

WINTER GARDEN & WEST ORLANDO · FALL 2026

FALL GUIDE

A local's guide to Fall in West Orlando

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WELCOME

What fall *looks like* here

Every year I get the same question around this time: what is there to do here once fall settles in? The honest answer: way more than you'd think.

This is the list I send to friends, the mornings worth getting up for, the places I take people from out of town, and the few things we do every year without fail. Steal all of it.

If we haven't met yet, I'm Mike. I help people find home across West Orlando, with Winter Garden as home base, about 30 minutes from the magic.

FALL HERE MEANS

- Patio season finally starting
- The first morning under 70°
- Pumpkin patch weekends



Make the most of *the season*

Every year the season sneaks up the same way: one month you're still in summer mode, the next you're outside every weekend, and then suddenly it's the holidays.

September

HAPPENING:
Taste of Fall
Sept 26 | Downtown WG

WORTH EATING:
Hangry Bison
Downtown WG

GET OUTSIDE:
Nature Fest
Sept 26 | Oakland

October

HAPPENING:
Halloween Light Show
Oct 16–31 | City Hall

WORTH EATING:
Yellow Dog Eats
Gotha

GET OUTSIDE:
Pumpkin Glow Trail
Oct 23–24 | Oakland

November

HAPPENING:
Small Business Saturday
Nov 28 | Downtown WG

WORTH EATING:
Salt Shack on the Lake
Clermont

GET OUTSIDE:
Dazzling Nights
Nov 20 | Leu Gardens







ON THE CALENDAR

The first weeks of fall

Fall officially starts Sept 22. Here’s what’s on through Oct 11.

Footloose: The Musical

Sept 24–Oct 11. Garden Theatre season opener.

Taste of Fall

Sat Sept 26. Fall samples at downtown shops.

Nature Fest

Sat Sept 26, 9am–1pm. Oakland.

West Orange FFA Open Farm

Fri Oct 2, 5–8pm. Farm animals and tours.

Hamlin Pumpkin Patch

Sat Oct 3, 4–8pm. Music and a corn maze.

Southern Hill Farms Fall Festival

Opens Sept 26. Pumpkins and corn maze.

Horizon West Library Opening

Sat Oct 10, 10am. The new OCLS branch.

Stoneybrook West Fall Festival

Sat Oct 10, 2–10pm. Hayrides, music, food.



ON THE CALENDAR

Halloween season

Oct 12–31. The busiest, spookiest stretch of the year.

Halloween Light Show

Fri & Sat, Oct 16–31, 7–9pm. City Hall.

Downtown Scavenger Hunt

Oct 16–31. Grab a booklet at local shops.

Horizon West Pet Fest

Sat Oct 17, 9am–1pm. Hamlin green space.

Rocktoberfest in Celebration

Oct 16–18. Live music in Celebration.

Haunted Illusions

Thu Oct 22, 7pm. Magic at the Garden Theatre.

Pumpkin Glow Trail

Oct 23–24 after dark. Oakland Nature Preserve.

Ocoee Halloween Howl

Fri Oct 23, 6–9pm. Trunk-or-treat and rides.

Trick or Treat Trail

Sat Oct 31, 2–4pm. Downtown Winter Garden.



ON THE CALENDAR

November

Harvest festivals, Thanksgiving, and the first holiday lights.

Health & Harvest Festival

Sat Nov 7, 8am–1pm. Farmers Market.

Celebration Founders Day

Nov 7–8. The town's 30th birthday.

Flavor Fest Horizon West

Sat Nov 14, 5–9pm. Hamlin green space.

Craft Affair

Sat Nov 14, 10am–2pm. Handmade gifts.

Enchanted Tree Forest

Opens Nov 21. Victory Pointe, Clermont.

Dazzling Nights at Leu Gardens

Opens Nov 20. Light walk in Orlando.

Turkey Trot Weekend

Southern Hill Farms Nov 22. Lake Eola Nov 26.

Small Business Saturday

Sat Nov 28, 10am–9pm. Shop small downtown.



COMING UP

Early December

Fall hands off to the holidays fast. Save these dates now.

Light Up Winter Garden

Fri Dec 4, 6–9pm. Downtown tree lighting.

Winter Garden Christmas Parade

Sat Dec 5, 10am. Dillard St and Plant St.

Holiday Night Market

Sat Dec 5, 4–8pm. Downtown Pavilion.

Christmas Golf Cart Parade

Sat Dec 5, 6pm. Lights all over downtown.

Christmas at Hamlin

Sat Dec 5, 5–9pm. Tree lighting at 6pm.

Clermont Tree Lighting

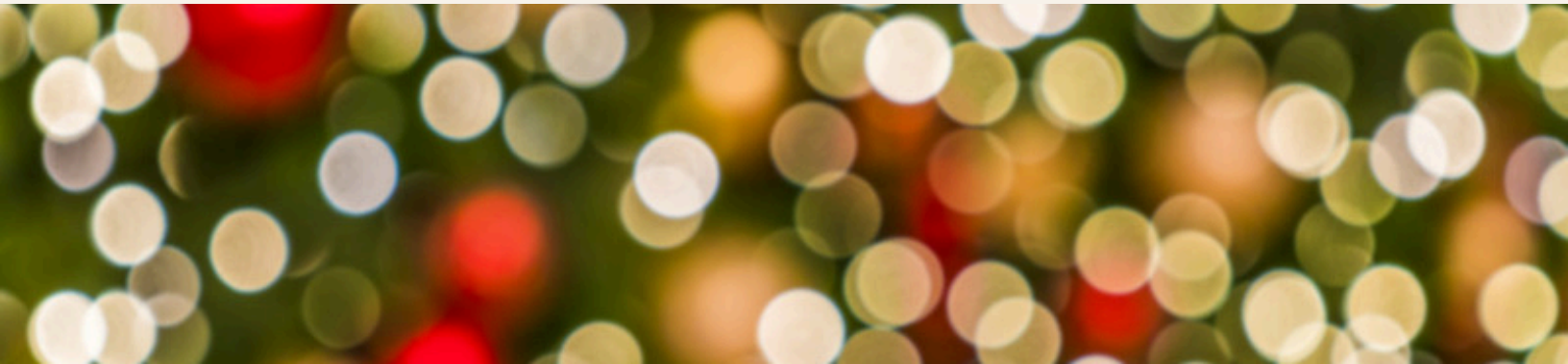
Fri Dec 4. City Hall Park, downtown Clermont.

Ocoee Jolly Jamboree

Sat Dec 12. Free tree lighting in Ocoee.

$5 Holiday Flix

Dec 15–29. Holiday classics, Garden Theatre.



WORTH THE TICKET

Theme parks, fall edition

The perk of living this close. Check park sites for exact nights.

Not-So-Scary Halloween Party

Magic Kingdom, select nights through Oct 31.

EPCOT Food and Wine Festival

Through Nov 21. Included with admission.

Halloween Horror Nights

Universal, select nights through Nov 1.

SeaWorld Spooktacular

Kids' trick-or-treat trail, through Nov 1.

Gatorland Halloween

Weekends Oct 10–25. Daytime, kid friendly.

LEGOLAND Brick-or-Treat

Select days through Oct 31. Winter Haven.

Very Merry Christmas Party

Magic Kingdom, select nights from Nov 8.

Holidays at Universal

Starts Nov 14. Grinchmas and the parade.



THE FEEL

Slow mornings

The best mornings here don't have a plan. Coffee first, then wherever the rest of the day goes.



COFFEE

Prairie House Coffee

Historic house on Tubb Street in Oakland.

BAKERY

Rosallie Le French Café

That pastry case on Plant Street. Go early.

BREAKFAST

The French Café

My Hamlin go-to. The latte art alone is worth it.

QUIET SPOT

West Orange Trail

An early walk before the rest of town is up.

THE FEEL

Outside

The whole point of this season is ending up outside for longer than you meant to.



TRAIL OR WALK

Oakland Nature Preserve

Boardwalk out to Lake Apopka. Shady and free.

PARK

Tucker Ranch

Winter Garden’s newest park opens Oct 23.

LOOKOUT

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

Gators, birds, big skies. Fri–Sun, 7am–3pm.

BEST PATIO

Crooked Can Brewing

Plant Street Market patio on the first cool night.

THE FEEL

With the kids

Weekends go easier when you already know where you're going. These are the reliable ones.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Southern Hill Farms

Fall Festival Fri–Sun through Nov 22.

TREAT STOP

Scoops Ice Cream

The downtown reward after the Farmers Market.

PARK

Newton Park

Lake Apopka views and room to run.

DOG FRIENDLY

Horizon West Pet Fest

Oct 17 at Hamlin. Adoptions and pup contests.

THE FEEL

After dark

Evenings get better this time of year. Here is where I'd spend one if I had it free.



DINNER

Agave Azul

Windermere. Margaritas on a cool night.

DRINKS

Home State Brewing

Hamlin’s hangout. A cold one, no rush.

DESSERT

David Ramirez Chocolates

Downtown WG. You’ll go back for a second.

LIVE MUSIC

Fridays on the Plaza

Free music downtown, Fridays 7–9pm.

THE FEEL

When people visit

When someone is in town for a weekend, this is the short list I actually hand them.



FIRST STOP

Plant Street

Walk downtown end to end. Saturday if you can.

THE ONE MEAL

Hangry Bison

The downtown burger I send everyone to.

THE VIEW

Magic Kingdom Fireworks

Seen from plenty of West Orange backyards.

ONLY HERE

Garden Theatre

Historic Plant Street stage. Catch a $5 flick.

EVERY YEAR

Traditions

The things locals look forward to every season.

Light Up Winter Garden

The downtown tree lighting. Dec 4 this year.

Halloween Light Show

City Hall lights set to music, Fri & Sat nights.

Williams Holiday House

Halloween and Christmas displays since 1977.

$5 Halloween Flix

October Tuesdays at the Garden Theatre.

Apple Cider Donuts

Warm from Southern Hill Farms. Get two.

Winter Garden Farmers Market

Every Saturday downtown, 8am–1pm.

Thanksgiving from 4 Rivers

Pre-order the sides and pies. No dishes.

Winter Garden Christmas Parade

Saturday morning on Plant Street. Dec 5.



DON’T MISS THESE

The *Fall* bucket list

- [ ] First patio dinner on Plant Street
- [ ] Pick a pumpkin at Southern Hill Farms
- [ ] A Saturday at the Farmers Market
- [ ] A $5 flick at the Garden Theatre
- [ ] The Halloween Light Show at City Hall
- [ ] Bike the West Orange Trail
- [ ] Watch Disney fireworks from your backyard
- [ ] Get lost in a corn maze
- [ ] Watch the sunset over Lake Apopka
- [ ] Dinner on the water at Salt Shack
- [ ] Spend a Saturday in Mount Dora
- [ ] Shop local makers at the Homegrown Market
- [ ] Walk Celebration when it “snows”
- [ ] Cider donuts at Southern Hill Farms
- [ ] Walk through the Williams Holiday House
- [ ] Free music at Fridays on the Plaza
- [ ] Shop Small Business Saturday downtown



YOUR FALL HOME CHECKLIST

Ten Things, *One Weekend*

- [ ] Clear the gutters
- [ ] Flush the water heater
- [ ] Fresh smoke detector batteries
- [ ] Clean the dryer vent
- [ ] Pour vinegar in the AC drain line
- [ ] Swap the HVAC filter
- [ ] Check the weather stripping
- [ ] Switch sprinklers to winter hours
- [ ] Walk the roof line
- [ ] Test the garage door sensors

WHERE I'D SHOP

Locally owned spots for the supplies. Need a pro? Ask me.

HARDWARE

Toole's Ace Hardware
500 S Dillard St, Winter Garden

PAINT

Florida Paints
78 3rd St, Winter Garden

PLANTS

Royal Landscape Nursery
Family-owned since 1996

LAWN AND GARDEN

Winter Garden Feed & Seed
12403 W Colonial Dr, Windermere



Need a different vendor referral or recommendation?
Painter, handyman, or the right trade pro? Tell me the project and I'll connect you.

WORTH THE DRIVE

Weekend trips

Mount Dora

DRIVE TIME	About 45 minutes
KNOWN FOR	Antiques, lake views, fall festivals
WORTH THE STOP	Pisces Rising for dinner

Celebration

DRIVE TIME	About 30 minutes
KNOWN FOR	Nightly "snow" starting Nov 28
WORTH THE STOP	Celebration Tavern

Cocoa Beach

DRIVE TIME	About 1 hour 15 minutes
KNOWN FOR	Closest beach day, plus launches
WORTH THE STOP	Port Canaveral to watch ships sail out



ABOUT ME



Hey there, I'm Mike

ORLANDO REALTOR®

Before real estate I spent 25 years in HR, so I'm good with people and hard to rattle in a negotiation.

If this guide helped, send me a message. I'd love to hear what you'd add to it!

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Let's talk

Thinking about a move before the year turns? Start here.

CALL OR TEXT ME