

APRIL 2023

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HOLLIS GARDEN

...in Polk County

CENTRAL FLORIDA'S WELCOME CENTER
101 ADVENTURE COURT | DAVENPORT, FL 33837
(863) 420-2586 | VISITCENTRALFLORIDA.ORG

WELCOME CENTER



April 6, 13 | 9AM-2PM

Market at the Welcome Center

101 Adventure Ct. Davenport

Featuring a variety of vendors offering jewelry, boiled peanuts, handmade crafts, local produce and more.



April 8 | 9AM-Noon
EASTER EGG HUNT

101 Adventure Ct. Davenport
Hunts every hour and children will be split into age groups, every 20 minutes. Kid-friendly activities and giveaways. Vendors on site. FREE!

The Welcome Center will be Closed on
Sunday, April 9, 2023.

FESTIVALS & EXPOS

Mar 28 – Apr 2

SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo

Sun 'N Fun Expo Campus- 4175 Medulla Rd. Lakeland
Its 49th year in 2023 and we are excited about this highly anticipated spring event. Florida's largest event and the second largest airshow in the country.

Apr 15 | 11AM

Auburndale CityFest

2701 Lake Myrtle Park Rd. Auburndale

Join us for a spectacular day filled with fun activities for the whole family! Enjoy food and games, catch a water ski event at the new watersport lake, and live music. FREE

Apr 21-23 | 10AM

Earthfest 2023

2505 West Bella Vista St. Lakeland

Celebrate Earth's birthday with Live Bands, Live Art Performances, variety of vendors, and artists from all over Central Florida. \$40

Apr 22 | 10AM

2nd Annual Central Florida Food Forest Festival

at Scars Farm | 777 Alturas Rd. Bartow

Get your plants and much more at Scars Farm.

Free Admission. \$10 parking per car.

Apr 22 | 10AM

PrehistoriCon 2023

118 NW 1st Ave. Mulberry

This is a (free) outdoor event featuring Steampunk, gemstones, fossils, live entertainment, vendors, food trucks that is happening in downtown Mulberry Florida.

CAR

Apr 15 | 5PM

Lakeland Cruise Night

955 E Memorial Blvd. Lakeland

Modern cars welcome, no loud music, family oriented, respect others and their property.

Apr 22

Auburndale Speedway

5640 St. Rd. 542 W, Winter Haven

Super Late Model Twin 50's, Mod Mini, Crown.

Grandstands open at 5pm. Pits open at 2pm. \$15

SPORTS

Apr 2 | 2PM

Florida Tropics

RP Funding Center- 701 W. Lime St. Lakeland

Indoor soccer game with a professional soccer club.

Apr 11-16, 25-30

Lakeland Flying Tigers

Publix Field at Joker Marchant Stadium at Tigertown-

2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd. Lakeland

The Detroit Tigers' Class A Affiliate baseball team

Apr 28 | 5:30PM

Swan Derby

Lake Mirror- 121 S. Lake Ave. Lakeland

Annual "Derby Style" event with the entertaining flair of the event and the competitive spirit of the race.

Apr 29 | 8AM

All American Ski Tournament

MLK Jr. Park- 300 Ave M NW. Winter Haven

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs for seating. Free!

Now- April 2

Orphans

Haines City Community Theatre - 303 Ledwith Ave.
Haines City | A comedic drama about survival. When you don't have a father, you reach out to a stranger. When you can't find a stranger, you kidnap one!

Apr 1 | 8PM

The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens

The GEM Theater- 118 NW 1st Ave. Mulberry
Ever want to commit a murder? Walter, the playwright's alter ego in this madcap mystery, demonstrates just how to do someone in – in your imagination, of course! After introducing the audience to tyrannical millionaire Edward Worthington.

Apr 6-8 & 13-15

The Pandemonium Café- A New World Cabaret

Polk State College Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre- 999 Ave H NE Winter Haven
In 2023, the new Pandemonium Café endeavors to take us into the future of new songs, dancing and acting.

Apr 7-16

Moon Over Buffalo

Branscomb Auditorium- 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr. Lakeland | In the farce, a couple of touring actors in 1953 Buffalo, N.Y., find themselves in a predicament when the wife, Charlotte, finds her dream of becoming a Hollywood film star about to come true when both she and her husband get a shot at starring roles in big-screen epic film "The Scarlet Pimpernel.

Apr 9

Little Shop of Horrors

Theatre Winter Haven- 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven | The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it.

Apr. 14-23

The Sweet Delilah Swim Club

Lakeland Community Theatre- 121 S. Lake Ave. Lakeland | Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids, and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage, the "Sweet Delilah" on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh, and meddle in each other's lives.

Apr. 14-30 | 7:30PM

BINGO: The Winning Musical

Lake Wales Little Theatre- 411 N 3rd St. Lake Wales
Audiences will be laughing in the aisles when they aren't playing games of bingo along with the cast. www.lwlt.org

Apr 21 & 23 | 7:30PM

The Elixir of Love by FSC Opera & Orchestra

Branscomb Auditorium- 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr. Lakeland | FSC Opera Theatre and Orchestra present the elegantly charming comedy. A story of innocent love between a naïve Nemorino who hopes to gain the love of Adina through love potion. \$20

Apr 21&22 | 6PM

Aristocats Kids - The Penguin Project

Theatre Winter Haven- 210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven | In the heart of Paris, a kind and eccentric millionaire's wills her entire estate to Duchess, her high-society cat, and her three little kittens. Laughs and adventure ensue as the greedy.



MUSIC

Apr 1 | 6PM

The Sensational Music of Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock

Lake Wales Arts Council- 1099 Hwy. 60 E. Lake Wales | The Lake Wales Jazz Connection returns with piano player Zach Bartholomew bringing the best of Chick Corea's* fusion of avant-garde and Latin jazz combined with the inspiration of Herbie Hancock*. Get ready for a high-energy night! Led by drummer Paul Gavin.

Apr. 1 | 7:30PM

Jenkins Symphony Series: Music at the Movies

Polk Theatre- 121 S Florida Ave. Lakeland
You will hear songs from the movies performed by the Lakeland Symphony. Catch me if you can. Star Wars Medley and more.. \$21-49

Apr 5 | 7:30PM

The Spirit of Spring

Branscomb Auditorium- 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr. Lakeland | Join the FSC Symphony Band as we celebrate the spirit that keeps us moving musically forward. \$10

Apr 11 | 7:30PM

Out of Depths

Branscomb Auditorium- 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr Lakeland | An evening of choral music that takes us out of the depths of sorrow onto the path of hope. \$10

Apr 13 | 7PM

Lakeland Symphony Orchestra String Quartet:

Seen/Unseen: The Photographs of Imogen Cunningham

Polk Museum of Art- 800 E. Palmetto St. Lakeland
Explore the endless repertoire of the strings with the LSO String Quartet! Each performance will feature some of chamber music's most exciting and challenging string quartet compositions \$49

Apr 15 | 6PM

Divas of the 70's and 80's Dance Party

Balmoral Resort- 116 Kenny Blvd. Haines City | Music's top female artists from the 70s and the 80s. Tickets: \$50

Apr 15 | 7PM

Styx Tribute Band - Smokin' the Boston/Renegade

The Ritz Theatre- 263 W Central Ave. Winter Haven
Enjoy and evening of soaring vocals and amazing guitar jams with the original sounds of Boston and Styx performed by Smokin' the Boston & Renegade. \$25

Apr 16 | 1:45PM

Lakeland Concert Band- Spring Concert

Branscomb Auditorium- 111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr. Lakeland | We are an all-volunteer band with musicians of all ages, from teens to 90s.

Apr 20 | 5PM

Midnight at the Masquerade Murder Mystery Dinner Show

Balmoral Resort- 116 Kenny Blvd. Haines City
Unmasking the killer may be challenging, with a mystery under each feathery facade. It's up to you to determine which partygoer is guilty, bring this crime to justice, and save the party! \$45

Apr 21 | 7PM

Concert Under the Stars: The SteelDrivers

Bok Tower Gardens- 1156 Tower Blvd. Lake Wales
Direct from Nashville, Grammy Award-winners, The SteelDrivers are one of modern bluegrass biggest musical talents. Registration required

Apr. 21 | 6PM

Friday Night Live

Munn Park- 210 E Main St. Lakeland
Enjoy live music in Downtown Lakeland. Bring a chair.

Apr 22 | 7PM

Garth Brooks Tribute Band

The Ritz Theatre- 263 W Central Ave. Winter Haven
Experience the high-energy & southern classics performed by this amazing national touring tribute band. \$25

Apr 23 | 2:30PM

Bartow Adult Concert Band Concert

Bartow Civic Center- 2250 S Floral Ave. Bartow | FREE

Apr 24 | 7PM

Polk State Music Dept: Percussion Ensemble Concert

Polk State College Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre- 999 Ave H NE, Winter Haven | Cost: \$5

Apr 27 | 7PM

Polk State Music Dept: Spring Music Festival

Polk State College Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre- 999 Ave. H NE, Winter Haven | Cost: \$7

Apr 28 | 7PM

Concert under the Stars: The Travelin' McCoury's

Bok Tower Gardens: 1156 Tower Blvd. Lake Wales
The McCoury brothers- Ronnie (mandolin) and Rob (banjo) – were born into the bluegrass tradition. Talk about a source abundant and pure. Registration required.

Apr 30 | 3PM

Polk State Music Dept: Symphony Guild Scholarship Concert

Polk State College Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre- 999 Ave. H NE, Winter Haven



U-PICKS

PEACHES

Ridge Island Groves

Opens: May 6 for U-Pick Peaches.

Location: 6000 Polk City Road, Haines City

Tree-O Groves

Opens: TBD

Location: 140 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Lake Alfred

AAA Peaches

Opens: TBD

Location: 4750 Clubhouse Road, Lakeland

Hilltop Peaches

Opens: TBD

Location: 7455 Cox Road, Bartow

Oponay Farms

Opens: TBD

Location: 5015 Hancock Lake Road, Lakeland

Thayer Farms

Opens: TBD

Location: 5600 Lake Trask Road, Dundee

BLUEBERRIES

Whitehead's Blueberry Farm

Opens: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 this year

Location: 1024 Macon Road, Winter Haven

Lonesome Oak Blueberry Farm

Opens: Thursday, March 23, 2023

Location: 2851 Thornhill Road, Winter Haven

S & S Micro Farm

Opens: in early April this year

Location: 8451 Sinkhole Road, Bartow

Oponay Farms

Opens: TBD

Locations: 5129 Hancock Lake Road, Lakeland

James Farm Blueberries

Opens: TBD

Location: 1894 EF Griffin Road, Bartow

Whispering Hearts Family Farm

Opens: TBD

Location: 15530 Brahma Rd, Polk City

True Blue Winery & Blueberry Picking

Opens: March 30, 2023

Location: 604 Pink Apartment Road, Davenport

The Berry Patch

Opens: TBD

Location: 4400 Walker Lake Road, Bartow

Parish Family Farm

Opens: TBD

Location: 100 Mitchell Road, Eagle Lake

Ridge Island Groves

Opens: TBD for Blueberries, Other crops available

Location: 6000 Polk City Road, Haines City

Thomas Farms

OPens: TBD

Location: 2035 Gerber Dairy Rd Winter Haven

Thayer Farms

Opens: TBD

Location: 5600 Lake Trask Road, Dundee

Please check times and dates on websites and Facebook pages prior to arriving.



FEATURED

Tues-Sun | 10AM-6PM

Hollis Garden

702 E Orange St, Lakeland

This botanical display garden set in a neo-classical architectural environment is home to more than 10,000 flowers & ornamental shrubs, shade trees and a Grand Staircase.



SEASONAL

Apr 1, 2, 8, 9 | 10AM-4PM

Springtime Farms Easter Festival

18150 Commonwealth Ave. Polk City

Over 200 barnyard animals that you can hold touch and feed. 70 Ft Jumping Pillows, Inflatable Slides, Bounce House, Carnival Games, a Scavenger Hunt and more. \$14

Apr 1 | 9AM

Easter Egg Hunt

Winter Haven Kiwanis- 301 Ave. C NE, Winter Haven

This event is open to all and free. We will have a variety of games and activities for the kids.

Apr 1 | 10AM

Bartow Ford Easter Egg Hunt

Bartow Ford, 2800 US Hwy. 98 N, Bartow

Bartow Ford invites you to the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st from 10am – 1pm for ages 12 and under. We will have an Easter egg, hunt, food vendors, inflatable obstacle courses, face painting.

Apr 8 | 9AM

City of Davenport Easter Egg Hunt

Lewis Mathews Sports Complex- 400 E. Palm St.

Davenport | There will be age-based hunts along with giveaways. FREE

Apr 8 | 10AM

Easter Egg Hunt

Lake Kissimmee State Park- 14248 Camp Mack Rd.

Lake Wales | At 10AM meet the Easter Bunny and play games. At 11AM a grand 1500 Egg Hunt will begin. Age groups will be divided. Park entry fee required.

Apr 8 | 10AM

Easter Egg Hunt

2401 E. Johnson Ave. Haines City

10,000 eggs will be spread across four baseball fields for children to hunt. All children ages 2-10 are welcome.

Apr 9 | 7AM

Easter Sunrise Service at Bok Tower Gardens

1156 Tower Blvd Lake Wales | Experience the traditional

Easter morning sunrise worship service atop iron

mountain. Free Admission until 8AM.



MARKETS & CRAFTS

Apr 1 | 10AM

Spring Fling Hop & Shop

100 E Main St. Bartow

Crafts, Jewelry, Plants, Live Plants, Music, Food, Car Show and visit with the Easter Bunny. Free

Apr 1 | 11AM

Bandit Market

The Ritz Theater- 263 W Central Ave. Winter Haven

Join us as we host this funky, alternative market full of Central Florida vendors with vintage and unexpected and amazing items for your home and more. Free.

Apr 8 | 5PM-8PM

Buena Market

4000 Bonnet Springs Blvd. Lakeland

Find 50+ makers, artists, and vintage pop-ups on the Family Lawn at the beautiful Bonnet Springs. Free

The Market at the Welcome Center: Every Thursday

at the Welcome Center, Davenport | 9:00AM-2:00PM

Lake Wales Third Thursday Market: Every third

Thursday in Downtown Lake Wales | 4:00PM-7:00PM

Bartow Antique Market: Every second Saturday in

Downtown Bartow | 8:00AM-1:00PM

Winter Haven Farmers Market: Every Saturday in

Downtown Winter Haven | 8:30AM-11AM

Lakeland Farmers' Curb Market: Every Saturday in

Munn Park, Downtown Lakeland | 8:30AM-1:00PM

Lake Wales Downtown Farmers Market: Every

second and fourth Saturday | 9:00AM-1:00PM

International Market World: Every Friday-Sunday in

Auburndale | 8:00AM-4:00PM

Artisan Market: Every second Sunday at Lakeside

Village, Lakeland | 12PM-5PM

Moonlight Market at Grove Roots Brewing Co.:

Winter Haven | 6:00PM | Check site for dates

Brew Hub Night Market: Lakeland | (Monthly, check site for dates) | 6:00PM

Buena Market: Lakeland pop up market | Check site for more information

Now-Apr 11

Florida's Got the Blues

Lake Wales History Center- 325 S Scenic Hwy. Lake Wales | Exhibit featuring Florida's long blues tradition. \$5

Now - May 6

"Postcards from Florida" Exhibition

Lake Wales Art Center- 1099 E State Rd. 60 E, Lake Wales | The exhibition will feature artwork made by Lake Wales Arts Council Members and is inspired by our love for the different perspectives of what it means to be a Floridian - and what we want others to appreciate about the Sunshine State.

Apr 1 | 11AM

Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

Polk County History Center- 100 E. Main St. Bartow
The Polk History Center's curator of education gives a walking tour of the historic Oak Hill Cemetery. Free.

Apr 1, 15

Docent-Led Tours

Polk Museum of Art- 800 Palmetto St. Lakeland
Get a fresh look into the Museum's featured exhibition through an informative and engaging conversation with one of our passionate docents. Please Register online

Apr 6 | 4PM-8PM

After Hours at the Museum

Polk Museum of Art- 800 Palmetto St. Lakeland
Executive Director and Chief Curator, will host a Curator Tour at 6 pm, providing in-depth art-historical and curatorial insight into one of our current exhibitions.

Apr 8 - Jul 15

Seen/Unseen: The Photographs of Imogen Cunningham

Polk Museum of Art- 800 Palmetto St. Lakeland
We excited to welcome the work of one of the most celebrated photographers in the history of art. The new exhibit features 60 photographs.

Apr 15 | 10AM

863 Art Festival

469 W Central Ave. Winter Haven | Community event, family/pet-friendly! More than 100 vendors with fine arts & crafts, food trucks, live music, and much more! Free

Apr 15 | 7PM

Night at the Museum- A night for Grown-ups to play at the Florida Children's museum. (Adult Only!)

Florida Children's Museum- 600 Bonnet Springs Blvd. Lakeland | Play like a kid again when grown-ups take over the exhibits for one night only. Enjoy grown-up drinks, small plates, and sweets with special music and games throughout the night.

Apr 18 | 11AM

Polk History Center Architectural Tour

Polk County History Center- 100 E Main St. Bartow
Explore the Polk County History Center during a family friendly architectural tour and learn more about Neo-Classical architecture, the construction of the iconic Old Polk County Courthouse. Register in advance.

Apr 20 | 5PM

Polk Museum at Night

Polk Museum of Art- 800 Palmetto St. Lakeland
Exclusive access to Seen and Unseen: Photographs, Music, Drinks by Cob n Pen. Tickets required.



HOLLIS GARDEN



FOOD

Apr. 1 | 7PM

Beer, Spirits, and Ghost Walking Tour

220 Avenue A NW. Winter Haven
Enjoy beer, spirits, and spooky stories on this haunted ghost walking tour in downtown Winter Haven. Must be 21 and older with I.D.

Apr. 18 | 4:30PM

Tasty Tuesdays

210 E Main St. Lakeland
Soak up the atmosphere on a fun evening in Downtown Lakeland. You will get hearty sample sizes with each ticket and move from place to place at your own pace! \$25



COMEDY

Apr 14 | 7PM

Out of the Box Improv Show

The Ritz Theatre- 263 W Central Ave. Winter Haven
Join us for this laugh-out-loud, audience participation comedy event featuring Out of the Box improv group - a cast of talented young actors create 'slice of life' theatre based on the audience's script scenarios. \$10



FAMILY FUN

Apr 8 | 10:00AM

Nature Narrator

4000 Bonnet Springs Blvd. Lakeland
Join us for an outdoor story time at Bonnet Springs Park. We will begin with a narrated story at 10am followed by a related activity or craft.

Apr.15 | 5PM

Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show

MLK Jr. Park- 300 Ave. M NW, Winter Haven
Watch a FREE ski show. Be sure to bring a blanket or lawn chairs for seating.

Apr 22 | 10AM

Free Circus Show at International Market World

1052 US-92, Auburndale
Enjoy free circus performance every weekend at 1pm
circus performance is located in the I building.



REOCCURRING EVENTS

TUESDAYS

Trivia Tuesdays: Grove Roots Brewing Co. Winter Haven | 6:30PM- 8:00PM | Every Tuesday
Tasty Tuesdays: Downtown Lakeland | 4:30PM- 9:00PM | Each month.

THURSDAYS

After Hours at the Museum & Curator Tour: Polk Museum of Art | 4PM-8PM | The museum hosts a curator tour | Every first Thursday

FRIDAYS

First Fridays: Munn Park, Lakeland | 6:00PM-9:00PM | The first Friday of the month
Point of View Gallery Talk: Polk Museum of Art | 12PM-1PM | An expert gives an in-depth overview of one of the current exhibitions. | Every second Friday
Bartow Friday Fest: Downtown Bartow Main St. | 6PM-9PM | Every third Friday

SATURDAYS

Saturday Night Rodeo: Westgate River Ranch Lake Wales | 7:30PM | Every Saturday
Docent Led Tours: Polk Museum of Art: | 11AM-12PM | Get a fresh look into the museum's featured exhibition through informative and engaging conversation with a docent. Registration is required. | Every first & third Saturday
Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team Show: Lake Silver, Winter Haven | 4:00PM | Every third Saturday
Lake Wales History Bus Tour: Lake Wales History Museum | 10AM | 90 Minute Tour | Reservations Required | Every first Saturday
Downtown Lake Wales History Walking Tour: Lake Wales History Museum | 10AM | 90 Minute Tour | Reservations Required | Every third Saturday
History Center Architectural Tour: Polk County History Center | 11AM | Learn about neoclassical architecture, the construction of the building and stories behind the iconic Old Polk County Courthouse. | Every third Saturday
Oak Hill Cemetery Tour: Polk County History Center | 11AM | walking tour of the cemetery, awash with the memory of Polk pioneers beneath a canopy of live oak trees. | Every first Saturday
Family Nature Walks: Bonnet Springs Park | 9:30AM | Mile long guided hike. | Every first Saturday
Nature Narrator: Bonnet Springs Park | 10AM | Outdoor story time | Every second Saturday