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DECEMBER 2025

'TIS THE SEASON 2025

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS – Downtown Winter Garden

November 29

- Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Sale & Live Music

December 5

- Light Up Winter Garden, 6-9 pm

December 6

- Winter Garden Christmas Parade, 10 am
- Holiday Night Market & Entertainment, 4-8 pm
- Winter Garden Christmas Golf Cart Parade, 6 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 7

- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“White Christmas”), 2 pm*
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 9

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*
- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation”), 7 pm*

December 10

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 11

- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“Gremlins”), 7 pm*

December 12

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm
- Live Holiday Music on the Plaza (Dickens Carolers), 7-9 pm

December 13

- Jolly Fellow Visits the Farmers Market, 9 am-12 pm/Market, 8 am-1 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 14

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“A Christmas Story”), 7 pm*

December 15

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 16

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*
- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“Die Hard”), 7 pm*

December 17

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 19

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm
- Live Holiday Music on the Plaza (Mistletones), 7-9 pm

December 20

- Jolly Fellow Visits the Farmers Market, 9 am-12 pm/Market, 8 am-1 pm
- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 21

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm

December 22

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 23

- Holiday Flix at the Garden (“The Santa Clause”), 10 am*
- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 24

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 26

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm
- Live Holiday Music on the Plaza (Paul Q-Pek), 7-9 pm

December 27

- A Merry Winter Garden Light Show, 6-9 pm
- Holiday Street Performers, 6-9 pm

December 29

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

December 30

- Horse Drawn Holiday Carriage Tours, 5:30-9:30 pm*

Holiday Happenings listed are limited to those sponsored/co-sponsored by the City of Winter Garden.

For additional downtown holiday happenings, event details, and applicable reservation links, scan the QR code or visit:

www.cwgd.com | www.downtownwg.com

**reservation/fee required*





Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Winter Garden Fire Rescue Annual SANTA RUN

The Winter Garden Fire Rescue annual “SANTA RUN” brings Santa and his sleigh through City of Winter Garden neighborhoods! This moving parade takes place on select nights as Santa — along with elves of firefighters, police, and City staff — spread holiday music, treats, and good cheer along the way!

Santa Run Schedule, 5:45 – 9:00 pm:

- Monday, December 8 – North West Winter Garden
- Tuesday, December 9 – North East Winter Garden
- Wednesday, December 10 – South Winter Garden: CR 545 Corridor (West Side)
- Thursday, December 11 – South Winter Garden: CR 545 Corridor (East Side)
- Friday, December 12 – South Winter Garden: CR 535 / Daniel's Road Corridor
- Saturday, December 13 – South Winter Garden: Beulah / Windermere Road Corridor

An alternate date is scheduled for December 15 if the weather interrupts one of Santa's visits.

Please check Santa's nightly route maps on cwgd.com for the estimated time of Santa's arrival and/or to find a nearby viewing location. Due to significant community growth, not all neighborhoods/streets can be accommodated.

Due to safety concerns, please refrain from parking on the street during your neighborhood's Santa Run. Street parking, especially parking on both sides of the street, may prohibit the parade from going down a street.



De-Light-Ful Decorations Contest

Drag out the lights, hang the garland, put up the glowing Santa, and enter your home in the annual De-Light-Ful Decorations Contest.

Entry form deadline: December 12, 2025

Contest categories: ★ Best Overall ★ Best Theme ★ Most Original
★ Best Apartment or Townhome

Prizes are awarded in all categories:

- ★ Best Overall winner - 1st Place: \$100 and recognition yard sign / 2nd Place: \$50
- ★ 1st place winners: \$75 and recognition yard sign / 2nd place winners: \$50
- ★ The winning displays will be posted on the City's website.

Judging | Tuesday, December 16 & Wednesday, December 17 | 5:30 pm

Hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, enter online on the contest page at cwgd.com or by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department at 407.656.4155.

How to Make the Holidays More Sustainable



- Cut Your Food Waste: Plan Menus. Make a grocery list. Stick to it!
- Shop Locally: Saves gas and supports local businesses.
- Gift Experiences: Gift Cards to Restaurants & Spas. Tickets to sports events, plays, movies, concerts, museums, etc. Experiences make lasting memories, while things get thrown out.
- Wrap Creatively: Skip the wrapping paper and place the gift inside objects where the “wrapping” is also the gift (kitchen & tea towels, baskets, tote bags, glass jars, handkerchiefs, etc.).
- Gadgets & Toys = Rechargeable Batteries: Don't place these in the trashcan. Rechargeable batteries are very flammable and can start fires in our garbage trucks. Many local retailers accept them or take them to the Orange County Hazardous Waste Drop-off Location (407.836.6601).
- Recycle your Real Christmas Tree: Remove lights and decorations and place curbside on your yard waste collection day for City pickup. The tree will be turned into mulch, extending the holiday spirit.

For more information, call 407.877.5193.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES SCHEDULE

Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25) and Day After Christmas (Friday, December 26):

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26.
- On Thursday, December 25, there will be NO Solid Waste Collection Services (trash, yard waste, bulk items). Services will resume on your next scheduled collection day.
- On Friday, December 26, there will be Regular Solid Waste Collection Services.



WINTER 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 more! To view schedules, details, and fees, visit the "Parks & Recreation" page at cwgd.com or call 407.656.4155.

Register at <https://enroll.wgplay.com>. Unless noted otherwise, all programs listed are held at Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street.

COOKIE DECORATING CLASS

Discover the art of cookie decorating with Food Network finalist and professional pastry chef, Bev Hansen. This 2.5-hour, hands-on workshop is designed for all skill levels, ages 10 & up. Last day to register is seven calendar days before class date.

Wednesday | December 17 | 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Age | 10 years and older (Students 10-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older, who must also purchase a registration.)
\$50 Resident / \$55 Nonresident



MINI CAKE DECORATING CLASS

Unleash your inner cake artist in this hands-on decorating class led by Food Network finalist and professional pastry chef, Bev Hansen. This 2.5-hour workshop is perfect for any skill level, ages 10 & up. Last day to register is seven calendar days before class date.

Monday | December 15 | 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Age | 10 years and older (Students 10-17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older, who must also purchase a registration.)
\$75 Resident / \$80 Nonresident

SACRED SONIC ALCHEMY

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.

Thursday | December 11 | 7:00 – 8:15 pm
Age | 12 years and older
\$30 Resident / \$35 Nonresident



YOUTH SOCCER – SPRING LEAGUE

This recreational program emphasizes an environment that is fun for all ages. We focus on each child through positive coaching, teamwork, sportsmanship, skill development, and more! Fee includes an eight-week season, an end of season award, a team jersey, and team socks.

We want you! Head coaches pay only \$10 for one child's registration fee. Paid officials are also needed.

Resident registration | December 3 – January 2
Nonresident registration | December 17 – January 2
Registration may close early due to limited availability in each age division.

Age | 4 – 13 years old (age as of September 1, 2025)
\$115 Resident / \$145 Nonresident
Braddock Park, 13460 Lake Butler Boulevard
Important Dates:
U8 & U10 Skills Evaluation | January 10
Practices | Begin the week of January 26
Games | Start Saturday, February 7

ACTIVE 50+

I WANT TO KNOW

Join us to learn more about this useful topic and walk away with more knowledge and some new ideas.

Tuesday, December 30
"Useful Apps for Seniors Using Either iPhone or an Android,"
by Ethan Watford, Orange County Library System
1:30 – 2:30 pm | Free

WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER WINTER WONDERLAND – OCALA, FL

With over one million twinkling lights and show-stopping decorations, it's the best time of the year at the World Equestrian Center. Winter Wonderland promises to bring merriment and cheer to all this holiday season. Dutch treat early dinner. Fee includes transportation and admission.

Thursday, December 18 | 2:00 - 9:00 pm
\$18 Resident / \$21 Nonresident

COCOA & COOKIES WITH SANTA PRESCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, preschoolers (ages 3 – 5) are invited to enjoy a cup of hot cocoa, holiday-themed crafts, and a meet and greet with Santa Claus.



Friday, December 19
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Age | 3 – 5 years old
Jessie Brock
Community Center,
310 N. Dillard Street
Free

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

Looking for fun during the school break? Join Winter Garden Parks & Recreation for a day 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!

Winter Break | December 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31 and January 2, 5
President's Day | February 16
7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Grades | Kindergarten through 8th grade
\$26 City Resident / \$34 Nonresident, per day
Jessie Brock Community Center, 310 N. Dillard Street

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



City Government Serving You

MAYOR

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Mayor Pro-Tem
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CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

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www.cwgd.com

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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

Home for the Holidays

Embrace the joy and nostalgia of the holiday season through art that evokes the warmth of home and cherished traditions.

Now – January 3 | Free Admission



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 TENTH 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

FAMILY EVENT

Registration: wgart.org/kids

Create A Gingerbread House

SOBO provides one preassembled base, house, EVERYTHING you could want to design your masterpiece, and step-by-step guidance.

Saturday, December 13 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm

\$52 per house for 1 adult with 1 child

\$6 each for additional artists working on the same house



ORLANDO URBAN SKETCHERS EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL

Be sure to stop in City Hall to see the amazing works of the Orlando Urban Sketchers on display for a limited time. Curated by the Winter Garden Art Association, the exhibit is a compilation of on-location drawings as the artists captured scenes and everyday life using ink, watercolor, and pencil to take us on a visual journey of our community.

Exhibit Dates | Now – January 5

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



EXHIBITION

Champions of West Orange County: A Legacy of Athletic Excellence

Sponsored by AdventHealth

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. The exhibition invites sports enthusiasts of all ages to connect with the spirit of competition, resilience, and community pride.

Now – January 31 | Free Admission

EVENTS

Home for the Holidays with Jim Crescitelli (Lunch & Learn)

Sponsored by AdventHealth

With Jim’s warmth, wit, and deep knowledge, the presentation offers more than history; it’s a celebration of the people, places, and moments that make West Orange County so special. Gather with friends, neighbors,



and fellow history lovers for a Heritage Lunch & Learn experience that captures the spirit of the season and the timeless character of our hometown. Lunch will be provided.

Thursday, December 11 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Heller Hall, 21 E. Plant Street | Free Admission

All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 (Musical)

Sponsored by AdventHealth

Featuring Opera Orlando, this nonfiction show tells the moving story of the 1914 Christmas Truce during World War I. Out of the violence, a silence... then a song: A German soldier steps into No Man’s Land singing “Stille Nacht.” Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, and sharing a message of peace and humanity amidst the conflict.

Saturday, December 20 | 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 21 | 2:00 pm
Garden Theatre on Plant,
160 W. Plant Street
Tickets | Purchase at teachtix.com



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



EVENTS cfrhs.org/events

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

This one-mile, 90-minute walking tour takes guests through downtown Winter Garden sharing history and tales from its railroad past. Printed guides provided to guests. Meet at the Museum at 8:30 am.

Saturday, December 13 | 8:30 - 10:00 am
Free Admission (limited space, register at cfrhs.org/events)

“FROM RAILROADS TO ROSIE’S – THE EVOLUTION OF THE CHURCH STREET BLOCK”

Author and historian Rick Kilby presents the history of Church Street Station in downtown Orlando from its time as a railroad station to its

rebirth as a premier nighttime entertainment complex.

Saturday, December 13 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Free Admission
(limited space, register at cfrhs.org/events)

EXHIBITION

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.

Now – March 7 | Free Admission