



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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JULY 2025

## FREE COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

### *Start and End Your Fourth of July with Nostalgic Fun!*



### 21ST ANNUAL ALL AMERICAN KIDS PARADE & BREAKFAST

Hosted by Winter Garden Masonic Lodge No. 165 in partnership with the City of Winter Garden

Start your July 4th morning with a Kids Eat Free Pancake Breakfast at 8:00 am at the Masonic Lodge (while supplies last). Family-friendly entertainment and activities will be provided outside the Lodge. This includes a free bike helmets giveaway from the Winter Garden Police Department (while supplies last) and complimentary patriotic decorations (courtesy of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation) to decorate your bike, scooter, wagon, stroller, etc. to participate in the 21st Annual All American Kids Parade.

Spectators are welcome to cheer on the patriotic procession, so grab a good viewing spot along West Plant Street and bring a chair to watch in comfort.

The approximate 30-minute All American Kids Parade kicks off promptly at 10:00 am (lineup at 9:45 am) from Winter Garden City Hall and loops around downtown's West Plant Street. Free event, no RSVP required, just come and enjoy the fun!

Friday, July 4

Pancake Breakfast (Kids 12 & under eat free! / while supplies last)  
8:00 – 10:00 am | Winter Garden Masonic Lodge, 230 W. Bay Street  
Parade | 10:00 am – approx. 10:30 am | Free  
Lineup at 9:45 am at Winter Garden City Hall, 300 W. Plant Street



### EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

Due to the parade, West Plant Street from Dillard Street to Park Avenue, as well as adjoining side streets, will be CLOSED from Friday, July 4, at 2:00 am through approximately 12:00 pm.

## FARMERS MARKET INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Fourth of July weekend fun continues with an Independence Celebration at the Winter Garden Farmers Market on Saturday, July 5. Stop by the festive-decorated market for some good old fashioned fun including a kids' holiday craft station; complimentary red, white, and blue snow cones; and more.

Saturday | July 5

Market | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm / Holiday Activities | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Downtown Pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue



### PARTY IN THE PARK & FIREWORKS



End your Fourth of July

with a bang at Party in the Park! Hosted by the City of Winter Garden, preshow festivities start at 6:00 pm with family-friendly games, kids' crafts, and live classical rock music performed by the talented band, Relic.

At 9:15 pm, be ready to "ooh and ahh" as the sky illuminates with a dazzling display of fireworks above Lake Apopka.

Bring a chair or blanket and pack a picnic to enjoy this free annual Winter Garden tradition at Newton Park. No personal fireworks, no grilling, and no alcohol are permitted. Parking is available on North Dillard Street, including at Dillard Elementary School, 311 N. Dillard Street.

Friday, July 4

Preshow | 6:00 – 9:00 pm / Fireworks | 9:15 pm  
Newton Park, 31 W. Garden Avenue | Free

### INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSURE & NO SOLID WASTE COLLECTION (JULY 4)

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.
- There will be NO Solid Waste Collection Services on Friday, July 4 (trash, yard waste, bulk items). Services will resume on your next scheduled collection day.

Questions, call 407.656.2256.

### FIREWORKS USAGE REMINDER

Recreational use of fireworks is legal only on Independence Day (July 4), New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day, per Florida Statute 791.08.

# Waste Collection Reminders:

## *Proper Disposal of Cardboard Boxes*

There seems to be some confusion about the proper way to discard cardboard boxes following the suspension of recycling. As a reminder, cardboard boxes placed out on your bulk/yard waste collection day are not being recycled.

### GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF BOXES:

- Only LARGE boxes that are oversized for your trashcan should be placed curbside for pick up on your bulk items collection day.
- Small boxes such as cereal, cracker, snack, jewelry, shoe boxes and all other similar size boxes should always be placed in your trashcan for disposal.
- Large boxes for bulk pickup must be broken down and flattened and placed in a separate pile curbside. You may tie a string around the pile or place a rock/brick on top of the boxes to prevent them from blowing around prior to collection.
- Large boxes should not be placed curbside until the night before or the morning of your bulk collection day – not any earlier.
- Large boxes stuffed inside the trashcan can prevent the trashcan from being completely emptied or can cause spillage on the ground when lifted by the truck. Large, oversized boxes should be placed curbside for bulk item pickup on your collection day (flattened, stacked).
- Packaging materials (Styrofoam, bubble wrap, etc.) that were inside boxes must be bagged and placed in your trashcan to prevent littering when your trashcan is emptied.

Thank you for helping to keep your neighborhood neat and clean. For more information, call 407.877.5193.



## Seeking Adult Softball Scorekeepers – Paid, Flexible Shifts

The City of Winter Garden Parks and Recreation Department is currently seeking an enthusiastic and reliable Adult Softball Scorekeeper to join our team at Braddock Park and Veterans Memorial Park. This contracted position offers flexible evening hours from 6:00 to 10:00 pm, with multiple days available—Monday through Thursday.

Ideal for anyone familiar with the game of softball, this role involves keeping accurate scores during league games in a fun and active outdoor environment. No formal experience needed. Training will be provided, if needed. Must be at least 18 years old. Pay range: \$14.00 – \$16.00 per hour.

If you enjoy being part of the game and working in a vibrant community setting, we'd love to have you on board! If interested, please call the Parks and Recreation office at 407-656-4155 or send email to [recinfo@cwgd.com](mailto:recinfo@cwgd.com).

## Citizens CPR Class – July 19

Interested in learning how to take a hands-on approach toward saving lives? The City of Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department is offering a free, 90-minute Citizens CPR Class to the community.

The program will cover:

- Hands Only Adult and Child CPR
- Proper AED use
- Adult and Child Choking

Upon completion, participants will earn a certificate acknowledging their successful demonstration and learned concepts detailed in the program.

Preregistration is required, and space is limited to 12 participants. To register, visit <https://enroll.wg-play.com> and click on "Recreation Classes".

Class Date:

Saturday | July 19

9:30 – 11:00 am or 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(select one session)

Fire Department Headquarters Training Room, 1 East Cypress Street

Free

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY REGISTRATION Course Starts August 13

Learn what goes on inside your police department at the next Citizens Police Academy. This free, nine-week course is instructed by Winter Garden police officers and staff who will discuss such topics as crime prevention, defensive tactics, and investigations. Class participants will also be eligible to go on a ride-along with an officer and a tour of Orange County Jail.

### Eligibility requirements:

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

### COURSE DATES:

August 13 – October 8 (if needed, makeup date is October 15)

Wednesdays Only | 6:00 – 9:00 pm

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

Applications are available at [wgpd.com](http://wgpd.com) and at the Winter Garden Police Department. Questions, contact Officer Gail Michaud or Officer Timothy Thatford at 407.656.3636 ext. 5416.

# SUMMER FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Aquatics, Summer Camp, Yoga, 50+ Activities and Trips, Art Classes, Pickleball, Tennis, Softball, Kickball, Video Game Club, Super Soccer Stars, Amazing Athletes Preschool Activities, Little Vet School, Cardio Drumming, 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.

All aquatics programs are held at Farnsworth Pool, 1 Surprise Drive.

## AMAZING ATHLETES SPORTS 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 explore flag football with concentrated play & practice cumulating into a 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

Flag Football | July 10 – 31 | Thursdays | 6:00 – 6:50 pm

\$64 City Resident / \$70 Nonresident

## KICKBALL – ADULT LEAGUE

Gather your friends and come out to play the game we all remember from grade school which has evolved into today's hottest get-together sport for adults. Anyone can play from the less experienced to the diehard. This is a great way to stay in shape, meet new people, and have fun! Come out and KICK IT with our Thursday night co-ed league. Registration may close early due to limited availability in each league. Number of league games varies each season.

Games | 6:45 pm, 7:45 pm, & 8:45 pm

\$325 per team for season

Braddock Park, 13460 Lake Butler Boulevard

## FALL LEAGUE

League begins August 14

Registration open July 9 – August 1

## LITTLE VETERINARIAN SCHOOL – Cat

Students will role-play the key responsibilities of a veterinarian and perform a whiskers-to-tail exam on their newly "adopted" plush cat. These future veterinarians will learn about animal body language, maintaining a healthy environment such as proper litterbox placement, create a cat toy, and design a vet clinic.

Age | 5 - 11 years old

Mondays | 6:30 – 7:30 pm

June 30 – August 4

\$259, 6-week course

## USSSA SOFTBALL - ADULT LEAGUES

Hit a grand slam with our fall adult softball! Leagues are available for all skill levels. Church, Men's and Co-ed leagues offered Monday - Thursday. Play, be active, and most importantly have fun! Registration may close early due to limited availability in each league. Number of league games varies each season.

Games | 6:45 pm, 7:45 pm, & 8:45 pm

\$500 per team for season

Braddock Park, 13460 Lake Butler Boulevard

Veterans Memorial Park, 420 S. Park Avenue

## FALL LEAGUE

League begins the week of August 11

Returning Team Registration\* | July 9 – August 1

New Team Registration | July 16 – August 1

*\*A returning team is classified as a team that has participated in any of our softball leagues within one of the past three consecutive seasons*

## 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

Tuesdays & Thursdays | July 8 – July 24

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.

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

July 7 – August 4 (5 weeks)

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

July 9 – August 6 (5 weeks)

\$75 City Resident / \$80 Nonresident, per 5-week session

Optional Purchase | \$45 Esports Team Jersey

## AQUATICS

### AQUA FITNESS

A stress-free exercise, that works the cardiovascular system, respiratory system, and major muscle groups in one workout. Water surrounds the body resisting every move, and muscle workouts are balanced at your own level. Provides a great workout while putting minimal stress on the body.

Age | 16 years & older

Tuesdays & Thursdays | July 1 – July 31 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturdays | July 5 - 26 | 8:00 – 9:00 am

\$4 per visit / \$42 - Aqua Flex Pass, 12 visits

### WATER POLO CLINIC

Learn how to pass, catch, dribble, and shoot a water polo ball this summer. This four-week clinic is designed to introduce your child to water polo or give them the extra experience needed to play at the high school level. This is a great introduction to the exciting game of Water Polo!

Age | 11 - 14 years old

Mondays & Wednesdays | June 30 – July 23

6:30 – 7:30 pm

\$72 City Resident / \$88 Nonresident

### YOUTH SWIM LEAGUE

Join the team! Participants will learn about sportsmanship, team camaraderie, endurance, and stroke development, while enjoying a fun and healthy environment. Prerequisite: Participants must be able to swim 50 yards without stopping. Advance registration required.

Age | 6 - 16 years old

Monday – Thursday | June 30 – July 24

11:00 – 11:45 am

\$72 City Resident / \$88 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

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**Colin Sharman**, District 4

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### CITY MANAGER

**Jon C. Williams**

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[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

### 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, July 14 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | Free

#### DAY TRIP: TOWN OF MURALS – LAKE PLACID, FL

There are so many things that make Lake Placid, Florida, a unique and wonderful place to visit, including its 47 beautiful murals around town depicting the area's history. While visiting, we will stop by the Chamber of Commerce to view a video and the gallery of artist's original renderings. You will then return to the coach and ride through the streets to view the murals while your coordinators describe a bit of history. Fee includes transportation. Dutch treat lunch.

Tuesday, July 15 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

\$15 City Resident / \$19 Nonresident



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JULY 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

### **TEMPESTS AND TORNADOES: A Retrospective of Catastrophic Weather in West Orange County**

Hurricane season is a fitting time to visit this exhibition of photographs and documents detailing extreme weather events that West Orange County and its people have endured over the past 130 years. Tornadoes, hurricanes, and devastating citrus freezes all have played a part in shaping the region. Thank you to our exhibit sponsors: Stanley's Roofing, OneSource Restoration, and Alicia Spears Realty.

Now – July 31



### **WINTER GARDEN'S RENAISSANCE: A HISTORIC TIMELINE EXHIBIT CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 31**

Explore how Winter Garden evolved from virtual desolation to today's vibrant stretch of successful business ventures. A collaboration between the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and Crealdé School of Art, the exhibit tells the story of the City of Winter Garden's remarkable revitalization efforts. It is an incredible story of a downtown that was not allowed to die.

Now – July 31

Art in Public Places Gallery in City Hall

300 W. Plant Street

Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm | Free

## EXHIBITION

### **Heat is On**

Feel the sizzle of summer through vibrant artworks that celebrate the warmth, energy, and intensity of the season.

Now – July 31

## CALL TO ARTISTS

*"Landscapes, Real or Imagined"* – Submissions open July 1-8

Explore breathtaking vistas and imaginative realms as artists showcase landscapes that inspire and captivate.

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](http://wgart.org/adults).



**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

## EXHIBITION

### **MAGIC ON THE RAILS: THE TRAINS OF WALT DISNEY WORLD**

Journey through time as we look at the history of the trains at 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



## ARCHIVES DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Visit our Library and Archives on this special day to see some of the latest additions to our collection.

Saturday, July 19 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Free Admission