

# LAKE NONA'S TOP 21 IN 2021



In 2021, Lake Nona welcomed new businesses and families to our neighborhood, celebrated our hometown world-class athletes, met the first babies born in Lake Nona, marveled at new community artwork, rode autonomous shuttles to new destinations, spent the night the world's most tech-savvy hotel, made lasting memories during community events, and so much more.

As we look back on 2021, here are 21 of our favorite moments in Lake Nona:

**1. Disney brought even more magic to Central Florida.** The Walt Disney Company announced plans to [build a new regional campus in Lake Nona](#).

**2. Orlando's hospitality industry reached new heights.** The 17-story [Lake Nona Wave Hotel made its official debut](#) with the latest technology, unique dining concepts, and a dazzling collection of artwork.



**3. Local businesses leverage 5G.** [Verizon opened its new Lake Nona 5G Innovation Hub](#) where business owners can explore how 5G can impact their operations.

**4. Signature events brought the community together.** From [lakeside fireworks](#) to the [Run Nona 5K](#), the first-ever [Pineapple Festival](#), parachute performers on [Veterans Day](#), and visits with Santa at [Oh, What Fun!](#), Lake Nona events brought neighbors and visitors together for one-of-a-kind experiences.



**5. Innovative health care conversations went virtual.** The online [Lake Nona Impact Forum featured industry leaders](#) including Moderna Co-Founder and Chairperson Noubar Afeyan and Verizon Chairman and CEO Hans Vestberg.

**6. State-wide recognition for mobility innovation.** [Lake Nona was named the Florida Automated Vehicles \(FAV\) Summit Leadership and Innovation Award recipient](#) for excellence in advancing automated mobility technologies.

**7. Global professional services leader created new jobs.** [KPMG debuted its new Capability Center](#) that brought 350 new jobs to the region.

**8. The region's most advanced fitness center redefined the workout experience.** [The Lake Nona Performance Club opened](#) providing a tailored approach to whole-person health and unique programs with Limitless Minds and the Chopra Mind-Body Zone.



**9. Mobility pioneer covered new ground.** The Move Nona autonomous shuttle fleet, operated by Beep, added new routes. [Beep also moved into its high-tech headquarters in Lake Nona Town Center](#).

**10. Silicon Valley of the East Coast expanded resources for entrepreneurs.** [Lake Nona announced the \\$30 million Lake Nona Sports & Health Tech Fund](#) that invests in global seed-stage companies.

**11. National health care leader made a big move.** InnovaCare Health Inc., a trailblazer in integrated and value-based healthcare services, will [move its headquarters to Lake Nona Town Center creating 60 new, high-paying jobs](#).

**12. A new college tennis champion was crowned.** [College tennis stars from across the country competed](#) at the men's and women's NCAA Championships in spring 2021.

**13. New neighbors moved in.** Lake Nona welcomed residents to Isles of Lake Nona and [continued to break residential sales records](#) with more than 700 new families moving in.



**14. Going for gold.** There was more than one [familiar face from Lake Nona on Team USA during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics](#). Lake Nona resident and Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser brought his Team USA Beach Volleyball teammates to Lake Nona for a special exhibition match.

**15. High-tech meeting space and new hotel in the works.** Plans for [an all-new Aloft Hotel](#) will bring the hospitality industry's latest technology along with a 10,000-square-foot conference center and full-service restaurant to Lake Nona in fall 2023.

**16. Local ladies dominated the LPGA Tour.** The Lake Nona Golf & Country Club (LNGCC) welcomed [120 of the best female golfers for the 2021 Gainbridge LPGA Tournament](#). Among the LNGCC members who participated was Lake Nona resident Annika Sorenstam, who returned to the LPGA Tour for the first time since retiring 13 years ago.



**17. Expanding to the health care ecosystem.** The [UCF Lake Nona Medical Center](#) added a third dimension of care to Lake Nona's health and life sciences district with dedicated services for adults. The hospital's [state-of-the-art Family Birthing Unit](#) welcomed the first babies born in Lake Nona – twins Liam and Teddy.

**18. Suite new addition.** An [all-new SpringHill Suites opened](#) at Lake Nona Creekside on Bogy Creek Rd and Lake Nona Blvd.



**19. Cheers for five years of service.** From supporting entrepreneurs to convening top health care thought leaders, the [GuideWell Innovation Center has grown into a nationally-recognized epicenter of innovation and collaboration](#) since opening in 2016.

**20. Easy as 1-2-3.** Lake Nona's newest public school, [Village Park Elementary School, opened its doors to more than 800 students](#).

**21. The future of flight found a new home.** [SIMCOM Aviation Training broke ground on its global headquarters and training center](#) joining Lake Nona's expanding aviation ecosystem.