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City of Winter Haven News Splash E-Newsletter

October 11 – November 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 have wonderful news. Downtown Winter Haven is a top finalist for Top Great Places in Florida by the American Planning Association – Florida Chapter! Click the link to see what they are saying about us.

<https://florida.planning.org/community-outreach/great-places-florida/2019-great-places-florida/?cmp=eblast-100719> . To be awarded with the People's Choice Award as Florida's Top Great Place, we ask everyone to **vote** by going to the link, scrolling to the bottom, and clicking Downtown Winter Haven. Vote on all your devices! It's that easy! Voting runs through Friday, Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. and the winner will be announced Oct. 25. Share with your friends and family. We've always known Winter Haven is a great place, but now we have confirmation through the APA! *Let's take it to the finish line!*

SNAPSHOT OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WINTER HAVEN AREA:

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.

CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK IS OCTOBER 20 – 27, 2019. Celebrate with us

- Oct. 12 2nd Saturday Market (Central Park, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/2nd-saturday-market-2019/>
- Oct. 12 Fire Department Open House (Fire Station One, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/fire-department-open-house-3/>
- Oct. 12 Super Girl Showdown (MLK Park, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/super-girl-showdown/>
- Oct. 12 Florence Villa Association (Sportsman Park, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=23911&preview=true
- Oct. 18 Pumpkinfest (Winter Haven Library, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/pumpkinfest-october-18-2019/>
- Oct. 18 Oktoberfest (South Central Park, 5:30 -9:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=23913&preview=true
- Oct. 18 Dulcimers (Virginia Miller Park, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=23916&preview=true
- Oct. 18 Fall Festival of Fun (Recreational & Cultural Center, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/fall-festival-of-fun-3/>
- Oct. 19 No Trashin' just Bassin' (Lake Shipp Park, 6:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/no-trashin-just-bassin-fishing-fundraiser-cleanup/>

- Oct. 19 Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show (MLK Park, 5:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/cypress-gardens-water-ski-show-3/>
- Oct. 25 The Jug Brothers (Central Park, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/jug-brothers-band-2018-05-25/>
- Oct. 26 4th Saturday Market (Central Park, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
<https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/4th-saturday-market-2019/>
- Oct. 26 FBA Band Festival (Denison Stadium, 3:00 – 10:00 p.m.)
- Oct. 26 Halloween Spooktacular (MLK Park, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.)
https://www.mywinterhaven.com/?post_type=tribe_events&p=23918&preview=true
- Oct. 26 Trot of Treat; 4-7pm, at Hope Equine Rescue
<https://www.facebook.com/100014582774753/posts/677756852720401?sfns=mo>
- Oct. 27 Light up the Lanes – Bowlaween! 1 – 4 p.m. Cypress Lanes Family Fun Center
2010 Dundee Rd. Bowling ~ Food Buffet ~ Raffles. Costume ~ Trick or Treat!
<http://ilgwh.org/Light-Up-The-Lanes>

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

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 is becoming a distinguishing landmark at this gateway to the City. 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 (October 9 and 23) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- **City Commission Regular Meetings** – Mondays, October 14 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

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.

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>

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

Instructional Classes – Tabatha Clock, 291-5656

- For instructional class information visit www.mywinterhaven.com/parks-and-recreation/programs/
- 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/

- 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

- **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 October 7 – November 14. For more information 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

- Save the date for the **Friends of the Library 2019 Book Review Series**, starting October 9. See this year's lineup at <https://www.mywinterhaven.com/event/fof-book-review-series/2019-10-09/>
- **In celebration of City Government Week, drop in October 22 11:30a-1:30 p.m. for a Library Services & Technology Open House**
- **Friends of the Library 27th annual Jingle Bell Run! 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
- 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! http://www.mywinterhaven.com/city_employment.htm

WINTER HAVEN PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT – 291-5858

- The **Winter Haven Fire Department's Annual Open House** is this Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Station 1 located at 301 Ave. G SW in Winter Haven. (Across from Andy's Igloo) This year, we have partnered with **Toys for Tots as a donation drop-off point**. We will kick off the season at the Open House with donation bins. Everyone is encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help us give to those in need this Christmas. The Open House has activities and fun for the whole family! And a free hot dog lunch! Inflatables, demonstrations, Kiddie Train, dunk tank and learn about fire prevention.
- **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 Clerk of the Court Stacy Butterfield

Operation Green Light - During the special initiative, customers with suspended driver licenses have an opportunity to pay overdue court obligations, including traffic tickets, while **saving up to 40 percent in additional fees**. This will enable customers to proceed with having their driver's license reinstated. Go to this link for more info: www.polkcountyclerk.net/greenlight/

From THEATER WINTER HAVEN – RITZ THEATRE 263 W. Central Ave.

GREAT NEWS! 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

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. 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 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

"Eat More, Weigh Less" - Hans Diehl, DrHSc, MPH, FACN internationally requested speaker-one of "20 Superhero of Health" will be at the Ritz Theatre to explain how to live a lifestyle that maintains health, increases energy, lowers risk of disease, reduces food bills, and allows people to eat as much as they want and still lose weight without feeling hungry. October 25, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dr. Diehl speaks noon to 1 p.m. (Bring your lunch and stay as long as you can.) First 100 to arrive receive a free copy of Dr. Diehl's booklet, "You Turn."

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.cfhonline.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

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.

UPDATE From FDOT - SR 542 (Central Avenue) and 6th Street NE/SE will be CLOSED at the intersection of the two roads from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, October 12, while crews remove old poles on the south side of the intersection. Local access will be provided on both Central Avenue and 6th Street NE/SE, however, motorists will not be able to travel through the intersection. A posted detour will direct motorists around the closure using 5th Street NE and Avenue A NE or 5th Street SE and Avenue A SE. Work continues on curb pads and sidewalk, lighting conduit and bases, and water and sewer line installation. Watch for nighttime/overnight lane closures and be prepared to stop for flaggers directing traffic. Crews will begin removing abandoned underground tanks on the northeast corner of SR 542 and Buckeye Loop Road, Monday, October 14. 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.