



WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City

News Splash!

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

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**City of Winter Haven News Splash E-Newsletter
May 1 - 31, 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:

- Apr. 27 Purge Your Pills and Shred Your Stuff, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Winter Haven Police Department FREE!
- May 3 Bark in the Park (Central Park, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/bark-in-the-park-2019/>
- May 3 Torch Run (Chain O' Lakes Complex, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
- May 4 1st Saturday Community Fest (Ave. A SW, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/saturdayscommunitymarket/>
- May 4 Cruisin' (Central & South Central Park, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cruisin-winter-haven-3/>
- May 4 Draw Bass Tournament (Lake Shipp Park, 5:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/draw-bass-tournament/>
- May 10 Praise in the Park (Central Park, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/praise-in-the-park/>
- May 11 2nd Saturday Market (Central Park, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/2nd-saturday-market-2019/>
- May 11 Big Bass Blast (Lake Shipp Park, 6:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/big-bass-blast-fishing-tournament/>
- May 11 7 Rivers Water Festival (South Central Park, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/7-rivers-water-festival/>
- May 17 Dulcimer (Central Park., 5:30 -7:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/dulcimers-in-the-park/>
- May 18 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/>
- May 18 Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show (MLK Park, 5:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cypress-gardens-water-ski-show/>
- May 18 Ridge Point Bass Tournament (Lake Shipp Park, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/ridgepoint-bass-tournament/>

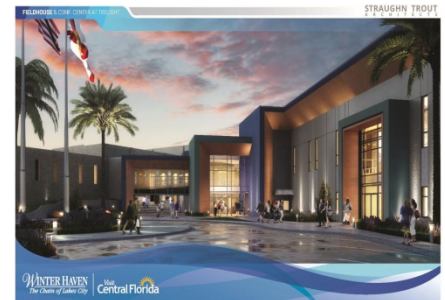
- May 24 Jug Brother Band (Central Park, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/jug-brothers-band-in-central-park/>
- May 25 4th Saturday Market (Central Park, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/4th-saturday-market-2019/>
- May 27 Memorial Day Ski Show (MLK Park, 4:00 -6:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/memorial-day-water-ski-show/>
- **Monday, May 27 Memorial Day holiday – City offices are closed.**
- **City Commission Regular Meeting** Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

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 (May 8 & 22) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- **City Commission Regular Meetings** – Monday, May 13 and Tuesday, May 28 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! I am your new Neighborhood Planner, and I look forward to building stronger neighborhoods for a better future. **Winter Haven 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. 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 the City of Winter Haven and participate in a Neighborhood Advisory Council, receive staff support services, and engage in exciting neighborhood programs. Follow us on Nextdoor for updates. Contact me at (291) 5600 or 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, Don't miss your chance to sign-up before our camps fill up. www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/summer-camp/
- Leader In Training Application's Due April 30th (Teen Volunteer Program), 15 - 17 years old High School Students can receive community service hours assisting with our summer camp programs, they'll build leadership and management skills. Follow link to application: www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/leader-in-training-application/
- Interested in starting a new class? Email: tclock@mywinterhaven.com
- 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 (RGOP) – 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. – Adam Butler, 291-5659

Aquatic Information: www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/aquatics/

Summer Swim Lessons Registration Information, lessons are at Rowdy click the link above to take you to our websites Aquatics page.

Free Swim Lessons at Winter Haven Recreational & Cultural Center, May 13-17, 2019, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Daily sign-up, www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/whrcc-free-swim-lessons-may-13-17-2019/

- RGOP FEES: Residents - \$2; Non-Residents \$3. Aquatic passes are available at various rates.
- SUMMER 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.

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

- Basketball skills camp. <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/>
- 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.

PUBLIC WORKS, Natural Resources Division, Savannah Winstanley, 291-5600

7 Rivers Water Festival – Central Park, Winter Haven; May 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - This family-friendly event is free and features a children's art contest, a recycled fashion show, educational opportunities, boat rides, and live animals including butterflies. Learn how and why organizations involved with conservation, recreation and pollution prevention work together to save water, money and the environment; ways we can protect and conserve the environment and enhance our enjoyment with water sports and lakeside activities; and more about utility service and supply issues. Find out about fish and wildlife habitat care, water quality degradation/nutrient enrichment, protecting our precious lakes, enhancing personal responsibility and public involvement. This event is brought to you by Polk County Utilities, Haines City, the City of Winter Haven Natural Resources, WSP, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Mosaic, Bath Fitter – Orlando, Mister Landscaper, and Mild 2 Wild Custom Accessories. Call 863-298-4100 for more information.

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

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES Hiep Nguyen – nhquyen@mywinterhaven.com

The City of Winter Haven is formally embarking on a **Smart City** initiative to improve lives, and bring government and citizens together. As part of this important initiative, the City is forming a Smart City Advisory Committee. Those interested in being involved should complete an application by contacting City Clerk Vanessa Castillo at 863-291-5600 or vcastillo@mywinterhaven.com.

WINTER HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT – 291-5858

- 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:

The Public Education Partnership of Winter Haven, Inc.; Audrey Nettlow 863-289-9502

audrey@whpep.org www.whpep.org

PEP started a pilot first grade tutoring program called **Ready, Set, Read!** and the data is fantastic. Give Audrey a call at 863-289-9502 to learn more about the program and ways you can be involved with influencing the educational growth of our local students.

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 begins 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

Click the link for the latest Schedule:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18MHsCynXcFPO301AdVk4ZvSxBonu_uRFrvX3PmZDH5A/edit?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: www.PolkFCS.eventbrite.com

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

GardenFest: Plant Sale, Workshops, Demonstration Gardens Tours; April 27 8 AM

Register for workshops and tours here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-gardenfest-plant-sale-workshops-demonstration-gardens-tours-tickets-54536602446>

2019 Master Gardener Training - Applications are due April 30, 2019

Training is July 9-August 14, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00 am-2:00 pm

UF/IFAS Extension Service in Bartow; Download application here: <http://tinyurl.com/PolkMG2019>

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.