER FOR FREE SEMINAR

Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into compost that can be used in your garden. This composting class will be taught by Calvin Gardner, the Urban Residential Horticulture Agent for UF/IFAS Orange County.

The one-hour class will cover topics such as what you can compost, how to use a composter, how to make compost quickly, and how to use compost in your garden. Come explore another great way to reduce waste in your home.

Advance registration required: send email to [dcorbus@cwgdn.com](mailto:dcorbus@cwgdn.com) or call 407.877.5193.

Composting: Back to the Basics Seminar | Saturday, May 3 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm | Free | Winter Garden City Hall, 300 W. Plant Street

## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – April 26



Dispose of unused, expired, and unwanted pharmaceutical controlled substances and unwanted household medications at the DEA National Take Back Day, hosted by the Winter Garden Police Department.

The drugs collected will be disposed of in a safe and environmentally conscious way. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, drug take back programs are one of the most effective and sustainable ways to dispose of unused medications, protecting both your home and the planet.

Saturday, April 26 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Collection Site: Winter Garden Police Department, 251 W. Plant Street

## WOMEN'S BASIC SELF DEFENSE CLASS – April 24

The Winter Garden Police Department will host a free basic women's self-defense class this month. The class is instructed by a police officer certified using S.A.F.E. self-defense techniques.

Thursday, April 24 | 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Eligible Participants | Women only, ages 13 and up  
Winter Garden Police Department Training Room, 251 W. Plant Street  
Free

To register, contact Officer Gail Michaud at 407.656.3636 ext. 4405 or at [gmichaud@wgpdpd.com](mailto:gmichaud@wgpdpd.com). The class fills quickly so reserve your spot today.

# SPRING into FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Yoga, 50+ Activities and Trips, Art Classes, Pickleball, Tennis, Kickball, Video Game Club, Super Soccer Stars, Amazing Athletes Preschool Activities, Little Vet School, Cardio Drumming, Intro to Spanish, Zumba, and more! 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 <https://enroll.wgplay.com>.

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

## AMAZING ATHLETES SPORT DISCOVERY

Explore, learn, develop, and play with Amazing Athletes Sport Discovery! For ages 2 – 4 years old, this four-week mini season is designed to empower kids to discover their inner athlete and love of the sport. Together, we will explore flag football with concentrated play & practice, followed by a final game. Your Amazing Athlete will have the opportunity to develop skills with practice, apply what they've learned with confidence, have fun with gameplay, and discover sports they love! This program is an indoor program but may move outdoors if weather permits.

Flag Football

Age | 2 – 4 years old

Thursdays | 5:30 – 6:20 pm

April 3 – 24

\$64 Resident / \$70 Nonresident

## 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 doesn't actually involve any drums! It will raise your heart rate, help you burn hundreds of calories, improve your coordination and ability to focus, and help strengthen many muscle groups, including your core. Advance registration is required as space is limited.

Age | 16 years old and older

Wednesdays | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

April 16 – May 15 | Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N Dillard Street

May 22 – August 14 | Tanner Hall, 29 W. Garden Avenue

\$4 City Resident / \$5 Nonresident, per class

## INTRO TO SPANISH

The course places emphasis on the basics of Spanish and helping to develop basic conversations in Spanish. In this course, students will learn to greet others, introduce themselves and others, ask information, identify professions, and talk about basic people, places, and things.

Age | 18 years old and older

Tuesdays | 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Session 1 | April 8 – 29

Session 2 | May 6 – 27

\$180 City Resident / \$195 Nonresident, per 4-week session

## TENNIS LESSONS - YOUTH & ADULT

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

Age | 5 years old – adult

Session 1 | March 31 – May 9, 6-week session

Time and fees vary, please visit [cwgd.com](http://cwgd.com) for details.

Chapin Station Park, 501 Crown Point Cross Road

## VIDEO GAME CLUB

Gamers will meet and practice each week to train for a team tournament that will be held on the last class of each session. Upon joining the club, children 6 – 14 years old

will build friendships while also learning and developing leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork while engaging in video game play.

Age | 6 – 14 years old

Session 1

Mondays | Rocket League Team | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

March 31 – May 19

Wednesdays | Fortnite Team | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

April 2 – May 21

\$120 City Resident / \$128 Nonresident, per 8-week session

Optional Purchase | \$45 Esports Team Jersey

## YOUTH RUNNING AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM

Program uses games and activities focused on developing skills when attempting short and long-distance running. Emphasis is placed on breathing techniques, gait analysis, core and strength, injury prevention, and overall running mechanics for speed and endurance.

Age | 5 – 13 years old

\$100 City Resident / \$120 Nonresident,

per 4-week session

## ACTIVE 50+

### AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE

Insurance reduction and driver refresher course! Up to 10% discount after completion of course depending on your insurance provider. Advance registration required as classes can be cancelled due to low enrollment.

Monday, April 28 & Tuesday, April 29 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (both days)

Little Hall, 31 W. Garden Avenue

\$20 AARP Member / \$25 Non-AARP Member

## CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE – CAPE CANAVERAL, FL

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is a long-standing icon of the area. It was built in 1868 and is located on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. It is the only working lighthouse owned by the United States Space Force. The Keepers Cottage now houses a museum that walks you through the history of the lighthouse and how the lighthouse played a part in our space program. You will be touring the lighthouse and Launch Complex 26. Because this is located on a secure military installation, when registering we will need your driver's license number, name on your license, and state it was issued. In lieu of an entrance fee, you can help support the Lighthouse by donations. Walking and steps involved. Fee includes transportation. Dutch treat lunch.

Tuesday, April 15 | 7:45 am – 5:30 pm

\$15 City Resident / \$19 Nonresident

## I WANT TO KNOW

This activity will address different topics that may be of interest to you. Register for the presentation and walk away with a new idea, a new thought, and/or just a reminder of something you once knew and want to know more about. Bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

# City Government Serving You

## MAYOR

**John Rees**, District 5 – Citywide  
407.656.7372 | [jrees@cwgd.com](mailto:jrees@cwgd.com)

## COMMISSIONERS

**Lisa L. Bennett**, District 1  
Mayor Pro-Tem  
407.877.5131  
[lisa.bennett@cwgd.com](mailto:lisa.bennett@cwgd.com)

**Iliana R. Jones**, District 2  
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**Chloe Johnson**, District 3  
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**Colin Sharman**, District 4  
407.877.5134  
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## CITY MANAGER

**Jon C. Williams**  
407.656.4111 ext. 2267  
[jwilliams@cwgd.com](mailto:jwilliams@cwgd.com)

## CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

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

[www.cwgd.com](http://www.cwgd.com)

[www.downtownwg.com](http://www.downtownwg.com)

  @OfficialDowntownWinterGarden

Tuesday, April 29 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Free  
*Winter Garden's Love Affair with our Honeybee: A Whole Lotta Shaken' Going On* by Max Croft – Local Beekeeper and Honey Maker

## LUNCH AND LEARN—UNIFIED REHABILITATION, PLLC – WINTER GARDEN

Join us for an insightful presentation on "Functional Therapy and Performance Rehab for the 55+ Community." Innovative approaches to enhance mobility, strength, and overall wellness tailored specifically for older adults will be explored. This session will cover practical strategies to improve daily function and promote an active lifestyle, empowering participants to maintain independence and vitality. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how functional therapy can make a positive impact on your health and well-being! Presenters: Jeremiah Bradford, PT, DPT and Kelli-Ann Wallace, Community Relations Director. Lunch will be provided.

Friday, April 4 | 11:30 am | Free



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**Winter Garden Heritage Museum**  
1 N. Main Street | wghf.org  
407.656.3244  
Tue – Sat | 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 (NEW!)

### TEMPESTS AND TORNADES

*A retrospective of catastrophic weather in West Orange County*

Settled West Orange County has experienced its share of catastrophic weather over the past 130 years. Tornadoes, hurricanes, and devastating citrus freezes all have played a part in shaping the region. The exhibit features photographs and documents detailing extreme weather events and the people they impacted.

April 1 – June 28 | Free Admission



**Central Florida Railroad Museum**  
101 S. Boyd Street | cfrhs.org | 407.656.0559  
Tuesday – Friday | 11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Saturday | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Free Admission

## ARCHIVE DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Visit our Library and Archives and see some of the latest additions to our collection.

Saturday, April 19  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Free Admission

## EXHIBITION

### 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.

Now – August 30 | Free Admission



## ARTS IN APRIL

wgart.org/april

In celebration of World Art Day, the Winter Garden Art Association annually hosts a series of Arts in April events throughout the month for the community to explore and create art.

### Top Choice Annual Art Awards Exhibition

This showcase celebrates standout pieces that resonate with originality and skill.

April 1 – May 31  
Opening Reception | April 3, 5:30 - 8:00 pm  
Public Invited

### Young Creatives Showcase Awards Exhibition

April 1 – May 30  
Art in Public Places Gallery at City Hall | Free Admission

### Arts in April Kids' Art Sessions at Winter Garden Farmers Market

Children of all ages are welcome to create a variety of complimentary art activities during the Farmers Market.

Saturdays | April 12 & April 19  
Art Activity | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Free  
Winter Garden Farmers Market Parking Garage Plaza

### Urban Sketchers Competition

Sketchers, get your pencils ready to sketch the sights of the Winter Garden Farmers Market or downtown Winter Garden at this annual en plein air event. Free to participate or come by to watch the artists at work.

Saturday | April 12 | Free  
Check-in starts at 9:00 am at SOBO Art Gallery

### Enchanting Winter Garden Gala

A special one-night art experience at Winter Garden's beautiful Downtown Pavilion. Dining, dancing and auctions to fund-raise for the Winter Garden Art Association.

Saturday, April 26 | 6:30 – 10:00 pm  
Downtown Pavillion, 104 S. Lakeview Ave  
Ticket Required: \$125  
To purchase visit wgart.org/vip.

## 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

wgart.org/adults

### Technique Tuesday at 2PM

wgart.org/tuesdays

A weekly "CREATE" event and opportunity for ALL SKILL LEVELS to learn, grow, and be inspired through

the talents of other artists. 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)

## ART FOR KIDS

wgart.org/kids

### Wednesday Art Clubs

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

## Young Creatives Showcase Art Awards Exhibit

### Premieres at City Hall

In celebration of Arts in April, this exhibition celebrates the outstanding talent of emerging high school- and college-age artists in the community. Curated by Winter Garden Art Association/SOBO Art Gallery, this special showcase highlights the best and most creative works selected through the annual awards process, representing a diverse range of artistic expression and skill.

April 1 – May 30 | Art in Public Places Gallery in City Hall, 300 W. Plant Street  
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm | Free

