

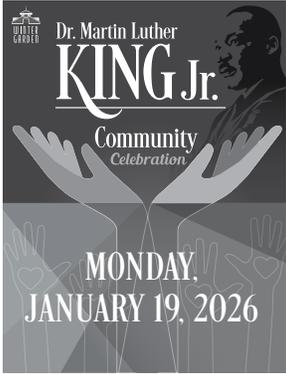


NEWS YOU CAN USE

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JANUARY 2026

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration – January 19



Commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the City of Winter Garden annual celebration.

The remembrance kicks off with a parade through historic downtown at 11:00 am. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and secure a good viewing spot along West Plant Street to enjoy the procession of community floats and groups.

To participate in the parade, preregistration is required and must be submitted no later than Tuesday, January 13, 2026 (space is limited). All entries are eligible to win the Parade Spirit Award. Parade application is available at cwgd.com/318/Special-Events or call 407.656.4155.

Immediately following the parade, the celebration continues at the Downtown Pavilion with live music featuring soul-stirring Kat Riggins and the high-energy Go Time band. Festivities also include a variety of fun activities for kids and families, as well as refreshments available for purchase.

No personal coolers are permitted. This is a rain or shine event.

Monday, January 19
 Parade | 11:00 am, Historic Downtown
 Live Entertainment & Activities | 11:30 am – 4:00 pm
 Downtown Pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Avenue
 Free to Attend

Utility Bill Assistance Program Provides Steep Discounts for Low Income Seniors – Applications Open January 5

The 2026 City of Winter Garden Utility Bill Assistance for Low Income Seniors Program provides up to a 90% reduction of base charges on monthly City utility bills for one year. Qualified candidates will receive the cost savings in their May 2026 through April 2027 utility bills.

To enroll in the program, candidates must meet eligibility requirements, complete an application, and provide required documentation during the application period of January 5 – May 1, 2026. Only applicants that do NOT qualify will be notified. Residents must apply annually for this program.

Program Eligibility Requirements:

- 65 years of age, or
- 62 years of age and receiving Social Security benefits, and
- CITY resident continuously for the past 12 months, PRIOR to your application date, and
- Utility bill must be in applicant's name and billed directly to applicant, and
- Gross household income for ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD MUST NOT EXCEED 60% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (see Income Guideline Chart*).

*These figures are based on the 2025 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Guideline published in the Federal Register on January 17, 2025.

Submit copies of the following with application:

- 2026 Social Security Benefit Statement, or
- 2025 Federal Income Tax Return, and
- ALL other proof of income for entire household

Starting Monday, January 5, the application is available to complete and return at the Winter Garden City Hall Reception Desk, 300 W. Plant Street, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, or by contacting Utility Billing Customer Service, 407.656.4100.

APPLICATION & PROOF OF INCOME DEADLINE: May 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Persons in family/ household	Max Annual Household Income
1	\$25,040
2	\$33,840
3	\$42,640
4	\$51,440
5	\$60,240
6	\$69,040
7	\$77,840
8	\$86,640
Max Income Values 60% above 2025 Federal Poverty Register	

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES SCHEDULE

New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1) and Day After New Year's Day (Friday, January 2)

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2.
- On Thursday, January 1, there will be NO Solid Waste Collection Services (trash, yard waste, bulk items). Services will resume on your next scheduled collection day.
- On Friday, January 2, there will be Regular Solid Waste Collection Services.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 19):

- All City Government Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19.
- There will be Regular Solid Waste Collection Services on Monday, January 19.



City Recognized Nationally for Best in Governance

The City of Winter Garden is one of only five Top Performers selected from over 300 communities nationwide for the 2025 Best in Governance Awards in the category of Community Connection. Presented by the highly regarded civic data analytical platform Polco, the prestigious award highlights local governments that stand out as the most effective, innovative, and community-centered across the country. Community Connection is a powerful award category because it is a measurement of how residents feel about where they live.

The Best in Governance Awards program honors communities for both resident experience and measurable outcomes. The winners are determined using data from the National Community Survey™, answered by hundreds of our very own residents earlier this year, and Polco's Government Performance Action and Learning performance measures.

We are proud to celebrate this achievement with our community!



Drop Savers Poster Contest Open to Winter Garden Students K -12

The City of Winter Garden cordially invites students to participate in our annual Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest.

Students in grades K - 12 are encouraged to create a poster depicting a water conservation idea in slogan form, drawing form, or both. This contest allows students to promote water awareness and the importance of water conservation in their daily routines.

The contest is open to public school, private school, and homeschool students. The deadline is Friday, February 20, 2026.

Winner will be awarded prizes and recognized at a City Commission Meeting in April.

For complete contest details and entry form, visit cwgdh.com/365/Educational-Resources or call 407.877.5193.

Free Citizens CPR Class – January 17

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 Hands Only CPR Citizen Training Course 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.

Saturday | January 17

9:30 – 11:00 am or 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (select one session)

Fire Department Headquarters Training Room, 1 E. Cypress Street | Free

Preregistration is required, and space is limited to 12 participants.

To register, visit <https://enroll.wgplay.com> and click on "Recreation Classes."

Golf Cart & Bicycle Registration Day – January 22

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

Thursday, January 22 | 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Winter Garden Police Department (back parking lot off Henderson Street), 251 W. Plant Street | Free

Women's Basic Self Defense Class – February 2

The Winter Garden Police Department is hosting a free basic women's self-defense class. The instructor is a police officer certified using S.A.F.E. self-defense techniques.

Monday, February 2 | 6:00 – 8:30 pm

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

Eligible Participants | Women only, ages 13 and up | Free

Registration opens on December 29, 2025. To register, contact Officer Gail Michaud at 407.656.3636 ext. 4405 or at gmichaud@wgpd.com.

Keeping Your Water Safe: Learn More with Our Water Plant Tours – February 6 & 7

Ever wonder how the City keeps your water safe? Learn more about your drinking water and water conservation by taking a tour of the City of Winter Garden Water Plant.

Water Plant tours are scheduled for Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7. Several tours will be offered each day. Come alone or bring family and friends.

The tours are free, but advance registration is required. Space is limited. To register, send email to dcorbus@cwgdh.com or call 407.877.5193.

We can also provide special tours for school groups, scouts, and clubs if the above dates don't work for your schedule. Please reach out to contact above to find out more information about group tours.



SAVE THE DATE: Winter Garden Music Festival

Get ready for this outdoor 11-hour, multi-stage concert event.

Saturday, February 21 | 11:00 am – 10:00 pm | Historic Downtown | Free Admission



Scan QR Code for the City's Upcoming Special Events

WINTER FUN with PARKS & RECREATION

Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, 50+ Activities and 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! For details about programs, classes, athletic leagues, and more, visit the "Parks & Recreation" page at 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 MULTI-SPORT PROGRAM

Amazing Athletes is a fun, active multi-sport class that empowers kids through the fundamentals of sports and physical fitness. Children will develop core skills in up to 10 different sports—including soccer, basketball, football, and volleyball—through age-appropriate lessons in a noncompetitive, educational environment. In addition to sports skills, our "Muscle Zoo" animal characters introduce kids to muscle groups and healthy foods, helping them understand how their bodies work and what fuels them to play their best. It's a great way for young athletes to explore new activities, build confidence, and discover what they love! This program is an indoor program but may move outdoors if weather permits.

Thursdays | January 8 – February 26

Tots | 18 months – 2.5 years old | 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Athletes | 3 – 5 years old | 6:10 – 6:50 pm

\$128 Resident / \$140 Nonresident, per 8-week session

BEGINNER ARCHERY - YOUTH & ADULTS

This is a course for youth (age 7+) and adults in barebow category archery (without sighting devices). All equipment is provided. Class welcomes beginner and advanced Archers and provides a variety of skill development training and fun archery games.

Wednesday, January 28 or/and Thursday, January 29

5:30 – 6:20 pm

Age | 7 years & older

\$25 City Resident / \$30 Nonresident, per class

\$50 City Resident / \$60 Nonresident, per 2-class session

KARATE ZOO — YOUTH

In Karate Zoo, we teach the fundamentals of martial arts to children in a high-energy progression-based program. Students learn & 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, 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, and emotional development while building confidence and teaching practical life lessons. Hi-yah!

Mondays | January 5 – March 2

(no programming January 19)

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

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 | January 8 | 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Age | 12 years and older

\$30 Resident / \$35 Nonresident

SUPER SOCCER STARS – YOUTH

Super Soccer Stars is a soccer development program 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. Each session lasts eight weeks. This activity is an outdoor activity but may move indoors in the event of inclement weather.

Saturdays | January 17 – March 28

(no programming February 21)

Tuesdays | January 20 – March 24

Parent & Me | 12 months – 2 years old,

Saturdays 9:00 – 9:40 am

2 – 3 years old | Tuesdays 5:00 – 5:40 pm,

Saturdays 9:50 – 10:30 am

3 – 4 years old | Tuesdays 5:50 – 6:30 pm,

Saturdays 10:40 – 11:20 am

\$175 City Resident /

\$185 Nonresident,

per 10-week session

Optional purchase \$30

Super Soccer Stars Jersey



City Government Serving You

MAYOR

John Rees, District 5 – Citywide
407.656.7372 | jrees@cwgd.com

COMMISSIONERS

Lisa L. Bennett, District 1
Mayor Pro-Tem
407.877.5131 | lisa.bennett@cwgd.com

Iliana R. Jones, District 2
407.877.5132 | iliana.jones@cwgd.com

Chloe Johnson, District 3
407.877.5133 | chloe.johnson@cwgd.com

Colin Sharman, District 4
407.877.5134 | csharman@cwgd.com

CITY MANAGER

Jon C. Williams
407.656.4111 ext. 2267
jwilliams@cwgd.com

CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

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

www.cwgd.com

www.downtownwg.com

  @OfficialDowntownWinterGarden

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 when engaged in video game play.

Mondays | *Rocket League Team* | 5:30 – 6:30 pm
January 5 – March 2

(no programming January 19) | 8-week session

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

January 7 – February 25 | 8-week session

\$132 City Resident / \$150 Nonresident,

6-week session

\$176 City Resident / \$200 Nonresident,

8-week session

Optional Purchase | \$45 Esports Team Jersey

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WINTER CAMPS

Arts and crafts, activities, sports, and much more! A qualified, well-trained Winter Garden Parks & Recreation staff will provide a safe and fun break for your child. Camp is open to all children in kindergarten through 8th grade. Campers must bring a packed lunch, snacks, and a water bottle to camp every day.

CAMP DATES:

January Winter Break | January 5 / Presidents' 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.





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JANUARY 2026



Stay Tuned to Garden Theatre on Plant Upcoming Events

Owned and operated by the City of Winter Garden, the 295-seat historic Garden Theatre on Plant continues to be a unique gem for the community. Stay tuned to the Theatre's upcoming programming by scanning the QR code. Enjoy the show!



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

EXHIBITION

CHAMPIONS OF WEST ORANGE COUNTY: A LEGACY OF ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

Presented 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



Chattanooga Lookouts, farm team for the Washington Senators c. 1952

EVENTS

There's always something happening at the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation! From educational Lunch & Learns and opening reception happy hours to seasonal celebrations throughout the year, we invite you to join in. Visit WGhf.org/Events to explore what's coming up.



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

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



Creative Spirit of Winter Garden Exhibit Premieres at City Hall

Discover the vibrant artistry flourishing within our community on display. Curated by the Winter Garden Art Association, the exhibit features work by local artists who live and create in Winter Garden, offering a unique opportunity to explore their stories, inspirations, and creative processes. From vivid landscapes to expressive abstracts, each piece reflects the rich cultural fabric and imaginative energy of our city. Come celebrate the artists who shape the creative spirit of Winter Garden.

Exhibit Dates | January 6 – February 27
Art in Public Places Gallery at City Hall,
300 W. Plant Street
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm | Free



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

Canvas of Dreams (NEW)

Dive into the realm of imagination where dreams and creativity converge on the canvas in awe-inspiring ways.

January 8 – February 28 | Free Admission
Opening Reception | January 8, 5:30 - 8:00 pm | Public Invited

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

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

ART FOR KIDS

Details and registration: wgart.org/kids

Wednesday Kids Art Club

Explore the world of arts and crafts with a certified art instructor.

Age | 2nd grade – Middle School
4:00 - 5:00 pm

\$60 for four sessions, includes all materials