



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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

OCTOBER 2025

## HALLOWEEN FLIX at *The Garden*

The ambiance of the historic Garden Theatre is the perfect setting to watch classic Halloween movies. Purchase your Flix tix for \$5.00 (no added fees or tax) at cwgd.com or scan the QR code. Budget-friendly concessions too!

Hosted by the City of Winter Garden, Halloween Flix at the Garden features two family-friendly Halloween movies and one adult horror movie.

Saturday, October 25

2:00 pm | "Hocus Pocus" (PG)

8:00 pm | "A Nightmare on Elm Street" (R)\*

Saturday, November 1

10:00 am | "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (PG)

Garden Theatre on Plant, 160 W. Plant Street

Purchase Tickets



\* Due to "R" rating, individuals under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at least 21 years of age. Please be prepared to show valid photo identification for age verification.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – October 7

### Free Community Event

Join the Winter Garden Police Department for National Night Out in historic downtown. The free event is fun for all ages with children's activities, food, music, raffles, meet and greet with your local police officers, crime prevention tips, and more!

The national, annual event encourages residents to spend the evening with neighbors and local law enforcement to enhance and build a safer community.

Tuesday, October 7 | 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Downtown Pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue | Free



## HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION AT THE MARKET – October 25

Join us at the Market for a fun-filled Halloween celebration, featuring free Halloween crafts for kids (tent located at Parking Garage Plaza). In addition, the fall harvest is in and the large selection of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes are perfect pickings for carving – and a great backdrop for photos!

Saturday, October 25

8:00 am – 1:00 pm (Kids' Crafts) | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Downtown Pavilion, 104. S. Lakeview Avenue



## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – October 17



Join us for a fun-filled morning of carnival games with prizes, themed crafts, face painting, snacks, and more. Costumes encouraged! Event is free, but please call ahead (407.656.4155) for group reservations.

Friday, October 17 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Age | 3 – 5 years old | Free

Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street

## NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – October 25



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

The drugs will be disposed of in a safe and environmentally conscious way.

Saturday, October 25 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Collection Site: Winter Garden Police Department, 251 W. Plant Street

## SHOWER BETTER TO SAVE WATER & MONEY



### Free WaterSense Labeled Showerheads

The shower is a place where we clean up, cool off, relax, and where we do some of our best thinking and singing. While we are not going to remind you to wash behind your ears, we would like you, in observance of EPA-declared Shower Better Month, to consider this: long showers are costly to the environment and your wallet.

On average, a shower lasts about eight minutes and uses more than 16 gallons of water! Across the United States, 1.2 trillion gallons of water are used each year just for showering. However, there are ways to “Shower Better” to save on your water utility and electric bills and conserve the planet’s precious resource.

### HOW TO SHOWER BETTER:

#### Shorten Showers: Adopt the 5-Minute Shower Challenge

A 5-minute shower saves 10 – 25 gallons of water per shower! Shortening your shower time, even by just *one minute*, can save 550 gallons of water per year.

Ways to shorten your shower:

- Use a shower timer
- Turn the water off while lathering up and shampooing/conditioning
- Create a 5-minute playlist to play while you shower
- Take a lukewarm or cold shower to encourage getting out faster

#### Use WaterSense Labeled Showerheads

- Replace your showerheads with WaterSense labeled showerheads. It will save the average family about 2,700 gallons of water per year (equivalent to washing 88 loads of laundry).
- According to the EPA, if you use a WaterSense labeled showerhead, you use less water while maintaining sufficient spray force and spray coverage while showering.
- The City of Winter Garden is offering FREE WaterSense labeled showerheads at Winter Garden City Hall reception desk during Shower Better Month (October 1 – 31), one per household/while supplies last (300 W. Plant St., M-F, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm). Switch & Save!

By using less water in your showers, you will lessen water usage while also reducing energy consumed which equates to saving money. For more information, call 407.877.5193.

## GOLF CART & BICYCLE REGISTRATION DAY – October 17

The Winter Garden Police Department offers designated days throughout the year for residents to register golf carts and/or bicycles. It is important to have this information on file in case your golf cart or bicycle is stolen.



Bring golf cart/bicycle and proper form of identification for verification. Questions, call 407.656.3636 ext. 5416.

Friday, October 17 | 2:30 - 4:30 pm  
Winter Garden Police Department  
(back parking lot off Henderson Street), 251 W. Plant Street

## Downtown Halloween Experience is Discontinued

As a measure to realign fiscal responsibilities due to budget constraints, Halloween Experience has been discontinued since it was not intended to be a permanent, budgeted event. The downtown, multi-day extravaganza (hay maze, light shows, entertainment, themed outdoor displays) hosted by the City of Winter Garden was established in 2020 as a safe, temporary means for the community to celebrate Halloween during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As always, plenty of other Halloween-type activities can be found in historic downtown Winter Garden, including the City-hosted Halloween Flix at the Garden Theatre and more. For more information about downtown Halloween happenings, please visit [cwgd.com](http://cwgd.com) and/or [downtownwg.com](http://downtownwg.com).

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP – October 13

Looking for fun on the school holiday day off? Join the Winter Garden Parks & Recreation Department for a one-day camp filled with arts & crafts, games, sports, and more! Campers will enjoy a safe, active, and engaging environment with their friends and our experienced, caring staff.

Campers must bring a packed lunch, snacks, and a water bottle. Space is limited – register early at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>.

School Holiday Camp | Monday, October 13 | 7:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Age | Kindergarten – 8th Grade  
\$26 City Resident / \$34 Nonresident



## CATCH THE LAST MONTH OF EXHIBIT: WORLD WAR II AND WEST ORANGE COUNTY

Stop by City Hall to see this exhibit that pays tribute to the men and women of West Orange County who fought thousands of miles away from American Shores in the 1940s. Curated by the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, learn how Winter Garden and West Orange County contributed to the war effort by supplying military personnel and nutritious citrus products.

Now - October 31 | Art in Public Places Gallery at City Hall | 300 W. Plant Street | Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm | Free

# FALL INTO FUN with PARKS & RECREATION!

Join us for Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, 50+ Activities & Day Trips, Amazing Athletes, Archery, Art Classes, Ballet, Kickball, Pickleball, Tennis, Softball, Super Soccer Stars, Preschool Programs, Cardio Drumming, Babysitting Certification, Video Game Club, and so much more! For details about programs, classes, athletic leagues, and more, visit the "Parks & Recreation" page at [cwgd.com](http://cwgd.com) or call 407.656.4155. Register at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>.

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

## BABYSITTING

This course is for students aged 10+ and will cover general babysitting rules, guidelines, and concepts. Students will learn how to properly change and dispose of diapers, serve age-appropriate foods, develop an understanding of contact lists and emergency situations, and be taught skills in first aid, child safety, and health & wellness.

Wednesday, October 15 | 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Age | 10 years & older | \$89

## 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.

Session 2 | October 1 – 22  
Wednesdays | 10:30 – 11:30 am  
Age | 16 years & older  
\$65 City Resident / \$70 Nonresident, per 4-week session

## CREATIVE MOVEMENT

This unique program introduces basic dance ballet techniques 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.

Session 2 | October 1 – October 22  
Wednesdays | 9:30 – 10:15 am  
Age | 2 – 4 years old  
\$60 City Resident / \$65 Nonresident, per 4-week session

## GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Are you curious about your family history? Bring your documents, questions, or just yourself. Join June Kelly to get help organizing and starting your family tree, learn tips with online tools, and share discoveries with fellow researchers. There will be time for hands-on work, one-on-one help, and sharing of ideas.

2nd and 4th Monday of each month  
September 8 – February 23  
5:30 – 7:00 pm | Free

## INTRO TO AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Learn how to use AI to make tasks easier or more creative; for example, organizing schedules, summarizing long documents, drafting emails or other writing, and doing research. Generate ideas for art, business, projects, and get personalized recommendations about your interests. This course will introduce the basics of AI applications such as Chat GPT, Microsoft CoPilot, and Google Gemini. You will also learn how to write effective prompts for work, education, or general inquiries.

Tuesdays | October 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
\$25 City Resident / \$30 Nonresident, per one class

## KARATE ZOO

Karate Zoo teaches the fundamentals of martial arts to children in a high-energy, progression-based program. Students learn and practice the traditions & skills of the sport and receive colored belts and stripes for their achievements. Each skill introduced is designed for progression with beginner, intermediate, and advanced modifications allowing each student to progress at their own pace in a mixed ability group setting. Inspired by the traditions & practices of martial arts, Karate Zoo is designed to benefit a child's physical, social, & emotional development while building confidence & teaching practical life lessons. Hi-yah!

Mondays | September 29 – November 17  
5:30 – 6:20 pm  
Age | 3 – 6 years old  
\$196 City Resident / \$206 Nonresident, per 8-week session  
Optional purchase | \$30 Karate Zoo Jersey

## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL RUNNING CLUB

Participants will receive training that develops speed, stamina, and an understanding for fast-twitch and slow-twitch muscle fibers. The four-week program will conclude with a Versatility Contest that will test abilities in the 100 meter and one-mile events. A male and female Versatility Champion will be determined for ages 11-14 and ages 15-18.

Session 1 | Tuesdays, September 30 – October 21  
6:00 – 6:50 pm  
Age | 11 – 18 years old  
\$100 City Resident / \$120 Nonresident

## SACRED SONIC ALCHEMY

Immerse yourself in a powerful sound healing journey designed to support deep energetic alignment and inner harmony. Guided by Stormy Lake, Sacred Sonic Alchemy uses the sacred language of frequency and vibration to promote healing, calm the nervous system, and restore balance.

Experience the transformative resonance of Alchemy Crystal Singing Bowls, and occasionally the Endocrine Bowl method, as you connect with your energy body on a profound level.

Please bring:

- A yoga mat, blanket, and pillow for comfort
- A journal and pen for reflection
- Water or herbal tea
- Any sacred or meaningful item you'd like to place at your mat to create a nurturing and personalized healing space

Come as you are and prepare to be gently guided into stillness, alignment, and renewal.

Thursdays | October 9, November 13, December 11,  
January 8, February 12  
7:00 – 8:15 pm  
Age | 12 years & older  
\$30 City Resident / \$35 Nonresident, per class

## 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)

  @OfficialDowntownWinterGarden

## ACTIVE 50+

### A MATTER OF BALANCE

This four-week class is a nationally recognized program that 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 which will increase confidence in the future. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Tuesdays & Thursdays | October 7 - 30  
1:30 – 3:30 pm | Free

### I WANT TO KNOW

Join us to learn more about A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) and walk away with more knowledge about this hot topic as well as some new ideas. Register in advance.

*"Understanding A.I. in 2025 and How to Spot It,"* by Ethan Watford, Orange County Library System

Tuesday, October 28  
1:30 – 2:30 pm | Free



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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

OCTOBER 2025

### 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



### Winter Garden Heritage Museum

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

### EXHIBITION (NEW)

#### RAILROAD DEPOTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Railroads arrived in Orange County in 1880, and their steel rails quickly spread throughout the region. Goods and passengers arrived and departed at dozens of Central Florida depots, allowing for convenient connections to and from points north and south. This new photo exhibition features depots long departed and some that remain in use today.

October 7 – March 7 | Free Admission

### EVENTS

cfrhs.org/events

#### ARCHIVES DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Items from the archives and museum library are on display and tours of the library are available.

Saturday, October 18  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm | Free Admission



#### FRIGHTFULLY FUN LEGO NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

A ticketed event to see the custom-built Lego train layout plus treats, a photo booth, coloring table, Lego block fun table, artifact hunt, and more! Tickets are \$5 per person. Guests under 18 must have an accompanying adult.

Friday, October 24 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm  
Tickets | \$5 per person  
(purchase at cfrhs.org/events)

#### LEGO DAY AT THE MUSEUM

See the custom Lego train layout, courtesy of the Greater Florida Lego Users Group. Extended museum hours for this popular event.

Saturday, October 25  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Free admission

### EXHIBITION (NEW)

#### CHAMPIONS OF WEST ORANGE COUNTY: A LEGACY OF ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

This dynamic showcase celebrates the remarkable athletes who have emerged from our community, highlighting their incredible achievements across various sports—from baseball and basketball to soccer and swimming. Discover their inspiring stories, groundbreaking records, and the impact they've made both locally and nationally. Thank you to our sponsor: AdventHealth.

October 1 – January 31

### EVENTS

#### GRAND OPENING RECEPTION FOR EXHIBIT: CHAMPIONS OF WEST ORANGE COUNTY

Join us at the opening reception of the *Champions of West Orange County* exhibit, a special Pink Out event kicking off Breast Cancer Awareness Month and

celebrating community athletes. Hear their inspiring stories and show your support by wearing your best pink gear as we honor resilience, competition, and community pride! Light bites and refreshments will be provided. RSVP at wghf.org/event-list.

Wednesday, October 1 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Heller Hall, 21 E. Plant Street  
Public Invited  
Sponsored by AdventHealth

#### SPOOKY CABOOSE ON HALLOWEEN

Enter if you dare as the beloved Chessie Caboose turns into a fright zone on Halloween. Climb the steps into the dark recesses of the caboose outside the Winter Garden Heritage Museum to see what family-friendly frights await. There will be treats – along with some tricks. Free to enter, donations appreciated.

Friday, October 31 | 3:00 – 8:00 pm  
Winter Garden Heritage Museum,  
1 N. Main Street



### 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)

#### The Young Creatives Showcase

Celebrate youthful creativity with a delightful showcase of art by talented young artists from The Young Creatives Group.

October 2 – November 1  
Opening Reception | Thursday, October 2  
5:30 - 8:00 pm | Public Invited  
Sponsored by AntonRx

### CALL TO ARTISTS

wgart.org/gallery/schedule of exhibitions

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

#### Yin Yoga with Olga

Relax, restore, and unwind in a peaceful candlelight setting. Candlelight Yin Yoga combines the beauty of art with the healing power of yoga.

Mondays | 10:30 am | \$15 paid at class | Drop In

#### Technique Tuesday at Two

Schedule and details: wgart.org/Tuesdays

A different instructor and technique are 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 for 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

#### Create a Haunted House

Work together to turn a prepared cereal box on a base into an awesome "Haunted House." All materials and step-by-step guidance are provided. This popular family event fills up quickly!

Saturday, October 25 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
\$38 per house for 1 adult with 1 child  
\$6 for each additional artist working on same house

