



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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MAY 2025

## SHOP, DINE & STROLL Raffle MAY-nia & Live Music – May 3

This year's SHOP, DINE & STROLL event on Saturday, May 3, is full of extra excitement with increased chances to win multiple Raffle MAY-nia prizes (including cash gift cards), a live outdoor concert, a free tote bag giveaway, as well as merchant promotions.

### RAFFLE MAY-NIA

Patrons can win multiple merchant raffle prizes AND a jackpot cash gift card! For EVERY \$25 spent at a participating **SHOP** or **DINE** merchant location, a shopper earns one ticket entry into each establishment's raffle (10 tickets max. per transaction), and for EVERY \$10 spent at a **STROLL** merchant location, a shopper earns one ticket entry (5 tickets max. per transaction). ALL tickets (including the winners) will then be entered into a City-sponsored raffle with chances to win jackpot cash gift cards ranging from \$100 to \$500. This means that multiple prizes can be won for your fun Shop, Dine & Stroll Day in scenic historic downtown!

Look for the raffle ticket displayed in windows of participating stores and restaurants. All winners will be announced on the Shop, Dine & Stroll Special Event page on the City's website ([www.cwgd.com](http://www.cwgd.com)) on May 9.



### LIVE MUSIC

Enjoy a free outdoor concert with special live music performances centrally located at Centennial Plaza.

- Crenshaw (Folk) | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Brad Kriebel (Acoustic Loop) | 4:00 - 8:00 pm

### TOTE BAG GIVEAWAY

To commemorate the event, the first 1,000 event goers receive a free reusable tote bag. Stop by the event booth at Centennial Plaza from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm to pick up a shopping bag (one per family, while supplies last). Randomly selected bags will include a \$20 cash gift card to add to the MAY-nia!

Saturday, May 3 | All Day | Historic Downtown

*Event will be held rain or shine. Participation and operating hours vary per merchant.*

## Voice Your Opinion through City Survey

The City is mailing surveys to randomly-selected residents to effectively gauge residents' opinions regarding the quality of community characteristics, services, and governance. Should you receive this survey, please be sure to complete it by June 6 deadline and offer your voice to make Winter Garden an even better place to live, work, and play. Surveys may be submitted by mail or online option.



The National Community Survey™ (The NCS) is conducted every two years in partnership with an independent consultant. The survey is scientific in methodology and results are used to shape City services, your quality of life, and City's overall direction. In fact, over the last 12+ years, resident feedback has affected improvements in nearly every aspect of City operations.

## MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION – May 26

Join us to honor and remember our local veterans who gave their lives during times of war or while serving in the United States armed forces. Presented by American Legion Post 63 and City of Winter Garden, the event includes a Roll Call of Veterans, placement of wreaths, and patriotic songs to pay homage to those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

GUEST SPEAKER: Cassandra Guzman (USAF), winner of the 2024 Ms. Veteran America Pageant

Monday, May 26 | 8:30 – 9:30 am  
Veterans Memorial Park, 420 S. Park Avenue | Free

## Memorial Day Office Closure & No Solid Waste Collection Services – May 26

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.
- There will be NO Solid Waste Collection Services on Monday, May 26 (trash, yard waste, bulk items). Services will resume on your next scheduled collection day.

# Lessons Learned from Last Hurricane Season: NOW is the Time to Trim Trees

Last hurricane season, many residents cut trees a few days before the hurricanes approached and that debris was left at the curb to become flying projectiles, potentially damaging property. As a reminder, the City's Solid Waste Division cannot accommodate special pickups days before a storm. At that time, City crews are occupied with citywide storm preparation.

## NOW is the time to prepare for storm season by doing the following:

- Identify and trim the overgrown trees on your property.
- If you want to have a tree cut down, you must first secure a permit at City Hall, per City code. Allow time for this process.
- If you hire a contractor to trim/cut trees, remind the contractor that it is their responsibility to remove and dispose of that debris (do not place curbside).
- Cut tree limbs to no more than four inches in diameter and four feet in length, per City code, so they can be collected. Yard debris is limited in volume to

three cubic yards placed at the curb, per yard waste collection day. That is about the size of three washing machines sitting side by side. Extra charges may be applied for piles larger than the maximum size so plan ahead and make trimmings over several collection days.

- Place yard waste at the curb or the edge of the road (but not on top of fire hydrants or storm drains) to allow for easy pickup. Be a good neighbor and do not place curbside until at least the day before your scheduled collection day.
- Put leaves and small sticks in bags (not loose) and place separate from tree debris at the curb.

Trimming trees and discarding the debris before storm season arrives will avoid last-minute panic and keep your home safer.

For more information, call 407.877.5193.

## WINTER GARDEN PAL YOUTH SUMMER CAMP - REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 16

The Winter Garden Police Athletic League (WGPAL) will host an eight-week summer camp for qualifying youth. The camp is available AT NO COST to children ages 5 - 15 residing within the City limits and receiving government assistance.

The camp's mission is to create and build relationships among camp staff, Winter Garden police officers, area youth, and their parents. The camp provides a safe, welcoming, and fun place to interact through sports, communication, and the introduction of experiences that encourage community ownership, leadership, education, and personal growth.

Camp Dates | June 9 – August 1 | Free  
Monday – Friday | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cornerstone Community Church,  
1333 E. Crown Point Road, Ocoee

When registering for the WGPAL Youth Summer Camp, the following documents are required:

- child's birth certificate or court/custody paperwork – only parent or legal guardian can register a child (Children must be ages 5-15 and have completed Kindergarten.)
- child's medical insurance card
- current water or utility bill for the Winter Garden address residence
- proof of government assistance (WIC, food stamps, etc.)
- form of identification (driver's license, ID card, passport, etc.)
- camp application

Visit the following locations on dates specified to complete an application and bring the required documents:

### West Orange Recreation Center:

May 5 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

May 6 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

### Westside Townhomes:

May 7 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

### Country Gardens:

May 8 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

### Palm Crossing:

May 9 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

### Village Grove:

May 12 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

### West Pointe Villas:

May 13 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

### Winter Garden Police Dept.:

(Back Parking Lot-Office Door is on Henderson St.)

May 15 | 2:00 - 5:00 pm

May 16 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Deadline to register is May 16, 2025.

Space is limited so do not delay.

## Public Pools Open for Summer: May 3 – August 16

The City of Winter Garden pools open for the summer season on May 3!  
Take a dip to cool off, meet new people, and have some family fun!

Farnsworth Pool Hours 1 Surprise Drive	May 3 – August 16	Saturdays	1:00 – 5:00 pm
	May 29 – August 8	Monday – Thursday Fridays Only	2:00 – 6:00 pm 2:00 – 5:00 pm
<p><b>General Admission:</b> \$2 ages 12 &amp; up   \$1 ages 2 – 11  <b>Family Pass:</b> \$55 City Resident / \$80 Nonresident (up to 6 family members)  <b>Adult Individual Pass:</b> \$30 City Resident / \$35 Nonresident</p>			
Bouler Pool Hours 362 11th Street	May 3 – August 16	Saturdays Only	1:00 – 5:00 pm
	May 29 – August 8	Tuesday – Friday	1:00 – 5:00 pm
<p><b>General Admission:</b> Free</p>			

## COOKIES WITH A COP STORY TIME – May 20

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

Tuesday, May 20 | 10:30 am | Free to attend  
Winter Garden Branch Library, 805 E. Plant Street

## Downtown Adorned in Patriotic Charm



Historic downtown turns red, white, and blue from Memorial Day through Independence Day! Be sure to visit downtown to enjoy the patriotic decorations adorning the buildings and landscape, which pay tribute to America's holidays while adding to the nostalgic charm of your beloved downtown.

# 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, Aquatics, 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 SPORTS DISCOVERY - YOUTH

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 baseball 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 a sport they love! This program is an indoor program but may move outdoors if weather permits.

Age | 2 – 4 years old

Baseball | May 1 – 22 | Thursdays | 5:30 – 6:20 pm

\$64 City Resident / \$70 Nonresident

## BALLET BASICS FOR ADULTS

A basic level traditional ballet class for teens and adults with no previous experience or those looking to rediscover ballet after a long break. Class concentrates on proper body mechanics and barre work.

Age | 13 years & older

Session 2 | April 30 – May 28

Wednesdays | 10:30 – 11:30 am

\$80 City Resident / \$85 Nonresident, per 5-week session

## CREATIVE MOVEMENT

This unique program introduces basic dance ballet technique and movement through dance, games, and song. Class focus is on gross motor skills, left/right, body awareness, ballet positions, and beginner ballet technique and language. Advance registration required.

Age | 2 – 4 years old

Wednesdays | 9:30 – 10:15 am

Session 2 | April 30 – May 28

\$70 City Resident / \$75 Nonresident, per 5-week session

## INTRO TO SPANISH

This 1.5-hour-long course places emphasis on the basics of Spanish and helps 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 & older

Session 2 | May 6 – 27 | Tuesdays | 5:30 – 7:00 pm

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

## KARATE ZOO

In Karate Zoo, we teach the fundamentals of martial arts to children ages 3 - 6 years old in a high-energy progression-based program. Students learn and practice the traditions and skills of the sport and receive colored belts and stripes for their achievement. Each skill introduced is designed for progression with beginner, immediate, and advanced modifications, allowing each student to progress at their own pace in a mixed ability group setting. Inspired by

the traditions and practices of martial arts, Karate Zoo is designed to benefit a child's physical, social, and emotional development while building confidence and teaching practical life lessons. Hi-yah!

Age | 3 – 6 years old

Session 2 | Mondays, May 19 – July 14

(no programming May 26)

5:30 – 6:20 pm

\$191 City Resident / \$201 Nonresident, per 8-week session (belt included in fee)

Optional purchases | \$30 Karate Zoo Jersey,

\$40 Karate Gi Uniform

## SUPER SOCCER STARS - YOUTH

For children 12 months – 4 years old, all classes teach soccer skills in a fun, noncompetitive, and educational environment. Through our age-specific curriculum, we use soccer to nurture and build self-confidence and teamwork. This activity is an outdoor activity but may move indoors in the event of inclement weather.

Tuesdays | May 27 – July 29

Saturdays | May 31 – August 9 (no programming July 5)

Parent & Me | 12 months – 2 years old

Weekdays 5:00 – 5:40 pm | Weekends 9:00 – 9:40 am

2– 3 years old | Weekdays 5:50 – 6:30 pm,

Weekends 9:50 – 10:30 am

3 – 4 years old | Weekdays 5:00 – 5:40 pm,

Weekends 9:00 – 9:40 am

\$170 City Resident / \$180 Nonresident,

per 10-week session

Optional purchase | \$30 Super Soccer Stars Jersey

## AQUATICS

### FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

Join us every Wednesday for Family Swim Night! A great way to relax after a busy day, enjoy your children, and have fun in the water. Let your kids show you their latest skills or just splash in the pool together!

Wednesdays | May 7 – August 6

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Fee | \$2 for 12 years & older /

\$1 for 2 - 11 years old

(Family & Individual Passes permitted)

### PRE-SUMMER RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS

These sessions are designed as refresher courses for young swimmers who have been out of the water since the previous summer. Each session offers four classes to help the participants regain confidence in the water. Advance registration required.

Monday – Thursday

Session 1 | May 5 – May 8

Session 2 | May 12 – May 15

Session 3 | May 19 – May 22

\$44 City Resident / \$60 Nonresident

## 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  
407.877.5132  
[iliana.jones@cwgd.com](mailto:iliana.jones@cwgd.com)

**Chloe Johnson**, District 3  
407.877.5133  
[chloe.johnson@cwgd.com](mailto:chloe.johnson@cwgd.com)

**Colin Sharman**, District 4  
407.877.5134  
[csharman@cwgd.com](mailto:csharman@cwgd.com)

### 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)

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### ACTIVE 50+

#### AARP SMART DRIVER TEK WORKSHOP

Learn how new, high-tech features in today's cars can help make driving safer and easier. You will learn how the benefits of these technologies may enhance your driving safety and extend your safe driving years. You will receive a technology checklist and learn to identify the safety technologies that best suit your needs. Space is limited, so register now for this course by calling 1.877.805.0458.

Monday, May 5 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
Free

### I WANT TO KNOW

The informative presentation provides new insights and/or deepens knowledge in an entertaining manner. Register for this month's presentation at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>. Bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

*It Is All About the Weather and Hurricanes*  
by a WFTV Channel 9 meteorologist  
Tuesday, May 27 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm | 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

### **TEMPESTS AND TORNADOES: 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.

Now – June 28

### **HISTORY HUNT**

This is perfect weather to explore downtown Winter Garden with our History Hunt! Discover 12 hidden boxes, scan the QR code, answer the questions, and turn in your completed map (\$2.00 each at our office at 21 E. Plant Street) for a Winter Garden Activity Book! Happy Hunting!



### **Young Creatives Showcase Art Awards Exhibit**

Curated by Winter Garden Art Association/SOBO Art Gallery, the exhibition celebrates the outstanding talent of emerging teen and young adult artists in the community.

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

## EXHIBITION

### **Top Choice Annual Art Awards**

SOBO's Annual Awards Exhibition highlights the finest and most captivating works, chosen for their exceptional creativity and artistic quality. This showcase celebrates standout pieces that resonate with originality and skill.

Now – May 31

## 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

### **Mother's Day CreativTEA**

For all ages, gather the important women in your life and create a special art project together as you enjoy high tea snacks and beverages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Limited enrollment.

Saturday, May 10 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
Open to All | \$20 per person

### **Technique Tuesdays 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.

Tuesdays | 2:00 – 4:00 pm | Studio Room

### **Artist Night Studio: Life Drawing**

Model is available to draw every session. Bring your own drawing/painting materials.

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

### **Summer Vacation Art Camp**

Space fills quickly. Register at wgart.org/kids.

June 2 – 6 | Wide World of Animals

June 9 – 13 | Art through the Ages

June 16 – 20 | Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water

June 23 – 27 | Travel Around the World

July 7 – 11 | Just My Imagination

July 14 – 18 | It's Only Natural

9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Ages: 2nd grade –

Middle School (one age group)

Fee: \$160 per week / \$45, per individual day



**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

## COMMUNITY DAY

Stop by our annual Community Day as this year we welcome an assortment of outdoor and nature organizations to the Museum meeting room to share information and exhibits with the public.

Saturday, May 17 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Free

## 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