



MY VOTE IS MY VOICE!



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Light Up Ocala Returns!



FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

The featured game of the day is the highly anticipated Florida Gators vs. Georgia Bulldogs matchup, kicking off at 3:30 p.m. Enjoy free drinks and food while cheering on your favorite team! Whether you're a dedicated fan or just looking for a fun way to spend your Saturday, this is the perfect event to enjoy some football and community spirit.

Saturday | Nov. 2

3 - 8 p.m. | All Ages | Free Program
Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave.

For more information:
352-401-6980 or ocalafl.gov/recpark



Our mission is to record the rich history of the people, places and events in the community and share information that impacts the lives of residents in Marion County.



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

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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EDITOR'S DESK



Did you know there is actually a day set aside each year that reminds us to be Kind? It's World Kindness Day and it's observed on annually on November 13.

According to an online article titled Awareness Days at <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-kindness-day-2024>, World Kindness Day is a global observance

dedicated to promoting and celebrating acts of kindness. The day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world overall. It encourages people to perform intentional acts of kindness and foster a culture of compassion and generosity.

When is the last time you did something special for somebody or somebody did something special for you that you were not expecting?

Participating in World Kindness Day is a simple yet impactful way to make a positive difference in the world. Here are ways to get involved:

- **Perform Acts of Kindness:** Throughout the day, consciously perform acts of kindness, such as helping a neighbor, complimenting a colleague, or donating to a charity.
- **Spread Positivity:** Share uplifting and positive messages on social media to inspire others to be kind and compassionate.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time to volunteer for a local charity or nonprofit organization that aligns with your values.
- **Donate:** Make a donation to a charitable cause that you believe in, whether it's for humanitarian aid, education or healthcare.
- **Teach Kindness:** Educate children and young people about the importance of kindness and empathy through storytelling or classroom activities.
- **Random Acts of Kindness:** Surprise someone with a random act of kindness, such as buying a stranger's coffee or leave an encouraging note for a friend.

Although we usually practice Kindness mostly during the holiday season, wouldn't it be great if we practiced it year round and made it part of our daily lives?

On Monday, November 11, we observe Veterans Day. Take this opportunity to be kind to our Veterans who have served in the Armed Forces.

During this holiday season, we all have a lot to be thankful for even if life seems a little difficult right now. Make a list of what you are thankful for and take time to reflect on the things that are important to you and your family. The holidays can be hard to get through when you feel alone, recently lost a loved one or you're facing something that seems to have no solution. Don't give up! Reach out for help if you need to, but don't suffer in silence. Tomorrow is a new day!

Let's Talk!

Monica Bryant

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

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Ads are black and white and must be submitted in Jpeg or Pdf format and sent to Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com.

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

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY WITH A HEART PROGRAM OPENS SOON

We're starting this year's campaign with heavy hearts because we had to say goodbye to two of our board members that sadly passed away this year. Tamara Upshaw and Patti Lumpkin. They will forever be in our hearts and remembered for their tireless efforts in assisting families in our community.



Need help catching up on your rent or mortgage payments? Your car broke down and you don't have the money to repair it? Something unexpected happened and you just need a little help getting back on your feet? Community With A Heart (CWAH) might be an option, if you qualify.

Applicants seeking help from the program must provide all the required documentation, agree to a home visit and be able to pay the difference if the amount of the request is more than \$1,200. Some requests, such as car repairs, will require two estimates.

For the past 38 years, the CWAH program, totally supported by donations from the community, has been a lifeline for many, and in some cases, the only option available to help families get back on their feet after experiencing a major unexpected life event.

"I have represented Community Legal Services on the Board of CWAH for over 20 years," said Lena Hopkins, Senior Manager of Pro Bono Services for Community Legal Services. "CWAH has been a lifeline for many of our clients, whose legal issues are due to loss of income or some other life changing event. The program has provided rental and mortgage assistance, helping our clients to avoid evictions and foreclosure."

The Star-Banner initially organized the annual campaign in 1986 to bring together social service and charitable agencies to assist those in need. In 2012, control of the program was passed to the agencies that served on the board.

The CWAH board meets weekly beginning the second week in November to discuss requests for assistance and allocate funds. The holiday program runs through mid-January. Assistance is capped at \$1,200 per request, and individuals do not receive any money directly. All payments are made on their behalf, and if approved, applicants can not apply again for three years.

"It's a hand up, not a hand out," Hopkins said.

The CWAH program does not accept phone calls or have a direct phone number. For questions or information, call one of the agencies listed below or go to <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075921828652> to send a message. Please allow 24 - 48 hours to receive a response.



How to apply for assistance from CWAH:

To seek help from CWAH, individuals should contact one of the following agencies for a referral to see if they qualify for assistance from the program: Marion County Children's Alliance, Interfaith Emergency Services, Marion County School Social Services, Brother's Keeper, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Ocala Housing Authority, Isaiah Foundation, Central Florida Community Action Agency, Marion County Community Services, Habitat for Humanity and Cleve Butler and James Jackson, Community -at-Large Members.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Now in its 38th season, CWAH has collected more than \$1.8 million, of which **\$30,04.61** was raised during the 2023 - 2024 campaign to help those in need in Marion County.

HOW TO HELP:

To donate, send checks to Community With a Heart, P.O. Box 1777, Ocala, FL 34473. To donate online, go to <https://www.ocalafoundation.org/community-foundation-funds/community-with-a-heart/> or you can scan the QR code below.

Donations are tax-deductible. There are no overhead costs and every cent donated goes to help residents of Marion County.

LIST OF ONGOING NEEDS:

Marion County Children's Alliance: Funds for emergency shelter in motel/ hotel for victims and survivors of domestic violence; gas cards, new, unwrapped toys or gift cards for teenagers 12 - 18 years old. Call (352) 438-5990.

Brother's Keeper: Gas cards, bus passes, unwrapped toys for children ages 1-12. Call (352) 622-3846.

Interfaith Emergency Services: Towels, coats for all ages, socks and underwear for adults, bus passes and non-perishable food items. Call (352) 629-8868.

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.

**SUN
NOV
3RD
2-4PM**

LEGACY OF LIFE,
SERVICING IN LOVE


LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU & YOUR HEALTH

PT 2

PLEASE RSVP @
ERICATUGGY35@GMAIL.COM

**FIRE RESCUE COMMUNITY BUILDING
615 NW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE,
OCALA, FL 34475**

**PLEASE NOTE:
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New Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
9719 N.W. 115th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34482
Rev. Izell James Sr., Pastor



Fall Revival ✝

Wednesday, Nov 13th	Thursday, Nov 14th	Friday, Nov 15th
		
Apostle Brian K. McIntosh Old Ship of Zion End Time Ministries	Pastor Deamontae Richardson Ebenezer Independent Free Methodist Church	Pastor Marvin McMahan Mt. Pedro Missionary Baptist Church

7 pm Nightly

"Falling in Love with Jesus is the Best thing I've Ever Done!"



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CUMMINGS TO BE INSTALLED AS MODERATOR

Rev. Eric Cummings always knew he would be a pastor although his desire was to be an attorney first. Cummings, pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, knew he was called to preach when he was 15 years old, but it took 19 years before he accepted the call.

On Sunday, December 1, when Cummings is installed as the new Moderator of the Second Bethlehem Baptist Association (SBBA), another call on his life will be fulfilled.

Several years ago, Cummings said Sister Myrna Myles, the Women's Auxiliary President, pulled him, Rev. Keith Blunt and Rev. Standley Gillings aside and told them that one day they all would be Moderators in the SBBA.

"We thanked her for seeing that in us but kind of dismissed it because we were all so close in age and we were not going to run against each other because chronologically, it could be 20 plus years before we could all be Moderators without running against each other."

But when Rev. Jerone Gamble had to step down due to term limits implemented under his administration, Gillings and Cummings pushed Blunt to run for the position. In 2022, Blunt was elected and chose Gillings to be Vice Moderator at Large, meaning he would be the next person in line for the office. Blunt served until he died in 2023. Gillings became Moderator, but he told Cummings he would only serve until the next election and encouraged him to run. Cummings ran and was recently elected.



Rev. Eric Cummings



"This was truly God's doing," he said. "Sister Myles's prophetic word came to fruition."

Cummings started preaching in 2003. In 2007, he became pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church, Dunnellon, FL., before returning to his home church, New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, in 2016. He serves as the Basileus of the Psi Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Director of Religious Affairs for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Fourth Vice President of the Florida General Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education; and is a Founding Member and Executive Secretary of Pastors With A Purpose Ministerial Alliance.

Cummings top priorities are to reach out to those churches who down through the years left the Association for one reason or another and encourage them to come back and join them in this kingdom-building assignment. He also wants the Association to be more involved and visible doing more things in the community while evangelizing and reaching out to those who may not know Christ.

"There are currently 43 active churches in Second Bethlehem," he said. "I know of 19 churches that were once a part of Second Bethlehem whom I'm praying will come back to be a part of this great movement."

Cummings believes his greatest challenge will be respecting and honoring the legacy and traditions of the pioneers while implementing new ideas and change. He said some may be so entrenched in traditionalism that they won't be receptive to positive change.

"There is a demographic of people that is absent from the church in large numbers, and that is those who are 18 - 45 years old. Ironically, this is the same demographic that don't vote consistently and are not concerned about a lot of societal issues," he said. "Many have been reared in the church but when they matured, they didn't see a need to keep worshiping or serving like their parents and grandparents did."

Cummings, who also serves on the Marion County School Board, said he's ready for the challenge, but he wants to hear from young people. He said Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," is his favorite scripture because it lets him know that God empowers him to do the work that he does and that the gifts God has enshrined in him are to be used for kingdom building work, not for self-gain or promotion, but for kingdom building.

"I want to hear the young perspective and give them a seat at the table. To involve them in church by not shunning or stifling their ideas, but giving them opportunities to exercise their gifts," he said, "We also need to allow the young people to express themselves and grow their relationship with God."

THE BIBLE SPEAKS: ARE YOU LISTENING?

Reaching our World by Radio



When Elgin Carelock met Audley McLean many years ago through the Greater Ocala Community Development Corp. (GOCDC), he was producing and marketing a line of sauces called the Jamaican Gourmet. During that process, Carelock found out about *The Bible Speaks*, a podcast McLean hosted, and joined his board in 2018.

After seven years of being on the air, McLean retired at the age of 92 to spend more time with his wife Millicent. Carelock took over full-time as host in March 2024.

“We still keep in contact and I visit him and Millie a couple times a month to play Scrabble,” he said.

The podcast, which airs 9 a.m. Sunday through Friday each week can be heard on

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3WTZgyyRh3vvDcZBkNmh> or on <https://brickcitypodcasts.buzzsprout.com/>.

Go to <https://brickcitypodcasts.buzzsprout.com> to listen to past podcasts.

Brick City Podcasts is a motivational, inspirational and intellectual collection of presenters providing "Serious Brain Food." From the challenges of being a single parent to an analysis of today's toughest issues. Since 2020, there have been 1088 episodes.

Carelock said McLean chose the name, "The Bible Speaks," in an effort to bring the word of God to the world through spoken words.

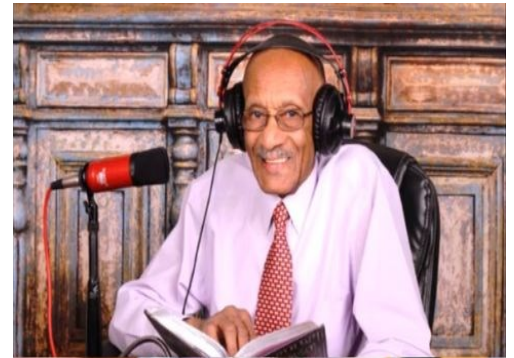
“The overall goal of the podcast is to help people understand how to implement what they are reading in the Word of God with practical steps or points of view,” he said.

Topics for the podcast are selected mainly through divine inspiration, but Carelock also uses current events or things that are relevant to our communities. Guest speakers are people who are steeped in the word of God and teach on a regular basis.

Even Carelock has applied some of the discussions from past speakers to his daily life. He said in one conversation with Dr. O, they discussed preparing for what's next and she gave great insight on how we sometimes miss opportunities because we allow things from our past to keep us from recognizing new opportunities.

“There is no end to the knowledge we can obtain,” Carelock said. “The Bible has the answer to every problem we face.”

For more information or if you're interested in being a guest speaker on the podcast, please contact Carelock at thebiblespeaksonline@gmail.com.



Audley McLean, former host of The Bible Speaks



Elgin Carelock, current host of The Bible Speaks

NEW HELP CENTER OPENING TO ASSIST THE HOMELESS

It took five years, but Karla Greenway's dream of having a facility to help people in our community who are homeless has finally come true.

Greenway, CEO of Interfaith Emergency Services, got the idea after two studies were done in Marion County in 2019 to determine how to address the community's homeless population. The studies completed by the Public Policy Institute and the Florida Housing Coalition both stated there needed to be a central point of access for individuals experiencing homelessness to receive services.

"Because Interfaith already provided many of the basic needs for this population on our campus (food, showers, clothing, etc.), we felt that this would be the best site for such a facility," she said.



INTERFAITH'S NEW HELP CENTER

On Wednesday, November 13, all local pastors or prayer warriors are invited to Interfaith's New Help Center, located at 421 N.W. 1st St., for coffee at 8:30 a.m., followed by a dedication prayer at 9 a.m. An Open House for Community Partners will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call Emily at **(352) 629-8868** or email **Emily.Pozo@iesmarion.org** to R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend. Interfaith anticipates opening the center to serve the community the third week of November.

"Our goal for this center is to continue to help as many Marion County households as possible have their basic needs and to assist those experiencing homelessness to regain self-sufficiency and stable housing," Greenway said.

The new 6,400 square feet facility is divided into two departments. The Social Services side will serve individuals who are housed. It will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., close for the lunch hour and reopen from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Services offered include grocery and clothing assistance, work boots for people starting a new job, gas cards for medical appointments out of county, free reading glasses and assistance with government issued ID cards. The Engagement Center side, which will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will serve individuals who are homeless. Clients who are volunteering or receiving services will be provided lunch in the center and services provided range from showers and clothing to literacy and soft job skills training.

"This space will provide opportunities for homeless individuals to engage in services and volunteerism," she said. "It is designed to give them access to tools they need to change their situation such as computers, phones, a place to get mail and individual case management."

Greenway said Interfaith is relying on other community partners to bring services to the center to eliminate the barrier caused by the lack of transportation for those seeking help. So far, Career Source, The Marion County Literacy Council, Zero Hour Life Center, Brothers Keepers and the Joint Office of Homelessness outreach team will be providing services at the center, but she hopes other agencies will partner with them.

"Each individual will be met where they are and given the help they need to gain employment or obtain disability benefits for which they qualify, with the ultimate goal of becoming housed," she said. "By bringing services to this one central location, the homeless will not be tasked with going from location to location, most times on foot, to piece together the critical services they need."

Greenway said they need volunteers that can give any amount of time on a regular basis. Volunteers can apply on their website at **www.iesmarion.org**. They also need in-kind donations of soap, razors, shampoo, deodorant, sunscreen, antibiotic ointment, insect repellent, rain ponchos, umbrellas and gently used clothing.



"Individuals have sat on the sides of our streets without hope for too long," Greenway said. "In partnership with the other agencies who can help this population, Interfaith hopes to change lives for the better."

For more information, go to **www.iesmarion.org**. To tour the new facility, contact Emily Pozo at

(352) 629-8868.

VOTE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT BECAUSE IT DOES!

Earlene Collins gets really excited during election time. When she was younger, she worked nonstop to encourage people to vote, and now she's not letting anything silence her voice.

"I believe we should feel obligated to vote," she said. "Particularly when you know our history."

As a young adult working at Martin Marietta, she said the International United Auto Workers (UAW) encouraged everyone to register and vote. But before becoming a member of the UAW, Collins, who has lived most of her life in Ocala, said she didn't understand the significance of voting, and she's unsure if her family voted before she became active.

"I became a registered voter in 1973 and have not missed a voting cycle since then," she said. "Since that time, I have encouraged everyone I know to vote."



Earlene Collins

According to the Supervisor of Elections website, as of September 30, 2024, there were **263,720** registered voters in Marion County and **46,590** Inactive Voters:

Registered:

Democrats - 69,839
Republicans - 132,196
NPA - 53,604
Other - 8,081

Inactive:

Democrats - 15,497
Republicans - 14,451
NPA - 15,769
Other - 873

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

Collins, a proud registered Democrat, said she always votes early and prefers to go to the polls to see her vote counted.



The 2024 Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 5, is said to be one of the closes races in history. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Early Voting ends on Saturday, November 2, at 6 p.m.

Electing a new president is not the only decision voters will make during this election. The ballot includes six Amendments to the State Constitution:

1. Partisan School Board Elections
2. Constitutional Right to Fish & Hunt
3. Marijuana Use for Adults
4. Constitutional Right to an Abortion Before Viability or to Protect the Patient's Health
5. Annual Inflation Adjustment for Homestead Exemption
6. Repeal of Public Financing for Statewide Candidates who Agree with Spending Limits

In addition to deciding if several Supreme Court Justices and Fifth District Court of Appeal Judges should be retained, voters will also decide on a County Referendum, which, if approved, would extend the existing 1% sales tax for 20 years to improve roadway and public safety infrastructure, and a School Board Referendum that would levy a one-half cent sales tax for 10 years to expand, improve and construct schools, including eligible public charter schools.

Collins said she always took her neighbors to vote, worked to get out the vote, worked the phone banks and encouraged her church family to vote. She also helped several felons gain their rights back so they could cast their vote.

Our freedom is on the line," Collins said. "We can't go back!"

For a list of Early Voting locations or election information, go to <https://www.votemarion.gov>.



COME ENJOY THE 40TH ANNUAL LIGHT UP OCALA

The City of Ocala's Light Up Ocala celebration returns for its 40th year on Saturday, November 23, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. This year's theme is "Home for the Holidays." The lighting ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by local businesses, community partners and media outlets, Light Up Ocala will host an evening of entertainment featuring three unique entertainment zones, 100+ vendors and activities for all ages.

Entertainment Zones and Activities

Stage One – Downtown Square (Sponsored by HCA Florida Healthcare)

- **Location:** One SE Broadway St.
- **Time:** 3:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Entertainment:** Live music by Stereo FM
-- Lighting Ceremony will be held here at 7 p.m.
- **Activities:** Holiday tree photo opportunities

Stage Two – Citizens' Circle (Sponsored by Advent Health Ocala): 3 to 7 p.m.

- **Location:** 151 SE Osceola Ave.
- **Time:** 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Entertainment:** A community showcase with local dance and performance groups
- **Activities:** Meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Midtown Street Party (Sponsored by Blue Gator)

- **Location:** In-between NE First St. and NE First Ave.
- **Time:** 3 to 7 p.m.
- **Entertainment:** Live DJ, Acrobatic Variety Show, and Jump Rope performances
- Other attractions include the Punch and Judy Puppet Show on the corner of Fort King St. and Magnolia Ave., The Living Angels at Citizens' Circle and a Kids' Zone located at the parking lot in the intersection of Silver Springs Blvd. and N.E. Osceola Ave.

Junior Sunshine Parade

The Junior Sunshine Parade will kick off the event at 3 p.m. Beginning at the corner of S Magnolia Ave. and E. Fort King St., witness lively performances from local dance studios, Girl Scout Troops, and the Marion County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums Unit. Santa Claus will also be present in the parade.

Shuttle Services

Guests are encouraged to use one of the free shuttle services, running continuously from 2 to 9 p.m. from the following locations:

- **Marion Technical Institute** (1614 S.E. Fort King St.) – The shuttle drops off between S.E. Watula Ave. and SE Third St. and runs every 20 minutes.
- **E.D. Croskey Recreation Center** (1510 N.W. Fourth St.) – The shuttle drops off between N. Magnolia Ave. and NE Second St. and runs every 20 minutes.
- **Ocala Skate Park** (517 NE Ninth St.) – The shuttle drops off between NE Watula Ave. and State Road 40 and runs every 10 minutes.
- **Discovery Center** (701 N.E. Sanchez Ave.) – The shuttle drops off between N.E. Watula Ave. and State Road 40 and runs every 10 minutes.

HAPPENINGS AT THE SANKOFA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

ALL AGES

Games on a Table, MOndays, 4 p.m., Nov. 4 - Dec. 30.
Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

Crochet Corner, Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., Nov. 14
Relax and crochet. All skill levels welcome.

ADULTS

Tech Help, Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 7 - Dec. 26

Book Club:

Second Story Readers, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

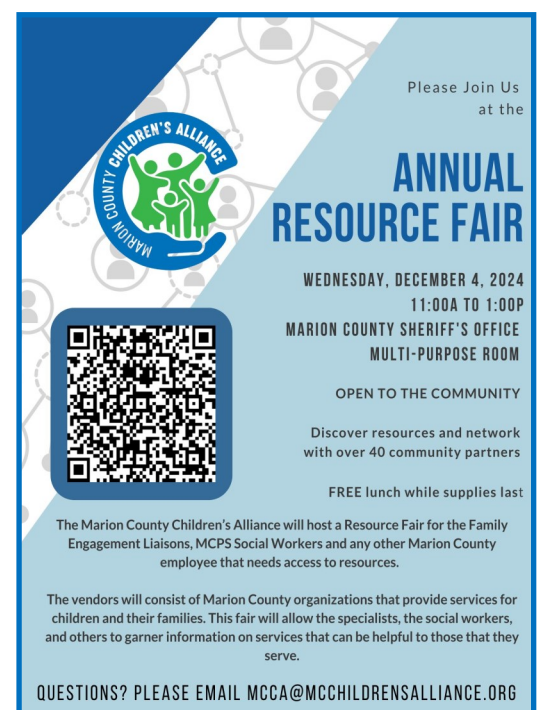
Nov. 19 **The House in the Cerulean Sea** by TJ Klune

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 as you earn volunteer hours for service. Y'all(a) come!

MANGAlicious November 5 and **ConFAB** November 19



Please Join Us
at the

ANNUAL RESOURCE FAIR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024
11:00A TO 1:00P
MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Discover resources and network
with over 40 community partners

FREE lunch while supplies last

The Marion County Children's Alliance will host a Resource Fair for the Family Engagement Liaisons, MCP5 Social Workers and any other Marion County employee that needs access to resources.

The vendors will consist of Marion County organizations that provide services for children and their families. This fair will allow the specialists, the social workers, and others to garner information on services that can be helpful to those that they serve.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL MCCA@MCCHILDRENSALLIANCE.ORG



"Do the good that presents itself to be done."
- St. Vincent DePaul

2024 Holiday Help Drives Information for Applicants

Each year, Blessed Trinity and Brother's Keeper helps hundreds of families during the holiday season. **Eligible families receive food for Thanksgiving and food & gifts for children 12 and under at Christmas.** This year we are partnering with Toys for Tots. It is only through the generosity of many others in our parish and community that we're able to provide this assistance each year.

Holiday Sign-Ups: **Monday, October 21 through Tuesday, December 3***
Mon. & Fri. 9am -11:30am and Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9am-2:30pm
*Cut-Off for Thanksgiving food applications is Fri. November 15

Who's Eligible: **THANKSGIVING FOOD & CHRISTMAS FOOD:** Families with at least one child under the age of 18 residing in Marion County.



CHRISTMAS TOYS: Families with at least one child 12 and under living in one of the following zip codes:
34433, 34434, 34473, 34475, 34477, 34478, 34479, 34483

Applicants Need: **Photo ID** with Marion County address, **Social Security cards** for adults and children, **Birth Certificates** for all children, **Lease and Utility Bill** to prove residency and zip code **Proof of food stamps qualification** (if eligible)



Pick-Up Dates/Times: Thanksgiving: **Tuesday, November 19** from 9:00am-4:00pm
Christmas: **Tues., Dec. 10 or Wed., Dec. 11** from 9am-4pm
**Clients will be assigned a pick-up time/day*

Pick-Up Location: **Knights of Columbus Hall** | 1510 SE 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL 34471
Located at the north end of the Blessed Trinity parking lot
***Bring Photo ID of the applicant when picking up**

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 622-3846

THRIFT STORE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 732-7988

SOUP KITCHEN
435 NW 2nd St., Ocala
(352) 789-8139

MAIL TO
5 SE 17th St.,
Ocala, FL 34471

Gift of Christmas Toy Drive

All donations benefit the
Family
Violence
Prevention
Workgroup's
annual Gift
of Christmas
Toy Drive



ALL AGES

BUT WE ALWAYS
NEED FOR ITEMS
FOR OUR TEENS

EXAMPLES ARE:

- CD PLAYERS
- CAMERAS
- MP3 PLAYERS
- TABLETS
- MAKE UP SETS
- PURSES
- PERFUME SETS
- WALLETS
- WATCHES (Boys and Girls)
- FOOTBALLS
- BASKETBALLS
- BOARD GAMES
- HEADPHONES
- ARTS & CRAFTS



Sponsored by:



Deadline for donations is Friday, December 13, 2024

For more information or to donate toys, contact Valerie at (352) 438-5990 or email Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org

Gift cards or monetary donations can be mailed to
MCCA, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475



ACHIEVEMENT WEEK WITH A PURPOSE BANQUET NOVEMBER 16, 2024

\$65

6PM to 10PM

HARVEY KLEIN CENTER

3001 SW COLLEGE RD, OCALA FL 34474

Special Guest:

Darren Toston, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.
Immediate Past State Representative

Live Music

Dinner Served By

American Sunday Plate (Chef Mario)

See any Psi Chi chapter member for tickets



You can purchase your tickets via
Cash, CashApp, or Credit Card.

← \$PSICHI1911 pay.psichiques.com/banquet →

There is a 3.2% processing fee on credit card payments

Soul food, live music, and a chance to change lives!

Chef Mario's dishes are on the menu,
and all proceeds help fund local scholarships.

Let's uplift our community together! 🎵❤️

📅 November 16 | 🕒 6-10 p.m. | 📍 Harvey Klein Center

📱 \$65 each – message Judge
for same-day ticket delivery!

“WHEN LIFE BE LIFE’N”

Tools and techniques for maintaining balance during significant life challenges

Maintaining emotional balance when facing life challenges is essential for making clear and rational decisions, as it prevents reactions driven by stress or frustration.

It also allows for resilience, helping individuals recover more quickly from setbacks and fostering healthier relationships during difficult times. Join me in a workshop on topics including:

- Grief & Loss ✓
- Workplace ✓
- Romance ✓
- Finance ✓
- Family ✓



Consuella Shaw, LMHC

November 9, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

625 NW Martin Luther King Jr Ave, Ocala, FL 34475

(321) 421-9922

Admission - \$10

Register today at:

www.assuagecc.com



From Cradle to Crown

3 free art workshop sessions!

By April Fitzpatrick, LMHC, ATR-BC

Sign up for one TODAY!

WHEN: Saturday, November 2

WHERE: Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, Art Room (1821 NW 21st Ave, Ocala, FL 34475)

TIMES:

10:00 a.m. - noon (Cradle session)

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Core session)

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Crown session)

OCALA



Sign up today online at www.ocalafl.gov/RecPark or call (352) 401-6980 to book your session with the Mary Sue Rich Community Center directly.

All sessions are free and all art materials will be provided for the craft. Each session is limited to 25 people per session.

NEW DATE FOR CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY SET

Ocala Electric Utility (OEU) will hold its Customer Appreciation Day, on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Citizens' Circle (151 SE Osceola Ave.).

The Day will feature free meals prepared by OEU staff, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals will be individually portioned for grab-and-go convenience.

This family-friendly event includes activities, entertainment and educational giveaways. Attendees will also have the opportunity to win prizes, including bill credits for OEU accounts. To qualify for prizes, participants must have a City of Ocala municipal service account.

Guests can spin the prize wheel to win utility vouchers with varying amounts, limited to one voucher per household. Vouchers must be redeemed at the customer service office within 30 days.

For more information, call Ocala Electric Utility at (352) 629-2489.



Early Learning Coalition Marion County

DIAPER ASSISTANCE

Diapers are packaged based on size, not brand (25 per package). Program is subject to funding and while supplies are available.



The ELCMC provides diaper assistance every Thursday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. 2300 SW 17th Road Ocala, FL 34471



Eligible families should provide proof of:

- Marion County residency
- Child's age (between birth to five)
- Financial need

Visit elc-marion.org/parents/success-by-6 for additional information.

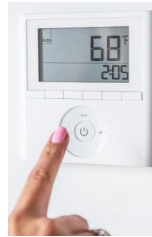
Diaper Donations Welcome

MONEY SMART TIPS

By Scott Hackmyer

ONE DEGREE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

You might have heard this question before: What difference does one degree make? At 211 degrees water does not boil, at 212 degrees it does. When traveling by plane, for every one degree you are off course you will be one mile off course after flying just 60 miles. When it comes to money one degree can also make a difference. With winter coming soon if you turn down your thermostat just one degree, you can reduce your heating costs between 1 and 3 percent. It is also easier for your system to operate at this lower heating temperature which can mean lower maintenance and repair costs. An easy way to do this and stay comfortable is to layer in the daytime, an extra sweater or add a tee shirt under your shirt and at night just add an extra blanket. I wonder if you will even notice the difference between 68 and 67 degrees. Want to really save money, drop it two degrees below your normal setting. In summer months keep your home one or two degrees warmer than usual but wear lighter clothing and use fans which are very energy efficient. Again, you might stay just as comfortable while saving some money.



For 17 years Emory "Sly Guy" Schley wrote a column for the Ocala Star-Banner. Emory sadly passed away in 2021 but many of you remember his articles were more like a conversation with his readers. I recall an ongoing group of stories where the discussion was about the high cost of coffee. Emory's challenge to his readers was to reduce, just slightly, the amount of coffee you use when making a cup and see if you notice any difference in taste. If you don't then reduce it just a little bit more. Many readers reduced the coffee they were using by half without giving up the taste they enjoyed. I wonder what other items we use on a regular basis could benefit from this "just a tiny bit less" practice? Perhaps a tad less detergent in your washing machine. Notice any difference in your clothes? A little less shampoo when you wash your hair? I am sure you can think of other items you can try this with but the point is by reducing as many items as possible by just a very small amount you could end up saving a good amount of money every month. Now multiple this by 12 and see how much you can save in a year.

If you are a homeowner with a mortgage, you might have noticed that mortgage rates have finally come down. The expectation is that there will be one or two more rate cuts before the end of this calendar year. Since there is a cost when refinancing, U. S. News & World Report suggests refinancing only when you know you are going to stay in the home for more than a few years. They also write that you should only refinance if the new rate will lower your old rate by 2 percent or more. With falling rates, if you have been saving money by investing in CD's their advice is if you have some extra money, lock in the higher rates now before they get cut again.

I hope you have been taking my advice and have been doing your Christmas shopping a little bit each month. Now you can start checking each store's return policy as many will allow you to buy something now and with their extended return timeline you can return it after the holidays. If your store does this now you can start buying clothing and shoes when you see a great sale knowing that if they don't fit or aren't liked the person you are buying for can still return it without a problem. The goal is to spread out your bills over a number of months so you don't get those killer bills all at once in late December or January.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Business Spotlight



Business Name: Curbside Cream, Wings and Things

No. of Employees: 2

Business Owner: Willard Thomas

Business Address: (Mobile Business Only)
15870 N.W. 44th Ave. Rd., Reddick, FL 32686

Business Phone: (352) 427-5545

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2020

Hours of Operation: Hours vary, but the ice cream truck has a regular route during summer months and is available for birthday parties, church socials, company picnics, family reunions, etc.

Products and/or Services: Ice cream, wings, fries and shrimp.

Email: genboythomas70@gmail.com

Website: N/A

Are you on Social Media? No, but we can be reached By texting or calling (352) 427-5545.

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?

I saw a need in the community and in addition to selling ice cream, it provides me an opportunity to mentor youth and encourage men in our community.

What Makes Your Business Unique or What's Your Specialty? I make a special homemade sauce for my wings and shrimp that you can't get anywhere else. I also provide opportunities for youth, such as my son and grandson, to work with me and learn customer service skills and how to interact with customers.

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting a Business? Always follow your heart. Trust God and Never give up!

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. Completed forms can be returned via email or mailed to P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478.

Please join Kingdom Revival Church for a **FREE**

Drive Thru Community Christmas Lunch

with all the trimmings!

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

For information, please call Rose at (352)361-5044

Registration: **EVENTBRITE**
"I AM ROYALTY"
The RESET

WOMEN'S Conference 2024

AFRICAN ELEGANCE FASHION DEBUT & PROPHETIC ENCOUNTER

I AM Royalty

PASTOR ROIANN LIGHTSEY
 Conference Pastor & Host

APOSTLE DR. LAVENCIA SHAWVER
 Conference Speaker

1 Peter 2:9-10 (KJV)
 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

REGISTRATION FEE \$49

DEC. 7th DOORS OPEN 5:30PM VENDOR SHOWCASE SERVICE STARTS 7:00PM
 DEC. 8th | SERVICE STARTS 11:00AM VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
 CONTACT: DR. TRACI GRIMSLEY 352.361.8152
 CYNTHIA HAILE 352.208.4350

Share & Invite

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY CHARITY BALL

"MARDI GRAS STYLE"

Event Benefits 4 nonprofits:
 Kut Different
 The ROCK Program
 Marion County Boys & Girls Club
 R.A.M.A.L. Educational and Social Services, Inc.

Saturday, December 28, 2024
 6pm-11pm
 Ocala Crystal Ballroom
 25 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470

Tickets: \$75 (Reserved Tables/Sponsorships Available)
 Attire: Formal
 Contact: Dr. Barbara J. Brooks, (352) 875-4237
 www.ramalservices.org

All About the Ballots

ALL ABOUT THE BALLOTS & FAITH IN FLORIDA PRESENTS

VO TE 20 24

SOULS TO THE POLLS

We're Riding for Democracy

CAR SHOW

BLACK BIKERS FOR BALLOTS & FRESH FORCE DJ'S

NOV 2 ND 10:30 AM | **ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH** | **FREE FOOD**
 718 NW 7TH STREET Ocala, FL 34475 | **MUSIC, PRIZES**

More information: frich@faithinflorida.org or cassieb@allabouttheballots.org

FLORIDA FOR ALL EDUCATION FUND



KUT DIFFERENT PRESENTS
5th ANNUAL COMMUNITY FUN DAY
Youth Expo
MAIN EVENT KICKBALL

BOUNCE HOUSES | 3-POINT CONTEST/ SKILLS CHALLENGE
 FACE PAINTING | RAFFLES | VENDORS | FOOD TRUCKS
 FREE FOOD

TONS OF OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 7TH, 2024
 11AM - 5PM

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 3010 NE 14TH ST, OCALA, FL 34470



MCPS
 MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 "Helping Every Student Succeed"

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR YOUR MCPS PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?
 Learn what to expect before, during, and after the interview

CAMP OVERVIEW

We invite you to our **FREE Career Readiness Camp** on November 12-14 at Howard Academy Community Center. This is a three-day event designed to provide the building blocks to join Marion County Public Schools as well as encourage, inspire, empower, educate and motivate.

Do not miss out on this opportunity to set yourself up for success!

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024
Setting up Camp – Resume Building
 3pm – 5pm

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024
Trail Map Review: Resume Assistance
 Call (352) 671-4186 to schedule an appointment

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024
Campfire stories: Mock Interviews
 3pm – 5pm

CAMP SCHEDULE
 NOVEMBER 12-14, 2024

Howard Academy Community Center
 306 NW 7th Ave.
 Ocala, FL 34475

For ADA accommodation, please contact Dawana Gary, Director of Equity and Compliance at (352) 671-7711 or call TTY 800-955-8771 or email EquityAssurance@marion.k12.fl.us

For questions, please contact Tonya Nunn, District Recruitment Coordinator (352) 671-7787 or email tonya.nunn@marion.k12.fl.us

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 Scan the QR code to register



A computer lab will be available
 Application Assistance will be provided

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: CareerSource CITRUS | LEVY | MARION MCHD



MADE FOR TEACHERS PRESENTS THE...
That & Chew
 FALL EDITION
TEA PARTY
 SATURDAY NOV. 9TH 1-3PM

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
 CHEYLLO

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

JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL AFTERNOON TEA FILLED WITH AMAZING TREATS, PRIZES, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS



SPECIAL GUEST
 AYANA K. BARROW, ESQ.

Hot Contest
 Kenya Harris



MCPS
 MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 "Helping Every Student Succeed"

MCPS CAREER READINESS CAMP
 Nov. 12-14, 2024
 Spaces fill up fast!
 Registration required

A professional journey to prepare you for MCPS

Exciting Activities Include:

- Setting up camp: Resume Building** Nov 12th
Pitching a tent is essential for a successful camping trip, building a strong resume is the foundation of your job search. TIME: 3PM-5PM
- Trail Map Review: Resume Assistance** Nov. 13th
Our trail guides (career coaches) will help you refine your resume, ensuring it's clear, concise, and aligned with the path you aim to explore. Call 352-671-4186 to secure a spot! (Computer Lab and MCPS Application Assistance available)
- Campfire Stories: Mock Interviews** Nov. 14th
Practice makes perfect! Learn to communicate your value with confidence, just like telling a great campfire tale. TIME: 3PM-5PM

Giveaway prize
 Must attend ALL 3 days to enter drawing

For questions, please contact Tonya Nunn, District Recruitment Coordinator at (352) 671-7787 or tonya.nunn@marion.k12.fl.us

Scan QR code to register



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: MCHD CareerSource CITRUS | LEVY | MARION

PAYCHECKS FOR PATRIOTS CELEBRATES 12 YEARS



CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion will hold two “Paychecks for Patriots” job fairs in November as part of a statewide effort to connect Florida veterans with employment opportunities.

The Citrus County Paychecks for Patriots takes place Tuesday, November 12, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Realtor’s Association of Citrus County, 714 S. Scarboro Ave., in Lecanto off the Gulf-to-Lake Highway.

The 12th annual Paychecks for Patriots in Marion County will be held Tuesday, November 19, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the College of Central Florida’s Klein Conference Center, 3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala.

Both job fairs are free and open to all job seekers, but priority access is given for the first hour to veterans and active service members as well as their military families.

For fastest access, attendees are encouraged to register in advance at [//bit.ly/HiringHeroes24](https://bit.ly/HiringHeroes24).



Paychecks for Patriots features a variety of “veteran friendly” businesses with immediate jobs to fill, including FedEx, the Florida Department of Corrections, City of Ocala and Chick-fil-A.

Those unable to attend Paychecks for Patriots may apply for open positions online at www.employflorida.com. A special employment portal of information and resource links for Florida veterans is also available at <https://veteran.employflorida.com>.

In addition, CareerSource CLM offers Priority of Service year-round to veterans and eligible spouses at all CareerSource CLM career centers. Fee-free staff assistance, job referral and placement, resources and other employment services are available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Career Centers in Ocala, Lecanto and Chiefland.

For more information about Paychecks for Patriots or CareerSource CLM’s year-round Veterans Services, call **800-434-JOBS (5627)**, ext. 2225.

COPS & Cars
CAR AND TRUCK SHOW

Saturday, November 9
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ OPD Headquarters

Free admission to spectators!

Register in-person by Nov. 1 for \$15; after Nov. 1 for \$25 | Cash only
All proceeds benefit the CASA Marion

CLASSIC CARS • FOOD TRUCKS • PRIZES

acummings@ocalapd.gov | 402 S Pine Ave., Ocala | 352-369-7000

Town Talk Magazine, P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478

Howard Academy
Community Center and
Dare 2B Great Mentoring Program
presents our annual

Thanks
GIVING OUTREACH

Saturday, November 23, 2024
12:00pm to 3:00pm

Howard Academy Community Center
306 N.W. 7th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34475

Free Lunch, Free Care Packages and much more!
(While supplies last)

Join us as we give back to our community for the Thanksgiving holiday. We have teamed up with several agencies and organizations to provide our community with information on services available to you if you need a helping hand. Come out and enjoy a free lunch, entertainment, giveaways and much more!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are in need of donations of cakes for dessert, canned drinks, bottled water and paper products (three section to-go plates and fork/napkin packets). We will start accepting items now with the exception of desserts which we will take beginning November 18, 2024.



Items can be dropped off at:
Howard Academy Community Center
306 N.W. 7th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34475
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm



For more information, please call (352) 671-4175.



Marion County Public Schools
"Helping Every Student Succeed"