

Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter



West Orange County events
and updates!



district1@ocfl.net



407-836-7312



NicoleWilsonD1



NicoleWilson_D1

Hey West Orange County,

Hope everyone had a chance to recharge over the weekend! We're kicking off the week with exciting updates, along with community events, helpful resources, and opportunities you won't want to miss.



Four Corners Task Force → Chamber of Commerce

We're thrilled to announce that the Four Corners Task Force will be transitioning to a Chamber of Commerce! This is a major milestone in our ongoing mission to improve the quality of life and expand economic opportunity throughout our region. **Learn more** [here](#).



July 17 Annual Williamsburg Town Hall on Thursday, April 16th

Mark your calendars! We'll be hosting our annual Williamsburg Town Hall, and it's going to be a great evening. Come ready to:

- Get the latest updates on traffic improvements and upcoming projects in your area
- Hear directly from Sheriff John Mina with an update from the OCSO
- Learn about consumer protection resources available to you

WILLIAMSBURG TOWN HALL

Hosted by District 1 Commissioner Nicole Wilson



 **THURSDAY,
APR. 16TH AT 6:00 P.M.**

 **GREEN BRIAR VILLAGE
CLUBHOUSE:
10151 GIFFORD BLVD,
ORLANDO, FL 32821**

Join us as we dive deeper into key community topics, including upcoming traffic improvements, updates from the Sheriff's Office, consumer protection resources, and more!

What We've Been Up To



Honored to recognize **Orange County Mayor's Veteran of the Year, Sergeant Major John Gionet**, for his service to our nation and continued dedication to our community at last Tuesday's BCC!



Did you know 1 in 3 parents struggle to provide their babies with diapers?

It was a pleasure catching up with Sharon Lyles, Director of the **Central Florida Diaper Bank!** Their team is doing incredible work ensuring families across Orange County have access to essential resources by providing diapers to parents.

[Learn More About CF Diaper Bank!](#)



As part of **Orange County's Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council**, we had the pleasure of touring the sites of this year's Cultural Facilities Grant applicants.

At each stop, we heard directly from organizations about their proposed facilities projects and how they would like to enhance our arts and cultural scene in the community 🎨🎭🎪!

[Learn More About Arts & Cultural Affairs](#)



Welcome Home! Honored to commemorate **Vietnam War Veterans Day** and recognize those who answered the call with bravery and commitment. We remember those who never made it home and the families forever changed by their service.



Sincere gratitude to Mayor O'Brien for his 15 years of public service. It was wonderful to see the community come together this past Friday for his **Farewell Party hosted by the Town of Windermere!**

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE



ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
Animal Services



Orange County Animal Services

2769 Conroy Road, Orlando, FL 32839 • Wednesday, April 1 • 9am

Please RSVP to Zachary.Downes@ocfl.net and Bryant.Almeida@ocfl.net by end of business on Friday, March 27.

We are excited for the **groundbreaking of Orange County Animal Services, this Wednesday at 9AM!** The new shelter will be Florida's largest animal shelter once complete, and will ensure all animals, staff, and Orange County residents receive the utmost animal care. More details can be found [here](#).

Horizon West Kids Expo
Your Parenting Hub: Discover, Explore, and Learn!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY Horizon West Happenings

FREE ADMISSION TO URBAN AIR!

WED. APRIL 1ST • 4PM TO 8PM

PRESENTED BY:
 Sakowitz Smiles
ORTHODONTICS

Join Horizon West Happenings for their **Horizon West Kids Expo, this Wednesday, April 1st at 4PM**, where families will have free entry to Urban Air Adventure Park & find summer camps, tutors, after-school programs, or kid services. [Reserve your spot today!](#)



Did you know that Central Florida was once considered “Hollywood East,” a hub for film and animation in the eastern United States? Step into the colorful world of Florida art, imagination, and moviemaking magic as you tour the museum and enjoy themed activities [this Saturday!](#)



Story Time in the Garden, April 11th at 10AM! Join OCLS & Nehrling Gardens for stories, crafts, and garden fun.

APRIL Events

Health & Finance

- 1 – Take Control of Your Money for Renters (Online)
- 14 & 21 – First-Time Homebuyer Workshop – English (Online)
- 28 & 29 – First-Time Homebuyer Workshop – Spanish (Online)

Gardening & Sustainability

- 3 – Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Workshop
- 4 – Backyard Habitats: Supporting Birds, Beneficials & Beyond
- 10 – How to Grow Oyster Mushrooms
- 15 – Lawn & Ornamental Pest Management: Overview, Exam Review & CEUs
- 16 – Urban Backyard Chicken Class (Online)
- 18 – Adopt-A-Tree
- 28 – How to Grow Oyster Mushrooms
- 28 – Garden Tour

Master Gardener Volunteer Pop-Up Plant Clinics

- 7 – Windermere Branch Library
- 11 – Winter Garden Branch Library

Scan to register



ocextension.eventbrite.com



UF/IFAS hosts amazing eco-friendly events and provides an opportunity to learn how to garden for free to low costs.

Learn more [here](#).



BRO Training Series:

Strengthen your brand, attract the right customers, and market smarter

Tuesday, March 31 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Grow alongside the **Business Resource Office** through their educational series:

- [Tomorrow, March 31st:](#) Get Seen, Get Paid: Marketing and Technology for Today's Business
- [Tuesday, April 7th:](#) Hiring Right: Scaling Your Business

Finding the Lost Sheep STREET MINISTRY

IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Dinner Included

Wednesday
April 1, 2026
3:30-6:00 pm

- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ENGINEERING
- ARTS
- MEDIA/MATH

www.findingthelostsheep.com*784 Klondike Ave WG

Finding the Lost Sheep's [Impact Development Program](#) provides a safe, structured, and empowering environment where youth can grow, learn, and discover their purpose.

Register through 407-614-5942 or info@findingthelostsheep.com/.

Firefly Nights

OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE

March 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 29
April 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 19, 20, 24

Join us select evenings at ONP, we will be open until 9pm to allow visitors to explore the boardwalk and look for fireflies.
We will have a staff member at the start of the boardwalk and volunteers along the way to answer any questions you may have.

This is a powerful way to give back & help ensure that those in need know where to turn for support.

[Come out & volunteer](#) to help distribute door hangers throughout the community to raise awareness about domestic violence resources available through [Harbor House](#).

Lobster & laughs

DINNER

A Shell of a Good Time

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, *The Rotary Club of Windermere* will host our annual *Lobster & Laughs* event at The Pines at Windermere starting at 6:30pm. The evening will include a dinner of fresh lobster, live music, magical comedy and silent auction.

<https://ticketstripe.com/LobsterandLaughs2026>

Rotary Club of Windermere

Lobster & laughs

Join the Rotary Club of Windermere for an evening filled with delicious [lobster and laughter](#) at The Pines at Windermere on **Saturday, April 18th, at 6:30PM.**

Get ready to indulge in a mouthwatering lobster feast while enjoying the magical comedy of Daniel Giandoni from the Kostya Kimlat Team.



Join **Orange County's Office on Aging and the Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center**, for a special workshop on **April 16th**, to discover how music can deepen your connection with a loved one living with dementia and enhance moments of joy, comfort, and communication. [Register today!](#)

Post-Session

TOWN HALL



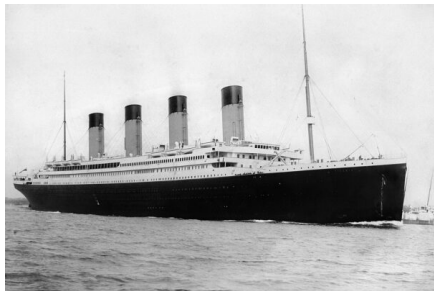

Representative
Leonard Spencer
HD 45

Senator
Kristen Arrington
SD 25

Thursday, April 9th, 2026
6:00PM – 7:30PM
The Inn at Celebration, Mockingbird Ballroom
700 Bloom Street, Celebration, FL 34747




Join Rep. Leonard Spencer and Sen. Kristen Arrington for a community conversation following Florida's 2026 Legislative Session next Thursday, April 9th. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and learn more what our offices are up to. [Register today!](#)



Join Emily Coughlan for the **Lunch & Learn: Tales of RMS Titanic** this Friday, April 3rd at **12PM** as she retells the events of the tragedy and the stories of survivors who later made their way to Central Florida.

Register [today!](#)



OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE

Painting at the Preserve

featuring fireflies



Join us for some fun and creativity on Saturday, April 4, 2026. 6:00pm-8:00pm
Artist, Drew from Brews & Brushes, will guide you through creating your very own masterpiece to take home, before heading out on your self guided hike to see the fireflies on the boardwalk. (Ages 12 and up welcome)



\$40 per person for members
\$50 per person for non-members

This Saturday, April 4th, join ONP for their [Painting at the Reserve!](#)



Firefly Nights
OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE

March 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 29
 April 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 19, 20, 24

Join us select evenings at ONP, we will be open until 9pm to allow visitors to explore the boardwalk and look for fireflies. We will have a staff member at the start of the boardwalk and volunteers along the way to answer any questions you may have.

Join **Oakland Nature Preserve** for their Firefly Nights to view fireflies for free on their Boardwalk and get your questions answered by an expert onsite.

More information available [here](#).



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CITY OF ORLANDO ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

HEALTHY CONFLICT: CREATING BOARDS THAT WORK

Using an assessment from The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, this facilitated program explores the basis of organizational politics and board failure. It helps managers identify barriers to effective, functional boards and explores tools they can use to overcome board dysfunctions.

DATE AND LOCATION
SAT, APRIL 11, 2026
 09:00 - 11:00AM
 INTERNAL OPERATIONS CENTER 1
 450 E SOUTH ST
 ORLANDO, FL 32801

REGISTER NOW!
 Register by scanning the QR code or visiting orlando.gov/communityconnections

Learn how to run an organization at **Healthy Conflict: Creating Boards that Work** next **Saturday, April 11th** at 9AM. [Save your spot now!](#)



Dance Class Series

Line Dancing- April 8

6pm-7pm
with Coach Ashley
Fit 'N Fierce of
West Orange

HEALTHY WEST ORANGE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Healthy West Orange Building
 1200 E Plant St, Winter Garden, FL 34787

Healthy West Orange is offering amazing classes to move your body and have fun! [Register here!](#)

- Salsa - April 1, 11:30am-12:30pm with Coach Melanie of Fit 'N Fierce of West Orange
- Line Dancing - April 8, 6pm-7pm with Coach Ashley of Fit 'N Fierce of West Orange
- Hip Hop - April 15, 11:30am-12:30pm with Coach Ezzy of Fit 'N Fierce of West Orange
- Broadway Cardio - April 22, 6pm-7pm with Instructor Andy of Studio K
- Musical Theatre - April 29, 6pm-7pm with Instructor Elise of Studio K



Tissue Paper Flowers
Southwest • Tuesday, April 14 • 4 p.m.
 Create colorful tissue paper flowers to top gifts or decorate a room. Recommended for ages 6-12.



19th Annual Southwest Author Series
Southwest Branch: Friday, April 24 • 7 p.m.
 Join us for the 19th Annual Southwest Author Series featuring Tess Gerritsen. This event is free and registration is required, as seating will be limited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. Author presentation begins at 7 p.m. with book signing to follow.

Check out OCLS Events

Grant Opportunities

ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

IMPORTANT DATES
 KEY DATES & UPCOMING VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

TUESDAY MARCH 24	Small-Scale Agencies CRPHS Face-to-Face Q&A Session REGISTRATION REQUIRED	TUESDAY APRIL 14	Innovation Program Determination
THURSDAY MARCH 26	CRPHS Fund Distribution Virtual Q&A Session REGISTRATION REQUIRED	TUESDAY APRIL 21	CRPHS Virtual Q&A Session (For Active Applicants) REGISTRATION REQUIRED
FRIDAY MARCH 27	CRPHS Fund Distribution Information Session (Live Virtual) REGISTRATION REQUIRED	MONDAY APRIL 27	Citizens' Review Panel for Human Services Proposals Submission Deadline
TUESDAY APRIL 07	Notice of Intent Deadline ONLINE SUBMISSION REQUIRED		

Have questions? Our office is here to help please contact us for more information.

407.836.7610 funding-crp@ocfl.net www.ocfl.net/crp

Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children has funding available for human & health local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

The Notice of Intent Deadline is next Tuesday, April 7th.

[Learn More Here!](#)

[Email Them Here!](#)



NOW ACCEPTING NONPROFIT APPLICATIONS

Last year, **Visit Orlando's Magical Dining**, presented by Orlando Health, donated \$398,307 to organizations advancing early childhood development and learning. **This year, they'd like to empower local nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving accessibility and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.**

Applications are open now through **Friday, April 17th.**

[Learn More Today!](#)

Lightning Round of Resources



Youth and Family Services Program
Free Mental Health Services For Youth!
The Youth and Family Services program provides mental health counseling, at no cost, to uninsured youths between the ages of 6 - 17 and their families who may be experiencing mental health struggles or in recovery from an acute mental health crisis. After completing an initial clinical screening, the team will work to create an individualized treatment plan which may include one-on-one therapy, medication management, expressive arts therapy group education, and/or other services.

We Connect You With:

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Medication Management
- Expressive Art Therapy
- Group Education for Parents/Guardians
- Group Education for Children/Adolescents
- Care Management



Contact us now for more information at infohmcaf.org or (407) 898-0110 Ext. 2
Sponsored by Central Florida Cares Health System, Inc. and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families

[Visit our Website](#)



Orange County Financial Empowerment Center
Free One-on-One Financial Counseling

Orange County FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Take Control of Your Finances

- FREE one-on-one financial counseling sessions with a certified financial counselor.
- Counseling sessions focus on budgeting, increasing savings, reducing debt, establishing and improving credit scores, and more!
- Sessions are held in person at easily accessible community centers in Orange County as well as virtually.

To learn more and make an appointment, visit HabitatOrlando.org/FEC or scan the QR Code



The Orange County Financial Empowerment Center is a partnership between Orange County Government and Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Central Florida. This no-cost public service is made possible through a generous grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund.

[Visit our Website](#)

Tildenville Food Giveaway

 **Saturday, 4/8 at 9 a.m.**

 **Tildenville Park**
202 Shongi Ave.

 **Distributing free ground beef, chicken, fresh produce and more – while supplies last!**



Brought to you by:



Come join us for the **Tildenville Food Giveaway, this Saturday at 9AM**, aimed at supporting local families in need. Fresh groceries and essential items will be available while supplies last. Everyone is welcome!



ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA
Arts and Cultural Affairs

12th
Annual Exhibition

SCULPTURE
ON THE LAWN
Call for Art
2027

Deadline: April 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT
Budget: \$5,000

Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs and the Public Art Review Board are pleased to invite artists to submit proposals for consideration in the 12th annual Sculpture on the Lawn exhibition. This outdoor exhibit will be displayed at the entrance of the Orange County Administration Center in downtown Orlando, Florida, offering high visibility to an estimated 10,000 visitors daily. Artists are encouraged to submit both existing works and conceptual proposals for this prominent public art opportunity.

[Learn More Here!](#)



Help The Region Move!

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS ON CENTRAL FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION

Survey respondents eligible to win a \$25 gift card drawing.
Los participantes pueden ingresar un sorteo de tarjeta de regalo de \$25.



Tell us what you think about technology, safety, public transit, and more.



Cuéntenos lo que piensas sobre el transporte, tecnología, seguridad, transporte público y más.

Take the survey online, by April 10 : bit.ly/transportationsurvey26

Take the Survey!



A huge thank you to Hope and her team for distributing warm meals and boxes of food to families in our community! Help

make events like this possible by [joining our D1 Difference Makers today!](#)

If you find our updates helpful, we invite you to forward this email to a friend or neighbor who may be interested, so they can stay connected too!

[Subscribe to Our Newsletter!](#)

As always, feel free to contact us!

✉: District1@ocfl.net

☎: (407) 836-7312

Orange County Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1 | 201 S. Rosalind Avenue 5th Floor | Orlando, FL
32801 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!