

City of Winter Haven City Manager's Office dsheehan@mywinterhaven.com Visit www.mywinterhaven.com "Like" us on Facebook Follow mywinterhaven on Twitter

Interested in receiving a regular notice to each updated News Splash issue? Click this link and subscribe today!

<http://www.egovlink.com/winterhaven/subscriptions/subscribe.asp>

City of Winter Haven News Splash E-Newsletter April 1 - 30, 2019

Explore the City's website at <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/>

Click for updates on the many new projects under construction in Winter Haven.

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/government/community-projects/>

SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WINTER HAVEN AREA:

Don't miss the Hoppin' Hunt 2019, MLK JR Park on Lake Silver, Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. – noon.

- Apr. 5 First Friday Music (Central Park, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/first-friday-music-5/>
- Apr. 6 1st Saturday Community Fest (Ave. A SW, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/saturdayscommunitymarket/>
- Apr. 6 Cruisin' (Central & South Central Park, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cruisin-winter-haven-3/>
- Apr. 9 Winter Haven Public Safety Community Chat, 6 – 7 p.m., Nora Mayo Hall Meet your Public Safety leaders and give input, ideas and comments.
- Apr. 12 Relay for Life (South Central & Central Park, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/relay-for-life-winter-haven/>
- Apr. 13 2nd Saturday Market (Central Park, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/2nd-saturday-market-2019/>
- Apr. 13 Macaroni Kid Eggstravaganza (MLK Park, 10:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=20772&preview=true
- Apr. 13 Easter Giveaway (WHRCC, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=20774&preview=true
- Apr. 19 Dulcimer (Central Park., 5:30 -7:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/dulcimers-in-the-park/>
- Apr. 20 FiArt Festival (South Central & Central Park, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=20779&preview=true
- Apr. 20 Farmers Market (3rd Street between Ave. C & D, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/support-local-farmers-market/>
- Apr. 20 Hoppin' Hunt (MLK Park, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/hoppin-hunt-2019/>
- Apr. 20 Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show (MLK Park, 5:00 p.m.)
- Apr. 26 Jug Brother Band (Central Park, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/jug-brothers-band-in-central-park/>

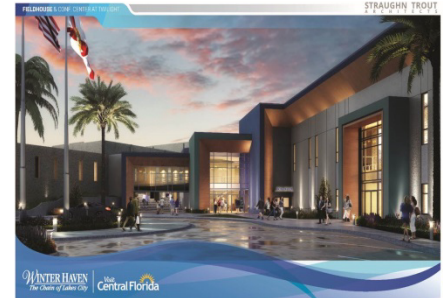
- Apr. 27 Project Eagle (Lake Shipp Park, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/project-eagle/>
- Apr. 27 Florida Bass Nation Tournament (W.G. Roe, 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
- Apr. 27 Purge Your Pills and Shred Your Stuff, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Winter Haven Police Department FREE!

Going to a downtown event? All-day parking is free in the Parking Garage on Avenue A NW.

Please go to www.mywinterhaven.com or call Parks, Recreation and Culture at (863) 291-5656 for more information regarding any of the events below.

Chain of Lakes Fieldhouse and Conference Center Now Under Construction

Located on the Chain O' Lakes Complex property at 210 Cypress Gardens Boulevard, this iconic facility will become a distinguishing landmark at this primary gateway to the City. This first phase of the project is expected to open in November of 2019, and will focus on the new Field House/Conference Center with multi-court athletic and convention space. The existing Chain O' Lakes Complex will undergo an extensive renovation with a greater focus on performing arts, banquet facilities, and aquatics.



Please call the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department at 291-5656 for further information. Interested in more information about the **Chain of Lake Fieldhouse** upgrades and improvements? Click the link to learn more and to see what it will look like! <http://straughntrout.com/portfolio/winter-haven-fieldhouse/>

CITY COMMISSION - Contact information:

Mayor Brad Dantzler	863-289-9947	bdantzler@mywinterhaven.com
Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Birdsong	863-289-9813	nbirdsong@mywinterhaven.com
Commissioner Pete Chichetto	863-289-2794	pmchichetto@mywinterhaven.com
Commissioner James "JP" Powell	863-308-2464	jppowell@mywinterhaven.com
Commissioner William Twyford	863-307-2291	wtwyford@mywinterhaven.com

City Manager Mike Herr mherr@mywinterhaven.com
Assistant City Manager Michael Stavres mstavres@mywinterhaven.com

CITY CLERK - Vanessa Castillo, 291-5600

- **City Commission Agenda Review Sessions** – Held Wednesday's the week prior to the City Commission meeting (April 3 & 17) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- **City Commission Regular Meetings** – Monday, April 8 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT – Heather Reuter, 291-5600

- **A Special Message for our Neighborhood Residents from Anita Silwal**
 Greetings Neighbors,
 My name is **Anita Silwal** and I am your new Neighborhood Planner. I look forward to building stronger neighborhoods for a better future. The common thread which is visible throughout Winter Haven is - **this is a City of neighborhoods**. One of our goals is to preserve stable neighborhoods, stabilize historic neighborhoods and revitalize deteriorating ones. The neighborhood programs will provide a platform for our neighborhoods to voice their concerns, take leadership, and engage in the long-term neighborhood planning process. All of our plans won't prove successful without a concerted effort of everyone; therefore, by working together

and being assertive users of city services, we can all significantly improve our neighborhoods. Does your neighborhood have any organized meetings? Are you interested in organizing one? We encourage our neighborhood associations to register with City of Winter Haven. The recognized neighborhood associations are eligible to participate in a Neighborhood Advisory Council, receive staff support services, and engage in exciting neighborhood programs coming soon! Follow us on Nextdoor for updates. For neighborhood related concerns, contact: Anita Silwal Senior Planner (Neighborhood Planning) at (291) 5600 or email asilwal@mywinterhaven.com

- The **Capital Projects Report** is available at: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/government/community-projects/>
- Have site plan questions? Call the Planning Office 291.5600.
- The **Business Tax Receipt (BTR)** office is at is 490 3rd St. NW across from City Hall. Call to Pat Johnson at 863.291.5695 or go to: http://www.mywinterhaven.com/building_tax_receipt.htm.

Engineering Services Division Director and Floodplain Administrator Amin Hanhan; (863) 291-5850

- Contact Senior Design Engineer and Floodplain Administrator Amin Hanhan at (863) 291-5850 or ahanhan@mywinterhaven.com for Floodplain Information or by clicking the following links. www.polk-county.net or <https://goo.gl/X97dJz>

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE Andy Palmer, 291-5656

- **Facility Rentals** - Planning a Wedding, Baby Shower, Birthday Party or a special activity needing a **special venue**? Give Donna Nixon a call at 291-5656 for rental information and individualized guidance.

Special Events – Brittany Overstreet, 291-5656

- Interested in **planning an event** on City property? Click the link for the “how-to’s” of event planning in Winter Haven. <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/special-events/>
- Want to be up-to-date with Parks & Rec? “Like” the Page at www.facebook.com/winterhavenparks

Instructional Classes – Tabatha Clock, 291-5656

- **For instructional class information visit** www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/
- **Summer Camp Registration** www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/summer-camp/
- **Interested in starting a new class?** Email: tclock@mywinterhaven.com
- **Belly Dance classes**, Rotary Park Clubhouse (350 6th St NE, Winter Haven, FL). This is a great way to exercise while learning a fun style of dance. Mondays, 6 – 7 p.m. Ages 16 and Older. Fees: Resident \$6/class and Non-Resident \$7/class. www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/16655-2/
- **West Coast Swing classes**, Winter Haven Senior Adult Center (250 S. Lake Silver Dr., Winter Haven) beginner or experienced, No Partner Needed!!! Wednesdays, 5 – 6 p.m. ; Resident \$10/class and Non-Res. \$11/class www.mywinterhaven.com/wp-content/uploads/Dance-Classes-2018.png
- **Ballroom Dance classes**, Winter Haven Senior Adult Center (250 S. Lake Silver Dr., Winter Haven) beginner or experienced, No Partner Needed!!! 6 – 7 p.m. ; Resident \$10/class and Non-Res. \$11/class www.mywinterhaven.com/wp-content/uploads/Dance-Classes-2018.png
- **Tae Kwon Do classes**, Rotary Park Clubhouse (350 6th St NE), Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6 - 6:45 p.m. for 7 & under and 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. for 7 & up. Fees: Resident \$50/month and Non-Resident \$63/month. www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/16655-2/
- **Dog Obedience classes**, Lions Park Clubhouse (820 Ave L SW, Winter Haven, FL) Tuesdays, dogs must be at least 4 months old, call 291-5656 for schedule and to pre-registered, Fees: Resident \$50/8 weeks and Non-Resident \$63/8 weeks. www.mywinterhaven.com/wp-content/uploads/DO-2019-Schedule.pdf

Rowdy Gaines Olympic Pool–210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. – David Nugent, 291-5659

- **Aquatic Information:** <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/aquatics/>

Recreation/Lap Swim: The “Rowdy” Gaines Pool Hours - Long Course Lap Swim Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – Noon; Short Course Lap Swim – Mon. – Fri. Noon – 2 p.m.; Recreational /Open Swim – Mon. –Fri. Noon – 2 p.m. Cost: Residents - \$2; Non-Residents \$3. Aquatic passes are available at various rates.

Recreation/Lap Swim: NEW HOURS:

Short Course Lap Swim: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. & Mon. - Thurs. 5 - 7 p.m.

Recreational Swim: Mon. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

Lifeguard Training: Call Aquatics for more information at (863) 291-5659.

Water Safety Instructor Training: Call Aquatics for more information at (863) 291-5659.

Winter Haven Recreational and Cultural Center –Dwan Lawrence, 863-291-5675

- Basketball skills camp. Click to learn more.

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/basketball-skills-saturday/>

- Join in on the new **Chess Club**. There is one for adults and one for youth. Click the links to learn more!
Youth: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/wp-content/uploads/WHRCC-Free-Youth-Chess-Club.jpg>
Adult: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/wp-content/uploads/WHRCC-adult-chess-club.jpg>
- **Pool, foosball, and air hockey tables** use depends on scheduled activities. Please call for availability.
- Need a place to **burn some calories** and get fit at no cost? Exercise machines, a tread mill, weight benches, squat racks and free-weights are available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday, noon–7 p.m.
- Click for more info on **WHRCC’s events**.

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/facilities-parks/wh-recreational-cultural-center/>

Winter Haven Senior Center – Jennifer Burke; 291-5870

- **Daily lunch program** (through Mid Florida Community Services) offers hot meals weekdays, 11:30 a.m. for 60 years or older. Pre-register 9 – 11 a.m. Monday – Friday, and eat at least two meals per week. The charge is a donation. Call 291-5870 for more information.
- **Low impact Boot Camp** beginning Friday, March 8 near the outdoor exercise equipment. \$5 residents and \$6 non-residents. Call 863-291-5870 for more information.
- **Ballroom Social** 3rd Tuesday of every month beginning October 16 from 7:30 – 9 p.m. \$4 residents and \$5 non-residents.
- **Strength and Cardio with Marie** on Mondays at 10:45 a.m. \$1 residents and \$2 non-residents
- **Strength and Cardio with Isabel** on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. \$1 residents and \$2 non-residents
- **Dominos**, Fridays at noon, FREE
- **Hand and Foot card game** played Wednesdays & Thursdays at noon.
- **AARP Defensive Driving Course**. Call Ms. Clay Kellam 863-293-6685 for available dates and registration.
- **Free card/tile game called Mah Jongg** is taught every Thursday at 12:30 p.m.
- The Senior Center is looking for **certified Silver Sneakers** Instructors to teach regular classes. Give Jennifer Burke a call at 291-5870 to learn how you can be involved.
- The **Winter Haven Shuffleboard Club** meets Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.
- **Mixed Media Painting Class**, Mondays at 1 p.m. Participants bring their own materials. The cost is \$10 for City residents and \$11 for non-City residents.
- **BINGO**, Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Cards are .25 each, and participants play for grocery items.
- **Senior Chess Club**, Wednesday and Friday, 1:30 p.m., no charge!
- **Beginner’s Tai-Chi** class Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.; \$4 for City residents and \$5 for non-residents.
- **Beginner’s Line Dance classes**; Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., \$4 for City residents & \$5 for non-residents.
- The **Quilting Social** is every Wednesday and Friday at 1 p.m. Bring your own materials and work on your own projects. An instructor provides assistance when necessary. Free.

Winter Haven Public Library – Cori Greear; 291-5880

- Pardon our appearance while the Library’s Youth Department is being renovated. <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/library/youth-department-renovations/>

- Do you have outstanding Library fines? Mark your calendar now for National Library Week, April 8-13, when we will offer our **Food for Fines** amnesty program! <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/library/food-for-fines-april-8-13/>
- Stay updated on all regularly offered programs with our monthly ‘**making the connection**’ newsletter. To view and subscribe, visit: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/library/library-newsletter-august-2017/>
- The library provides free access to online learning tools for languages, ancestry research, software and more! <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/library/resources/>
- **Computer & Technology Classes**, offered monthly at various dates and times in the Library’s SEEDLab. <https://sites.google.com/site/whplseedlab/schedule/calendar>
- **Technology Help Desk**, every Thursday 5-6:30 p.m. in the SEEDLab.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT, Water Conservation – 298-5495

- **Resident Grant Opportunities:** Receive a rebate of \$100 for a new low flow toilet. Click the link to learn more: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/utilities/water-conservation/grants/9250-2/>

FINANCIAL SERVICES Cal Bowen – 291-5667

Click the link for City of Winter Haven Budget information.

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/government/city-departments/financial-services/>

HUMAN RESOURCES Shawn Dykes - 291-5650

Click the link for career opportunities! http://www.mywinterhaven.com/city_employment.htm

WINTER HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT – 291-5858

Tuesday, April 9 from 6 – 7 p.m. at Nora Mayo Hall - **Winter Haven Public Safety Community Chat** – Come meet the new Deputy Fire Chief and bring questions, concerns and comments to the Police and Fire Commands Staff. This is an opportunity to meet your Public Safety leaders and to also give us input, ideas and comments that you have on your mind.

Saturday, April 27 from 10 am – 2 p.m. at the **Winter Haven Police Department** – Purge Your Pills and Shred Your Stuff. Our annual event opening the opportunity for citizens to bring in their shredding (FOR FREE!) and also dispose of those unused or expired prescription medications.

Parking ticket? Pay online at: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/police-department/online-services/>

(And don’t forget, all day parking is free in the Parking Garage on Avenue A NW.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

From FDOT - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One is **widening SR 542** from 1st Street to east of Buckeye Loop Road. Work involves widening SR 542 and adding a center turn lane from 1st Street to Buckeye Loop Road, adding a grassed median from Buckeye Loop Road to Woodfern Drive, resurfacing from Woodfern Drive to Florida Drive, adding sidewalk and bike lanes, upgrading signal equipment and placing mid-block crosswalks. Expected project completion is fall 2020. For more information, please contact Kirby Radford, Construction Project Manager at 863-519-4107 or Kirby.Radford@dot.state.fl.us.

From the Winter Haven Stamp Club - The **Winter Haven Stamp Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, and welcomes all stamp collecting enthusiasts. The club, which was established in 1963, begins each meeting with refreshments and socializing at 7 p.m. and concludes with an auction of stamps that have been acquired by the club or stamps that are put on sale by individual members. Meetings are held in the Education Building of the First Presbyterian Church, 637 6th St. NW, Winter Haven. For further information call Cliff Peeno at 863-438-4347.

From Winter Haven Elite Baseball - Click the links below for more information or email info@winterhavenelitebaseball.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/Winter-Haven-Elite-Baseball-279645045900225/>
<https://www.winterhavenelitebaseball.com/>

FREE Boat Safety Checks: Held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Flotilla 77 provides vessel safety equipment examinations at Lake Ariana, Auburndale and Lake Summit (and periodically Lake Shipp), Winter Haven, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For individual on-site checks call 800-687-9639 or gthomas901@msn.com. Chain Life Website: <http://www.chainlifewinterhaven.com/boating-safety/>

From Main Street Winter Haven - Want more information on upcoming **shows and events at Gram Parsons' Derry Down**? Click the link: <https://www.gpderrydown.com/>

From Chat and Chew - For questions email Cathy at 54321health@gmail.com

- "Chat and Watch" the taped version of the Dr. Dean and Ayesha Sherzai's Skype on line with Chat and Chew members from Winter haven and all over the country-plus Canada and Mexico. A chat box will be open as we "chat and watch" the taped Skype. April 2, 2:30 on line here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChatChewMorePlants>
- "Cooking for Diabetes and Weight Management" - Heather Borders, registered dietitian will Skype to present information and answer questions on what foods will make the difference and how to plan menus for success. April 12, 11:30-1:30 pm

Schedule: https://docs.google.com/document/d/18MHsCynXcFPO301AdVk4ZvSxBonu_uRFrvX3PmZDH5A/e/dit?usp=sharing

From Central Florida Health Care - Free Monthly Cooking Classes - Learn to make healthy meals the whole family will love--because the more we know, the better we feel! Call 863-444-0492 today for more information. Click the link to learn more: <http://www.cfhconline.org/nutritionalcounseling>

From UF/IFAS Extension Polk County - UF/IFAS Extension Polk County Family and Consumer Sciences offers a variety of food and nutrition **classes**! Click the link to see what is coming and to register. www.PolkFCS.eventbrite.com

Click the following link for gardening and landscaping classes. www.polkgardening.eventbrite.com

From the Polk County History Center - Myrtice Young, Historic Preservation Manager, (863) 534-4386
The Polk County History Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 100 E. Main St. in Bartow. Visit www.polkhistorycenter.org or call (863) 534-4386 for more information on exhibits and programming. All programs and events are free and open to the public.

From St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 656 Avenue L NW; 863.640.3468 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church will host a National Day of Prayer service Thursday, May 2 at noon – 12:45. A bag lunch will be available to take after the service. This is an opportunity to come together and pray for the nation, state, local community, school system, first responders, churches, etc. Local leaders will lead the prayers. All are welcome.