



**WE WON! Downtown Winter Haven was voted the Great Place in Florida!**

**City of Winter Haven News Splash E-Newsletter**

**November 1- December 1, 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/>**

**We WON!!** Downtown Winter Haven received the most votes earning the Great Place in Florida People's Choice Award by the American Planning Association – Florida Chapter! Join us downtown November 12 at 5:30 p.m. as we receive the award and celebrate our Downtown as THE Great Place in Florida! Click to read more.

<https://florida.planning.org/community-outreach/great-places-florida/2019-great-places-florida/?cmp=eblast-100719>

**SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WINTER HAVEN AREA:**

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

Nov. 2 **Community Fest Market** (Avenue A- between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/saturdayscommunitymarket/>

**Cruise-in Car Show** (South Central Park; 4-8 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cruisin-winter-haven-3/>

Nov. 7 **Wine, Chocolate & Cheese** (Downtown; 5:30- 8:30 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/wine-chocolate-cheese/>

Nov. 8 **Night Jump Jam** (MLK Jr. Park; 5-8 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/night-jump-jam/>

Nov. 9 **Flaunt It Swivel Tour** (MLK Jr. Park; 8 – 11 a.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/flaunt-it-swivel-it-tour/>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Market** (Central Park; 9 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/2nd-saturday-market-2/2019-11-09/>

Nov. 11 City offices will be closed in honor of Veterans Day.

Nov. 12 **DOWNTOWN WINTER HAVEN GREAT PLACE IN FLORIDA AWARD CEREMONY**, South Central Park 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Bring the whole family!

Nov. 14 **Family Health Center Grand Opening**, Nov. 14, 5-7 p.m., 1201 1<sup>st</sup> St. S

Nov. 15-16 **Lake Shipp Meet Annual Antique Outboard Motor Club – Florida Chapter** (Lake Shipp Park; 3:30 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/lake-shipp-meet/>

Nov. 16 **Haven Holiday Market** (Central Park; 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/3rd-annual-haven-holiday-market/>

**Potege's Multi-Service Community Center Holiday Giveaway** (Winter Haven Recreation and Cultural Center (WHRCC); 9 a.m. – noon)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/poteges-multi-service-community-center-holiday-giveaway/>

**Veterans Memorial Ceremony** (Veterans Memorial Park; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/veterans-walk-of-honor-and-honor-ceremony/>

**Ski Show** (MLK Jr. Park; 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cypress-gardens-water-ski-show-5/2019-11-16/>

**Molly Hatchet** (Magnolia Park; 7:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/holly-harchet-w-someday-honey/>

Nov. 19 **Angels Among Us, Girls Inc. event**, Venue 650, 650 6th St SW; 5:30-8 p.m. This festive event includes wonderful food, great auction items, and a cash bar. Admission is \$50. Call (863) 967-2874 for tickets.

Nov. 20 **MyStop Citrus Connection Ribbon Cutting**, 10 a.m., Winter Haven Transit Terminal

Nov. 21 **Main Street Winter Haven Wine Chocolate and Cheese**; Downtown Winter Haven; 5:30- 8:30 pm; Tickets are \$25, for info and to purchase tickets go to:

<https://www.mainstreetwh.com/event/wine-chocolate-and-cheese-2019/>

**Great American Smokeout 12 p.m.- 6p.m.** (Central Park; 12:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/great-american-smokeout/>

Nov. 23 **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Market** (Central Park)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/4th-saturday-market-2019/2019-11-23/>

**16th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community** (Lake Silver; noon- 2 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/16th-annual-thanksgiving-dinner-for-the-community/>

Nov. 27 **Andre Berto Turkey Giveaway** (WHRCC)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/andre-bertos-turkey-giveaway/>

Nov. 28-29 City offices closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Enjoy good food, wonderful family and great friends. Be sure to SHOP LOCAL over the weekend!

Nov. 29 **Andre Berto Celebrity Softball Game** (Tugerson Field/DiamondPlex; 4- 6 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/andre-bertos-celebrity-softball-game/>

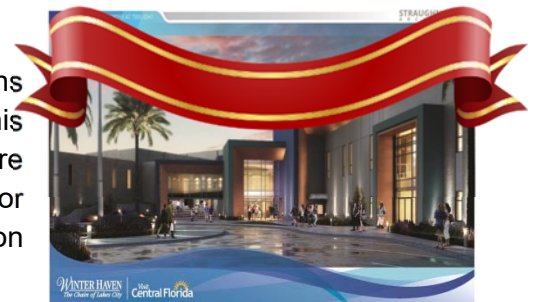
Nov. 30 **Andre Berto Turkey Bowl** (Lake Maude; 1 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)

<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/andre-bertos-turkey-bowl/>

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

### Winter Haven Fieldhouse and Conference Center Soon to Open!

Located on the Chain O' Lakes Complex property at 210 Cypress Gardens Boulevard, this iconic facility has become a distinguishing landmark at this gateway to the City. Please call the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department at 291-5656 for further information. Mark your calendar for January 4 when the facility will be officially opened to the public with a "Ribbon Cutting" Ceremony! More info to come!



### CITY COMMISSION - Contact information:

Mayor Brad Dantzler 863-289-9947

Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Birdsong 863-289-9813

Commissioner Pete Chichetto 863-289-2794

Commissioner James "JP" Powell 863-308-2464

Commissioner William Twyford 863-307-2291

[bdantzler@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:bdantzler@mywinterhaven.com)

[nbirdsong@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:nbirdsong@mywinterhaven.com)

[pmchichetto@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:pmchichetto@mywinterhaven.com)

[jppowell@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:jppowell@mywinterhaven.com)

[wtwyford@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:wtwyford@mywinterhaven.com)

**City Manager Mike Herr**

[mherr@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:mherr@mywinterhaven.com)

**Assistant City Manager Michael Stavres**

[mstavres@mywinterhaven.com](mailto: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 (November 6) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- **City Commission Regular Meetings** – TUESDAY, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall. The November 25 Regular meeting is canceled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

## **GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT – 291-5600**

- 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 Pat Johnson at 863.291.5695 or go to: [http://www.mywinterhaven.com/building\\_tax\\_receipt.htm](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](mailto:ahanhan@mywinterhaven.com) for Floodplain Information or by clicking the following links. [www.polk-county.net](http://www.polk-county.net) or <https://goo.gl/X97dJz>

## **Winter Haven Regional Airport – Jana Wasmund, 298-4551**

- **Flight Line Café** at the Winter Haven Regional Airport will be featured on a new television show, called *American Road Trip*, airing on Netflix soon. The filming date for the Flight Line Café is November 7 and the restaurant will be “closed” that day. How exciting!

## **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](http://www.facebook.com/winterhavenparks)

## **Instructional Classes – Tabatha Clock, 291-5656**

- For instructional class information visit [www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/](http://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/)
- Interested in starting a new class? Email: [tclock@mywinterhaven.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/16655-2/)

## **Rowdy Gaines Olympic Pool (RGOP) – 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. – Adam Butler, 291-5659**

- Aquatic Information: [www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/aquatics/](http://www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/aquatics/)
- **RGOP FEES:** Residents - \$2; Non-Residents \$3. Aquatic passes are available at various rates.
- **HOURS:** Long Course Lap Swim: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Recreation Swim/Short Course Lap Swim: Mon. - Fri. 12 - 2 p.m.

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

- **Chess Club** 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**

- **Walk With Ease** a six week class geared towards improving health. Join our certified instructors in walking and learning ways to improve overall wellness for FREE. This six week class will be held at Polk State College Trail (Meet in Parking Lot across from DiamondPlex Softball Complex Entrance Off PSC Access Road) Time: 9 – 10 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays For more info please call 863-291-5870 or 863-291-5675.
- **Senior Dance Social**, the Third Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Residents \$3 and Non-residents \$4. Singles & Couples welcome Dates are October 16, November 20 and December 18.
- **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.
- **Strength and Cardio with Marie** on Mondays at 10:45 a.m. \$1 residents and \$2 non-residents
- **Strength and Cardio with Isabel**, 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**

- **Join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Lecture Series, *Art and Florida!*** Registration opens for the first event November 4. For the full schedule and to register: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/library/2019-20-lecture-series/>
- **Friends of the Library 2019 Book Review Series** See this year's lineup at <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/fol-book-review-series/2019-10-09/>
- Join the new **Winter Haven Order of Adventurers** (ages 10-17) and play Dungeons and Dragons, November 21 at 4:30 p.m.
- **27<sup>th</sup> annual Jingle Bell Run, benefitting the Children's Department of the Library - December 14 at 7 a.m.** Register today for the 10k, 5k or 1 mile walk/jog with your dog!  
<https://fitniche.com/event/jingle-bell-run/>
- **Saturday Afternoon Movies**, enjoy a family film on the second and fourth Saturdays each month!  
[https://www.mywinterhaven.com/city-calendars/category/library/?tribe\\_paged=1&tribe\\_event\\_display=list&tribe\\_events\\_cat=library&tribe-bar-search=movies](https://www.mywinterhaven.com/city-calendars/category/library/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=list&tribe_events_cat=library&tribe-bar-search=movies)

- The Library will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 9 & 10 for annual Building Maintenance.
- 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/>
- **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**

- Take a look at the **open bids** with Procurement: <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/business/purchasing/active-bids/>
- 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! New opportunities are added daily!

[http://www.mywinterhaven.com/city\\_employment.htm](http://www.mywinterhaven.com/city_employment.htm)

#### **WINTER HAVEN PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT – 291-5858**

- **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 THEATER WINTER HAVEN – RITZ THEATRE 263 W. Central Ave.**

Theatre Winter Haven and The Ritz have partnered together to supply the greatest entertainment to the Polk County area! For a full listing visit: [www.RitzWinterHaven.com](http://www.RitzWinterHaven.com)

**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 the WINTER HAVEN STINGRAYS SWIM TEAM** Call (573)355-2578 to learn more about getting involved.

**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](mailto:gthomas901@msn.com). Chain Life Website: <http://www.chainlifewinterhaven.com/boating-safety/>

**From the Winter Haven Stamp Club -** The **Winter Haven Stamp Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. 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 -** [info@winterhavenelitebaseball.com](mailto:info@winterhavenelitebaseball.com) for more information.

<https://www.facebook.com/Winter-Haven-Elite-Baseball-279645045900225/>

<https://www.winterhavenelitebaseball.com/>

**From Chat and Chew - For questions email Cathy at [54321health@gmail.com](mailto:54321health@gmail.com)**

Click the link for the latest Schedule:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/18MHsCynXcFPO301AdVk4ZvSxBonu\\_uRFrvX3PmZDH5A/edit?usp=sharing](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](http://www.PolkFCS.eventbrite.com)  
Click the link for gardening and landscaping classes. [www.polkgardening.eventbrite.com](http://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](http://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.

**UPDATE From FDOT** – Work along SR 542 (Central Avenue) continues. Expect daytime shoulder closures with workers and equipment close to the road. Use caution. This project includes widening and adding a center turn lane, sidewalk and bike lanes; upgrading existing signal equipment; placing two mid-block crosswalks; and installing new water and sewer lines. Expected completion is fall 2020.

**HAVE YOU HEARD?** The best international show water skiers will compete in Winter Haven in 2022 on Winter Haven's Lake Silver as part of the **2022 IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament**. The tournament is considered the capstone event celebrating the 100th year of the sport. The IWWF is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the sole authority governing all towed water sports. The IWWF has more than 90 affiliated member Federations worldwide.