

## PASTOR LUIS DE JESUS: ON A MISSION FOR GOD!

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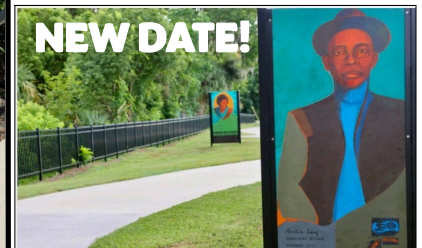
City of Ocala business offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day.

There will be no residential collection for sanitation, yard waste or recycling routes Monday, Sept. 2.

The SunTran bus system will be closed for operations Monday, Sept. 2. Regularly scheduled routes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Due to the holiday, residential sanitation collection and Waste Pro recycling collection regularly scheduled for Monday, Sept. 2, will experience a one-day delay.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Residential Sanitation



You are invited to celebrate the ribbon cutting for  
**Heritage Trail**

Tuesday, September 3, 9 a.m.  
Parking will be available at E.D. Croskey Recreation Center  
(1510 NW Fourth St.)  
(guests can walk to the trail site or ride a provided shuttle)

The Heritage Trail is a revitalization project created by the West Ocala Community Redevelopment Agency.

For more information, please contact:  
Rachel Fautsch  
RFautsch@ocalafl.gov  
352-629-8488





# TOWN *Talk* MAGAZINE

Sharing the good news happening  
in our community.

### Founders

Monica Bryant & Cynthia Wilson-Graham

### Editor

Monica Bryant

### Photography/Editor

Cynthia Wilson-Graham

### Contributors

Scott Hackmyer

Elgin Carelock

### Let's Talk

#### We want to hear from you:

Email your submissions, events,  
comments or questions to

**Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com.**

Please include contact information  
(name and phone number) on the  
submission. Deadline is the first  
Monday of each month for the  
following month's publication.

### Policy Statement

All submissions become the sole  
property of Town Talk Magazine.

The opinions expressed in this  
publication do not necessarily reflect  
the views of Town Talk. All articles,  
announcements and advertisements  
submitted are subject to refusal and  
editing at the editor's discretion.

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or Towntalkmagazine.org.**

## EDITOR'S DESK



So far so good!

Hurricane season started two months ago and although we've been blessed with no major damage or deaths, now is not the time to relax and be complacent. We still have three more months until the season ends.

The National Hurricane Center has predicted that the September 10, peak of the Atlantic hurricane season is quickly approaching, with most activity expected between mid-August and mid-October. How does that affect you and your family? If you haven't put together an emergency hurricane kit, do it now. Include essentials like water, medications, non-perishable food and first aid supplies. It's also a good idea to secure your home by trimming trees, reinforcing windows, doors and your roof. Make sure you develop a communication plan for your family and know where you can go if you have to evacuate. Don't wait until it's too late. Stay informed by signing up for Alert Marion at <https://alertmarion.com> to receive time-sensitive emergency alerts to your cell phone, home phone, business phones, email and/or text message.

Thankfully, no hurricane is predicted for the upcoming holiday weekend, although it is projected to be hot and rainy. Labor Day (September 2), which is always observed on the first Monday in September, marks the unofficial end of summer and the start of the fall season. The annual celebration recognizes the social and economic achievements of American workers. We hope you and your family have a safe holiday.

Check out the other exciting events happening throughout the month of September:

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, but **World Suicide Prevention Day** is on September 10. Find out what you can do to help organizations raise awareness about suicide prevention.

**Patriot Day** (9/11 Remembrance) is considered a crucial day of observance. The United States holds memorials and remembrance ceremonies to honor the fallen and first responders from the September 11, 2001 tragedy. (See page 9 for some local events).

The Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) will be honoring the rich cultural contributions of the Hispanic community, showcasing Hispanic businesses in Ocala with a **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration** on September 12, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ocala Downtown Market, 403 S.E. Osceola Ave.

**International Day of Peace**, which celebrates and builds peace (something we need more of, is September 21. Think of ways you can create peace in your family and in our community through real life activities. Share your ideas on social media at **#PeaceDayChallenge**.

Let's Talk!

*Monica Bryant*

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

### Subscribe with Us:

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Annual subscription (printed copy) via mail: \$50

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Ads are black and white and must be submitted in Jpeg or Pdf format and sent to [Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com).

Payments can be made via Cash App ([\\$Towntalkmarion](https://www.cash.app))

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## WHAT IS 988 DAY? NO JUDGMENT. JUST HELP!

With rising levels of anxiety, depression, emotional distress and overdose deaths, it is crucial that people have somewhere to turn when they're in crisis. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase. The 988 Lifeline, directly connects to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis. It was established to improve access to immediate support to meet the nation's growing mental health, suicide and substance use distress needs. It provides easy access to emotional distress care, which is distinct from 911, where the focus is on dispatching emergency medical services, fire and police as needed.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is asking individuals and organizations to use the #988day so they can build a media wall with all the community support.

On Sunday, September 8, help spread the message "No Judgment. Just Help." 988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and emphasizing the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. Use the hashtag #988day to share your activities and how you're promoting awareness of 988.

When someone contacts the 988 Lifeline, they do not have to say who they are or where they are to get support. The 988 Lifeline crisis counselor only knows the person's phone number if they call or text or their IP address if they use chat. No one is required to provide any personal information to receive help from the 988 Lifeline.

Simply calling, texting 988 or chatting [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org) will connect a person in crisis to compassionate care and support for any mental health or substance use-related distress. About 98% of people who call, chat or text the 988 Lifeline get the crisis support they need and do not require additional services at that moment. It is a key part of a broader vision for reimagined crisis care in the United States.


Visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/newsroom/988-day/toolkit> to access the **988 Day Digital Toolkit**, a comprehensive resource designed to support the observance of 988 Day on September 8.

### Urgent Realities

A person dies by suicide every 11 minutes

**In 2022:**

- The number of suicides was the highest number ever recorded in the U.S.
- Over 950,000 youth and 1.6 million adults attempted suicide.
- 12.3% of Asian youth  
12.6% of Latino youth  
12.2% of Black youth  
and 15.2% of multiracial youth had serious thoughts of suicide, made suicide plans or attempted suicide in the past year.
- Nearly 108,000 people died from a drug overdose.



**Mark Your Calendars for...**

**988 DAY**

**988 No Judgment. Just Help.**

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE #988Day

The toolkit's objective is to fire up the suicide prevention and mental health community around a central message and call to action to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. It includes a variety of assets and guidelines to help partners, grantees, crisis centers and community leaders effectively engage their audiences and amplify the message of "No Judgment. Just Help."

Through federal, state local and community partnerships, SAMHSA is working towards a vision where everyone has:

- Someone to talk to.**
- Someone to respond.**
- A safe place for help.**

E-mail questions about 988 to [988Team@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:988Team@samhsa.hhs.gov).

The **Community Spotlight** highlights a person, place or event in our community. Tell us what's happening around town so we can share your **Good News** with others. Email submissions to [Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com).

DIASPORA WHISPERS INC PRESENTS



# Amara's Adventures

## Book Signing Party

COME, MEET THE AUTHOR, RECEIVE A FREE SIGNED BOOK FOR EACH FAMILY AND ENJOY GAMES CRAFTS AND REFRESHMENTS.

**September 28th, 2024**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**MARY SUE RICH COMMUNITY CENTER AT REED PLACE**  
1821 NW 21st Ave, Ocala, FL 34475




www.dwhispersbooks.com

DIASPORA WHISPERS Ocala Recreation and Parks DIASPORA WHISPERS Ebooks DIASPORA WHISPERS Studios

Safety Workshop



For Elder Awareness  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-3:30pm  
Ocala Police Dept. Community Room



All are welcome to attend a free safety workshop on issues dealing with Scam Prevention, Dementia & Alzheimer's education and elder resources.




Topics Include:

- Scam Prevention- presented by: Elder Options Leslie Andrews
- Co responder team- Presented by: Dr. Kelley & Capt Hickman
- Dementia & Alzheimer's - Presented by: DJ Ryan
- Guardianship- Presented by: 5<sup>th</sup> District Public Guardian
- Programs & Services- Cindy Irving MCSO & Donna Guinn OPD

Please sign up through Eventbrite at the below link or call (352)369-7158 and ask to speak with a Victim Advocate.

[Safety Workshop for Elder Awareness](#)



MADE FOR TEACHERS PRESENTS THE...

# Chat & Chew FALL EDITION

**TEA PARTY**

**SATURDAY NOV. 9TH 1-3PM**

A CELEBRATORY EVENT DESIGNED TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR LOCAL EDUCATORS

**APPLETON MUSEUM**  
4333 E SILVER SPRINGS BLVD, OCALA, FL 34470

**\$50.00 PER PERSON**

**TEACHERS ARE FREE**

LIVE MUSIC-PRIZES-GAMES-HAT CONTEST-SWEET & SAVORY TREATS  
EVENTBRITE: CHAT & CHEW FALL EDITION TEA PARTY

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MADE FOR TEACHERS GRANT PROGRAM.  
AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.



# Volunteer ORIENTATION




Do you have a desire to be part of a group who is working together to make a difference in the lives of others?

Come experience the magical healing powers of the horse at Stirrups n Strides!

**Returning volunteers 8AM-12PM**  
**New Volunteers 10AM-12PM**  
**Please arrive approx 15 min early to complete paper work.**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

Leading, side walking, grooming, farm maintenance, fundraising, camps, horse shows, office help, interns and more.

- No experience necessary, we will train you!
- We could always use a maintenance, grounds keeper.
- Come make a difference in someone's life #giveback

352-286-2519 | www.stirrupsnstrides.com | 4246 W HWY 318, Citra, FL

You are invited to the  
**1st Annual Charity  
 Taste of The Town Fundraiser!**

Please join us on  
**Friday, September 13th at 5:00pm  
 at the Ocala Downtown Market**

A fun-filled night of delicious food and giving back to the community. Sample dishes from the best local restaurants while supporting a worthy organization. This in-person event is a great opportunity to connect with friends, enjoy wonderful food and drinks, and make a difference with affordable healthcare in the West Ocala area.

**Don't miss out on this chance to eat for a cause!**

**\$55 Pre-Event  
 \$60 at Door**



**FEATURING**



THE GATHERING CAFÉ  
 Great Coffee • Delicious Food • Good Company



819 Northwest 7th Street Ocala, Florida 34475  
 352-875-2226 (p) 352-389-1013 (f)  
[www.estellawellness.com](http://www.estellawellness.com)



GIRLS ON THE RISE  
FOUNDATION

# 1st ANNUAL GALA

*Girls on the Rise*



*Take The Runway*

FRIDAY, 18TH OF OCTOBER 2024  
at six o'clock til nine o'clock in the evening

Formal Attire

DIAMONDZ AND PEARLZ EVENT CENTER  
4875 SW 60TH Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34480

Purchase your gala tickets now!



Individual

or



Table

## FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK RETURNS SEPT. 6

The First Friday Art Walk returns to downtown Ocala on Friday, Sept. 6, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. First Friday Art Walk occurs on the first Friday of each month, September through May. Activities included in September's event:

- Hands-on art activities and demonstrations for all ages provided by local non-profit arts and cultural organizations.
- Local artists selling their works Downtown.
- Participating businesses with extended hours
- Buskers stationed throughout the downtown area, including *My Uncle's Friend* and *Sean T Music*.
- Live musical performance will return to the Downtown Square, featuring *Jeff Jarrett*.
- Intermission performance by *Sheila Ruotolo Dance Company*.

In the event of inclement weather, the First Friday Art Walk will be canceled.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Cultural Arts Division at (352) 629-8447 or [artinfo@ocalafl.gov](mailto:artinfo@ocalafl.gov); or visit [www.ocalafl.gov/artwalk](http://www.ocalafl.gov/artwalk).

## Estella Byrd Whitman

### Community Health Center

**HOSTS ITS 3RD QUARTER  
TOWNHALL MEETING**

819 NW 7TH ST.  
OCALA, FLORIDA  
34475

COME OUT AND BE HEARD!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER  
21, 2024 AT THE MARY  
SUE RICH COMMUNITY  
CENTER AT REED  
PLACE

1821 NW 21st Ave.  
Ocala, Florida 34475

10AM- 1130AM

YOUR HEALTHCARE CONCERNS ARE OUR PRIORITY! STOP BY AND  
SHARE THEM WITH THE TEAM. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.



[WWW.EBWCHC.ORG](http://WWW.EBWCHC.ORG)

352\*875\*2226

## AFTER SCHOOL VIRTUAL TUTORING AUG. 19 TO SEPT. 27

NEED HELP IN  
ELA OR MATH?  
LOG IN AND TALK TO A TEACHER ONLINE!

MCPS Online Tutoring  
Monday through Thursday evenings

Log in to your MCPS Desktop and click on the  
"Virtual Tutoring" icon. You'll be placed in line to  
enter a TEAMS chat with an MCPS teacher  
who can help.

Elementary tutors are available from 5-9 p.m.  
Secondary ELA and Math tutors are available  
from 6-10 p.m.

This is a FREE service for MCPS Students  
in 3rd to 12th Grade!

# PASTOR LUIS DE JESUS IS ON A MISSION FOR GOD! SO GET



In October 2009, a youth group passionate about God in New York City saw an Atheist advertisement campaign in their subway system, which stated: "A Million New Yorkers Are Good Without God. Are You?"

They were so stirred up by it that they went to their Youth Pastor who then went to his network of Youth Pastors/leaders to ask "What are we, as the body of Christ going to do about this?" According to <https://godbelongsinmycity.com/about-gbimc>, they prayed and decided to take action and have Youth Ministries from all around the five boroughs hold a prayer walk wearing a simple T-shirt, that stated "God Belongs in My City."

Less than two weeks later, on November 14, 2009, over 1,500 youth walked from North and South of Manhattan meeting at Times Square and Grand Central Station making a bold statement that made history in the city and now the nation. Will your city be next?

**Pastor Luis De Jesus** The answer was yes! After Pastor Luis De Jesus attended a Prayer Walk in Jacksonville, FL, he was motivated to start one in Ocala in 2012. More than 4,000 people participated. De Jesus held a walk every year until 2017. His son was killed a week later, during Labor Day weekend, in Reading, Pa. Tragedy struck again after his son's death when six more members of his family died.

"As a pastor, I did all the funerals, but there came a point in my life where I was filling the void of all my lost relatives and functioning as a pastor, but mentally, physically and spiritually was overwhelmed," he said.

It was too much for De Jesus, who has always stood in the gap and taken care of everyone else. The stress made him very sick, psoriasis plagued his body and his weight ballooned to 300 pounds, which led to Psoriatic Arthritis and cancer in his right kidney. He realized he needed help and moved back to New York in 2017.

De Jesus accepted Jesus as his Savior in 1993. He was 25 years old. Although he grew up in an unstable and abusive environment with drug-addicted parents, he said he was saved from the streets, drugs and alcohol addiction.

"It took me seven years to come back to Ocala and renew the prayer walk this time around and we are here to stay no matter what storms come our way," he said.

De Jesus is bringing back the God Belongs in My City Ocala Prayer Walk on Saturday, September 7. The 2.2 mile walk starts at the Veterans Memorial Park, 2625 E. Fort King St., at 8 a.m., and at 9 a.m., attendees start walking "As One" down the sidewalks on Silver Springs Blvd. (SR 40) to Citizen's Circle. The walk includes worship by Rooms Living, prayers by pastors and community leaders and ministry tables, which were added this year. Nearly 2,000 people are expected to attend this year.

"I feel that God is in our city, but there are also many issues that need to be addressed," De Jesus said. "We have the largest youth correctional facilities in the United States for ages 14 to 21, and no programs such as trades, biblical education and mentorship so they can excel as they come back to society."

God Belongs in Ocala was founded with a simple yet powerful vision: to bring people together in faith and create a sense of belonging in the community. It began with a small group of dedicated individuals who wanted to make a difference in Ocala through prayer and community service.



"Registration is not required, just show up with a humble heart and be ready to pray for our city," De Jesus said. "The biggest impact and difference that the prayer walk has done for Ocala is to wake up the community of believers to come together, putting aside denominational barriers and work as one for our community."

Cynthia Irving said it's been a long time since she participated in the prayer walk. She said she plans to attend this year because it was amazing to be surrounded by other believers.

"I want to spread the good news and the gospel to anyone who might see us walking," Irving said.

Continued on page 9



# READY FOR THE NEXT GOD BELONGS IN MY CITY PRAYER WALK

Continued from page 8



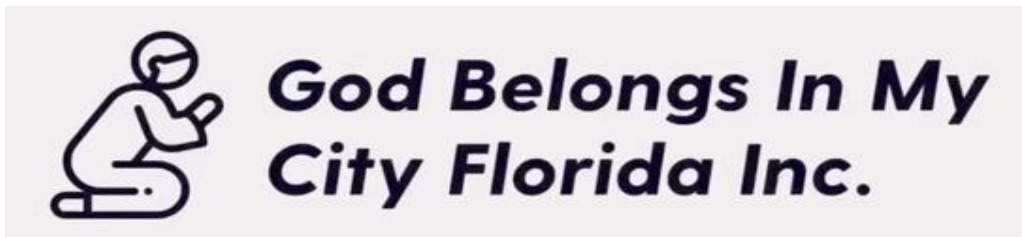
DeJesus, chairman of God Belongs In My City Florida Inc., said although the event is a national event, they incorporated it to cover the whole state of Florida with prayer walks. He said since he's been gone for seven years, support for the walk hasn't been the same.

They still need sponsors and would love for businesses on the walk route to donate sneakers, electronics and clothing for the youth. De Jesus said if he had a sponsor, he would give everyone a free T-shirt, but the income from the T-shirts helped him pay for the insurance, park permits and other expenses.

De Jesus said God Belongs in My City Florida Inc., has an account at TD Bank or donations can be made via Paypal, Zelle or Cash App.

Eventually, he wants to get everyone together and go to Tallahassee, but his long-term vision is to hold a prayer walk twice a year with activities for the whole family. De Jesus said visitors already come to Ocala to see what they're doing so they can do the same in their city.

"We want to open an Ocala Prayer Center to pray for the needs of our community and train others to establish prayer walks in other cities," he said. "I feel Ocala is the hub for spirituality and a beacon of hope for the whole state. We are the limelight of Florida."



"We used to call Ocala "Slowcala" and now it's GOCALA. God has definitely blessed us because we love God in Ocala," De Jesus said. "Unity in our community and we will prevail over crime, homelessness and other issues when we keep praying for our city."

Follow De Jesus on Facebook at Luis Raul De Jesus, God in Ocala Prayer Walkers Group, God in Ocala Walk event page or visit [Godinocala.org](http://Godinocala.org). For more information, to be a sponsor or make a donation, call (352) 613-4033 or (352) 613-2665 or email [Godbelongsinocala@gmail.com](mailto:Godbelongsinocala@gmail.com) or [Luisdejesus1227@gmail.com](mailto:Luisdejesus1227@gmail.com).



### Volunteers Needed For:

Water Team

Traffic Team

Set up at 7 a.m. at Citizen's Circle and the Veteran's Park

Break down Team at 3 p.m.

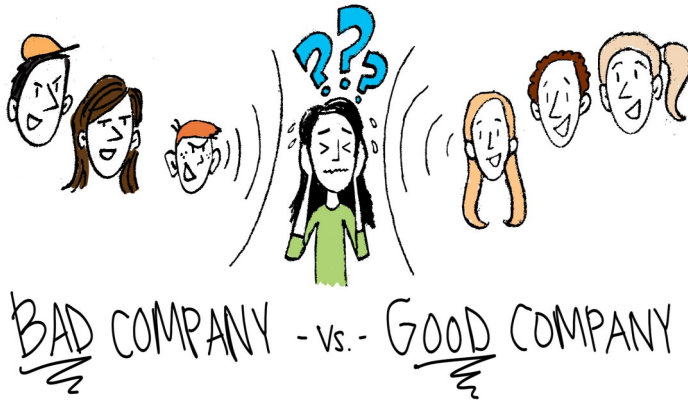
Youth, Women, Men and Family Prayer Teams

Conversion Team

Security

# THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

By Elgin Carelock, Chairman of the Greater Ocala Community Development Corporation



When we were children, our parents always told us to be careful who we hung around. Little did they know how right they were. While their intentions were to keep us from spending time with those who could potentially get us into trouble, their warnings had a much greater meaning on a psychological level.

The problem has less to do with the actual people you associate with and more with how our subconscious processes the input. Our subconscious mind runs 95% of what we do every day and is always looking to assimilate information. Unfortunately, our subconscious does not have filters regarding right or wrong it only produces

actions based on the information that went in.

Everything from what you watch on television, the music you listen to, or people who gain your attention gets deposited on your subconscious and it responds to every scenario based on the information it must draw from.

If you look at it from the perspective of a professional athlete, they must have a high level of skill, but it's the coaching that makes the difference when it comes to competing. If the coaching staff prepares them with consistent programming on a variety of scenarios, the players will not have to think through critical decisions but execute the plays that have been deposited in their subconscious.

So, what is the purpose of this article? As entrepreneurs we must constantly feed our subconscious with vision, purpose and affirmations that cause our every action to move in the direction of our ultimate goals. We must plant our vision and purpose so deep in our subconscious that we can see the future.

This is also true of those we associate with or have access to our minds. We must surround ourselves with people and activities that move our businesses forward. There is no room for those who tell us what we cannot achieve, how difficult it will be or offer advice for levels they have never reached. This is not being selfish or self-serving but creating an infallible impression on our subconscious that will allow us to move past internal and external challenges.

The strategy is to have our subconscious fed by input and strategies from a holistic balance of mind, body and business development. Use a combination of reading, podcasts, coaches and mentors to create an environment of continuous improvement and accountability. Constantly challenge activities that don't move your business forward and dedicate time everyday for personal and professional growth.

## WE RESTORE HOPE AND HELP REBUILD LIVES!



September 17 - September 18.

Help the Family Violence Prevention Workgroup continue providing emergency resources and services for victims and survivors of domestic violence in our community!

Scan the QR Code to donate  
and Make a Difference!





**R.A.M.A.L. Educational and Social Services, Inc.**

*presents*

## DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS WORKSHOP

Join our panel of experts to expand your knowledge and understanding of Dementia Caregiving

 **Thursday**  
**September 26, 2024**

 **9 to 11 am**

 **Hospice of Marion County, Inc.**  
**3231 SW 34th Avenue**  
**Ocala, FL 34474**

 **Call to register**  
**352-875-4237**







# SAVE-THE-DATE


## NIGHT OF HOPE

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
Dinner ~ Music ~ Giveaways ~ Survivor Testimonies ~ Vendors

### Keynote Speaker

**Pastor Michael Neely**  
Senior Pastor of New Millennium Community Church  
~ Domestic Violence Survivor ~  
Author of  
"Black Eyes and Sweet Talk."



 **Thursday, September 26, 2024**  
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
College of Central Florida,  
3001 S.W. College Rd., Ocala

**Tickets: \$40 per person**

FREE Childcare for children 2 years old or older.  
For information, sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, scan the QR Code or call Valerie at (352) 438-5990.

**Buy Tickets using the QR Code above or by visiting:**  
<https://bit.ly/NOH2024>

## Celebration of Survivors

# Fashion Show

**Date:**  
Sunday, October 6, 2024

**Location:**  
Exhibition Hall - Livestock Pavilion  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470

**Time:**  
Doors Open: 11:00am  
Lunch: 1:00pm Show: 2:00pm

**Win Prizes:** Raffles & 50/50

**Tickets**  
Advanced Purchase Only

**\$40.00 per Ticket** OR **\$350 for Table of 10**

**For Information or to Purchase Tickets:**  
Email: [aaywb.contact@gmail.com](mailto:aaywb.contact@gmail.com)  
Call/Text: 352-361-1540

**Hosted by:** 

All About You Angels, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. EIN#83-2492015/FL Registered Charity CH57334

## SHOW OUR SURVIVORS WE CARE

## SPONSOR A BASKET TO GIVE THEM

at our  
Annual Night of Hope  
honoring victims  
and survivors on  
September 26, 2024






Choose from one of our themes (Personal Pampering, Italian Dinner, Movie Night, Board Game, A Night Out, Gardening, Summer Time, Scrap Book/ Memories, Music, Healthy Living) or **Choose Your Own Theme**

Baskets or supplies can be dropped off at the Alliance Office, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475

**Deadline: Friday, September 20, 2024.**

 Scan the QR Code to purchase tickets to attend the event or for Sponsorship Opportunities

Call Valerie at (352) 438-5990 for more information.

# MONEY SMART TIPS

By Scott Hackmyer

## A BARGAIN IS ONLY GOOD IF YOU USE IT!



When looking to save money one place to examine is how many paid subscriptions or memberships you have. A neighbor of mine joined a gym and drove by it three times a week while doing errands. He never once went inside even though he paid that membership monthly for two and a half years. I like reading magazines so when I get a great offer, like \$10 or \$12 for the entire year, I sometimes sign up. Months later I realized I never read those magazines, even though I thought I wanted to, so it's money totally wasted. My favorite Money Expert, Clark Howard, shared a report from *Self Financial* which stated that 85.7% of streaming services subscriptions go unused every month with an average waste of money of \$32.84 per month. There is only so much television that you can watch and many of us have multiple streaming services. They make one interesting suggestion of switching services every month. Binge watch the shows you like that are only on one service then switch to another service to do the same thing. The leading cause for continuing to pay for services/subscriptions you don't want is automatic renewal. To prevent this, most services allow you to manage your account online and you can turn off the automatic renewal feature. Stop reading this article and do it right now so you don't forget!

Last week I had to do the somewhat painful task of shopping for new automobile and homeowners insurance. I have written before about how important it is to comparison shop and searching for new insurance truly reinforced this. When comparing the same exact coverage from three different name brand companies; it was shocking to discover that another company's quote was \$1,000 cheaper than my current company for a year and was \$2,000 less expensive than another well-known company, all three with the same coverage. I would tell you which company saved me money but everyone's situation is so unique with coverage you just need to make these calls yourself.

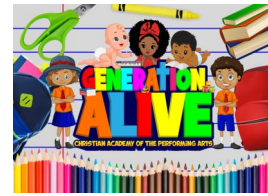


According to the *Kiplinger Retirement Report*, you should file an appeal if a Medicare Advantage Plan turns you down for medically necessary care. They looked at government statistics and found that 75% of the appeals were granted to those who applied. Well worth your time and effort. Medicare Advantage members only have 60 days from the date of the denial to file an appeal which will require a letter from your doctor explaining why you need the care. Follow all the directions on the denial notice and if you need help you can call the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs office at (877) 839-2675 or the Medicare Rights Center at (800) 333-4114. If you receive a surprise medical bill, you can contact the federal No Surprises Help Desk at (800) 985-3059 or submit a complaint online at [cms.gov/medical-bill-rights](https://cms.gov/medical-bill-rights).

I bought my first Christmas gift for 2024 last week. I was in a Hallmark store and they had a University of Alabama garden gnome for 50% off. I have a good friend who is a diehard Alabama fan and this will be the perfect gift for her. I'm not worried about buying this early as it isn't clothing or shoes where sizes might change between now and Christmas. I will continue to Christmas shop from now until Christmas so that I don't get that one huge bill for all my shopping at one time around New Year's. In addition to not getting that one big bill, it gives you more time to find just the perfect gift for everyone on your list and removes all of that last minute shopping stress.



# Business Spotlight



**Business Name:** Generation Alive Christian Academy of the Performing Arts, Inc.

**No. of Employees:** 4

**Business Owner:** Shide Weems

**Business Address:** 704 S.W. Broadway St.,  
Ocala, FL 34475

**Business Phone:** (352) 351-3222

**What Year Did You Start Your Business?** 2004

**Hours of Operation:** 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Products and/or Services:** K-12 Private School,  
Before and After School Care

**Email:** [Generationaliveca@gmail.com](mailto:Generationaliveca@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.generationaliveone.com](http://www.generationaliveone.com)

**Are you on Social Media?** Yes

**Facebook:** Generation Alive Christian Academy of the Performing Arts

**What or Who Inspired you to start your business?**

I was motivated by a desire to offer a unique educational experience that might not be available in public schools. This could include a specialized curriculum, a particular pedagogical approach, or a focus on values, culture or religion. Being able to provide commitment to smaller class sizes, individualized attention, or a specific mission, such as serving underrepresented communities has always been my goal. The drive to innovate in education, provide higher quality teaching, or create a community-centered learning environment that allows kids in our community to get the help they need from teachers and community volunteers that will pour love, dedication and support which will propel them to a greater future

**What Makes Your Business Unique or What's Your Specialty?**

Generation Alive Christian Academy of the Performing Arts offers an array of things that is befitting to this up-and-coming generation. For example, not only is our private school unique because it integrates faith-based education with academic learning, we also offer Performance, Drama, Dance, Sign Language, Home Economics and a loving environment where all children are welcome.

**What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting a Business?**

STAY CONSISTENT, AND KEEP GOD FIRST.

The **Small Business Profile** is **FREE** and open to small businesses located in Marion County with less than 25 employees or solo entrepreneurs.

To have your business featured in an upcoming edition, please request a form by emailing [Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com). Completed forms can be returned via email or mailed to P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478.

# FREE AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Certified Teachers for Grades 1st - 5th

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS  
FROM 4:30PM-5:30PM

HOWARD ACADEMY COMMUNITY CENTER  
306 NW 7TH Ave, Ocala, FL 34475



Contact:  
Dr. Barbara J. Brooks  
352-875-4237  
www.ramalservices.org



## NAACP 5114 MARION COUNTY BRANCH PREPARES FOR UPCOMING BRANCH ELECTIONS

Dear Member,

We have announced for several months that this is the year for election of officers for NAACP Branches across the country. Please note the following meetings of the NAACP Branch, for the purpose of election of officers and at-large members of the executive committee.

1. On Sunday, September 8, 2024, at Greater Hopewell MBC, 515 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Ocala, FL 34475, @ 5:00pm, there will be an election of the Nominating Committee (between 5-15 members). All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Committee (not more than 2 being officers of the unit).
2. On Sunday, October 13, 2024, at Mt Canaan MBC, 848 SE 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34472, @ 5:00pm, there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations by Petition and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of May 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year, who's memberships have remained continuous throughout the election process, and who live and/or work within the units jurisdiction, may be nominated for office or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition, or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.
3. On Sunday, November 10, 2024, at New St. John MBC, 2251 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ocala, FL 34475, @ 5:00pm, the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our electronic voting platform. Voting will open from 2:00pm to 6:00pm in order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election.

Should a run-off election be necessary that election shall occur within (10) days of the original election, via electronic voting platform for (at least 1 hour).

We look forward to your participating in these activities.

Sarah M. Greene, Branch Secretary

**FREE** Ocala-Marion Cty  
**Baby & Family EXPO**  
Sat, September 14th 10:00-2:00pm

- ✓ Programs & Resources • Giveaways • Free Activities
- ✓ Baby Bump Painting • Soft Play Zone • Balloon Twister
- ✓ Crafts • Ninja Obstacle Course • Dozens of Vendors
- ✓ Fun Classes & Demos • Games • Temporary Tattoos

Sponsored by **SLC HO** | **Pigtails & Crewcuts** | **PRIORITY PEDIATRICS**

Please RSVP at [bit.ly/OcalaFamily](https://bit.ly/OcalaFamily)

**PADDOCK MALL** 3100 SW College Road  
Ocala, FL 34474

To become a vendor, email [Info@TouchofMagicEvents.com](mailto:Info@TouchofMagicEvents.com)

# FALLTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 • 5 - 9 PM

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | DANCING | FOOD TRUCKS | BEER SAMPLES\*  
CRUISE-IN CAR SHOW | SELFIE STATION | FAMILY FUN GAMES



The Town Square at Circle Square Commons  
8405 SW 80th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481 | (352) 854-3670  
CircleSquareCommons.com

/csctownsquare /csccommonsfl

5 - 5:15 PM  
**SMILETIME DJ**  
5:15 - 6:15 PM  
**NORTHERN SOUNDS**  
(POLKA BAND)  
6:15 - 6:30 PM  
**BMX TRICKSTARS**  
6:30 - 7:45 PM  
**BAY KINGS BAND**  
7:45 - 8 PM  
**BMX TRICKSTARS**  
8 - 9 PM  
**BAY KINGS BAND**

\*BEER SAMPLES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!  
KIOSK WILL BE SELLING BEER,  
WINE, WATER, AND SODA.

THE  
TOWN  
SQUARE

ARE YOU  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT YOUR  
MEMORY?



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# SANKOFA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1821 N.W. 21st Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475  
(352) 438-2550

*Programs made possible by contributions from the  
Friends of the Ocala Public Library.*

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Program Spotlight for more information and locations.

### **Finding Fossils in Florida**

Saturday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.

Derek Demeter, Emil Buehler Planetarium Director, Seminole State College talks fossils.

### **ALL AGES**

#### **Games on a Table**

Mondays, 4 p.m.

Sept. 9 through Sept. 30

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

#### **Crochet Corner**

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 and Sept. 26

Relax and crochet. All skill levels welcome.

### **ADULTS**

#### **Tech Help**

Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sept. 5 through Sept. 26

Have a technology question?

#### **Community Job Fair**

Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Looking for a career opportunity? Co-sponsored by the Marion County Human Resources.

#### **Book Club**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs. Attend one or all!

#### **Second Story Readers**

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 17, **The Water Dancer** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

### **TEENS**

#### **YALLA! Teen Club**

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

**Young Adults Lead Library Awareness!** Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Guide, participate and design innovative library programs while enjoying snacks and making friends and earn volunteer hours for service.

-- **MANGALicious** Sept. 3

-- **ConFAB** Sept. 17

#### **Story Times**

Sept. 4 through Sept. 25

A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

#### **Family Story Time:**

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

#### **Bouncing Babies:**

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Birth to 23 months.



# MARION COUNTY JOB FAIR

Wednesday, Sept. 25  
3 - 5 p.m.

College of Central Florida  
Klein Conference Center  
3001 SW College Road, Ocala

With over 150 candidates attending last year, it's possible to fill your open positions at this year's Marion County Job Fair. All industries are welcome to attend.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 800-434-5627, ext. 1145.

REGISTER NOW:  
[bit.ly/MARIONJOBS](http://bit.ly/MARIONJOBS)

SCAN HERE



CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids/services are available upon request to persons with disabilities and in Spanish. Phone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via Florida Relay at 711. For accommodations, call 800-434-5627, ext. 7818. Programs funded by CareerSource CLM as grantees of the U.S. Department of Labor as part of events totaling \$15.4 million, supported annually with no funds from non-governmental sources. A proud partner of the American Job Center network and member of CareerSource Florida.

## Kingdom Revival Church

### Women Walking on Purpose

Invites you to partner with us in our:  
**COMMUNITY RANDOM ACTS  
OF KINDNESS SCAVENGER  
HUNT**

**September 21 from 11 am-1pm**  
Begin at- KRC: 3318 E Silver Spring Blvd  
End at- Wolfys: 2159 E Silver Springs Blvd,

Join us for FUN, FELLOWSHIP and  
SPREADING LOVE AND KINDNESS

**SIGN UP AT INFO DESK OR CALL  
(352) 239-6248  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

★ Send a gift



# WEAR YOUR WINGS 5K RUN/WALK

Shirts and finisher medals guaranteed to first 250 registrants. First place overall male/female and top three finishers in each age group awarded. Proceeds benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence.



**College of Central Florida  
Dassance Fine Arts Center**  
3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala, FL 34474

**Runners Register  
Here**

[https://bit.ly/  
WearYourWings2024](https://bit.ly/WearYourWings2024)



**Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024**

7 a.m. registration and packet pick up  
8 a.m. race/walk start

**Register Now!**

\$30 / adult early rate through September 25  
\$10 / child early rate through September 25  
\$35 / late registration Sept. 26 through Oct. 4

\$40 Day of Race Registration  
Group Rates Available



**To Sponsor or Donate:**

[https://bit.ly/  
2024WearYourWingsSponsor](https://bit.ly/2024WearYourWingsSponsor)



**For sponsorships, donations or race information,  
contact Valerie at (352) 438-5990.**