



EDMOND L. FORDHAM

Veteran, Civil Rights Leader, Educator



Fordham Early Learning Academy



In this issue:

*Remembering A Humble Man:
Edmond L. Fordham*

*Learn More About Kids Central,
Inc., Family Resource Centers*

*A Snapshot of Your Local
Candidates Running for Office*

Back to School Information

*Howard Academy's
Community Day*



ENROLLMENT OPEN NOW

FORDHAM EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Located at 4000 W Anthony Road, Ocala, Florida

Be a part of a new tradition in Marion County. The new early learning academy will welcome Voluntary Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. **Space is available now for Kindergarten enrollment.** With a focus on literacy, music education, and social-emotional learning, students will receive a strong foundation in their early school years.

Questions? Please reach out to Jennifer Beck, Director or Vicki Neveils, Coordinator at 352-671-4925

Don't Delay! Enroll now using the link below:
<https://www.applytomarionschools.com/login>

Contact the School Choice office for assistance: 352-671-7743



An Equal Opportunity School District

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.

Contact Us:

Town Talk Magazine
P.O. Box 6212
Ocala, FL 34478
(352) 897-1817

Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com
or Towntalkmagazine.org

EDITOR'S DESK



In less than two weeks, those bright yellow school buses will start rolling again and our streets will be filled with students walking to school. Be sure to slow down so everyone can reach their destination safely.

Here's a few tips to help get your children ready for school:

- Daily routines: Wake up earlier. Start waking your child up 30 minutes earlier. ...
- Health Checks. Don't forget physicals and vaccines that are necessary for your child to get registered for school. ...
- Don't forget school shopping! Make buying school supplies fun and exciting.

Source: livesmartcolorado.colostate.edu/tips-to-get-your-child-ready-for-school

Don't forget to take advantage of the **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** for back-to-school shopping, which runs through August 7. It includes clothing/footwear \$100 or less per item; select school supplies \$50 or less per item; learning aids and jigsaw puzzles \$30 or less per item; personal computers \$1,500 or less (for noncommercial use only).

Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals and organizations in our community, thousands of our students are headed back to school with backpacks filled with school supplies that were distributed at various Back to School events last weekend all across our community.

If you missed out and still need help for your children, this is your last opportunity!. There are several more events happening this weekend. Go check them out!

-- Sunday, August 7, at 10:45 a.m. **New St. John Baptist Church**, 2251 N.W. 2nd St., is holding a Back to School Sunday. Join them to kick-off the new school year. The event includes motivational speakers, information on important programs provided by our public school system and giveaways.

-- Sunday, August 7, at **Greater New Hope Church**, 484 Emerald Road. They will begin passing out supplies at 11:30 a.m. until they run out.

-- Sunday, August 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Fresh Vision Foundation - Back to School Bash - Community Charity Event (Collaboration Event)** Fashion Cuts Hair & Beauty Academy, 3452 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala, FL 34479. Event includes the following FREE for families in need who have kids going back to school. Haircuts, Pizza, School Supplies (Limited supply first come, first served), Bounce Houses and Face Painting.

Don't forget Election Day is Tuesday, August 23, 2022
Your **VOTE** is Your **VOICE** ~ Don't Waste It!

Let's Talk!

Monica

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

Keep up with what's happening in YOUR community,
Like us on Facebook and stay in the know!

Subscribe with Us:

To receive a **free** copy via e-mail, subscribe at Towntalkmagazine.org
Annual subscription (printed copy) via mail: \$50

Advertise with Us: Business card: \$35 ~ **Quarter-page:** \$65 **Half-page:** \$100.

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**)
or make check payable to Town Talk Magazine and mail to P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478

Please visit our website at Towntalkmagazine.org to keep up with the latest happenings in the community.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

KIDS CENTRAL'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

If you ask Maisha Morman what she enjoys most about her job, she'll tell you it's meeting new people and being able to help them with whatever they need.

Morman, the Community Facilitator at the Ocala Family Resource Center, is responsible for providing residents in the community with resources and resource direction. But, her biggest challenge, she said, is not being able to help everyone who walks through the door.

"The way I'm working to overcome this is by helping as many people as I can, and the ones I can't, at least I'm able to give them some resource direction that may be able to help them," she said.

Morman, who's been in her position for a year, remembers the young lady who came to the center looking for some help for her new born baby, who needed diapers and clothing. She talked to her for a few minutes and found out that although her baby was just a month old, she needed a job because she had seven other children at home. When she came back to pick up the items for her baby, she had good news. She had gone to Signature Brands and applied for a job and was hired on the spot.

"She was so excited and so was I," Morman said. "She told me I have eight people depending on me and I have to be able to provide for them. This made my day. I am so excited for her and her new journey, and I am here to support her through this journey."

The Kids Central Family Resource Centers involve residents, families and resources from the community to assist families to reach their full potential. The goal is to strengthen families and build strong neighborhoods. Each Center has a Community Facilitator who works with community residents within an asset-based community development framework to create more support resources for families; increase access to services by engaging community partners in the coordination of services; and bring services closer to the people who need them.

"The Neighborhood Centers are a network of neighborhood-based resource centers created to engage families in services that promote family well-being, safety and health," said Shawanna Felton, Supervisor of the Family Resource Centers. "We do that by offering services such as GED Resources, Job Searches and Assistance, Social Service Referrals, Trainings/Workshops, Access Florida Application Site, Family Support Groups and a Self Sufficiency Program."

Prior to becoming the supervisor, Felton was the Facilitator of the Wildwood Center for four years. That center closed in March after being open for seven years. The Ocala Family Resource Center has been open for 14 years, the Leesburg Center for four years and the Brooksville Center opened two months ago. The long-term goal for each of the Centers, Felton said, is to help families to become sustainable by working to strengthen Families, Build Strong Neighborhoods, Enhance Employability and Educational Attainment and Enhance Community Connections.

Felton said donation drives are great ways to support the Centers, and volunteers are always needed too.

"I support the Community Facilitators as they provide services for the families in our communities," she said. "I'm also responsible for recruiting, processing and supervising all volunteers and interns."

Need help, want to volunteer or need more information? Contact the Center near you.



Maisha Morman

Serves Marion County
Ocala Family Resource Center
215 N.W. MLK Jr. Avenue
Ocala, FL 34475
(352) 732-0457

Email: Maisha.Morman@kidscentralinc.org
Open: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. daily for lunch

Keara McKnight

Serves Lake and Sumter County
Leesburg Family Resource Center
1041 County Rd., 468
P.O. Box 49063
Leesburg, FL 34749
(352) 787-0391

Email: Keara.mcknight@kidscentralinc.org
Open: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Erica Helligar

Serves Brooksville
Brooksville Family Resource Center
329 W. Jefferson Street
Brooksville, FL 34601
(352) 705-6103

Email: Erica.helligar@kidscentralinc.org
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch



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.

REMEMBERING EDMOND L. FORDHAM, A DEDICATED SERVANT,

Krista Fordham remembers the day her dad graduated from Stetson University with his Master's degree. She said her mom had taken them to the ceremony and they were on their way home when her dad told them: "No matter what you want to do in your life, whether you want to become a professor or a plumber, you have to put in the work."

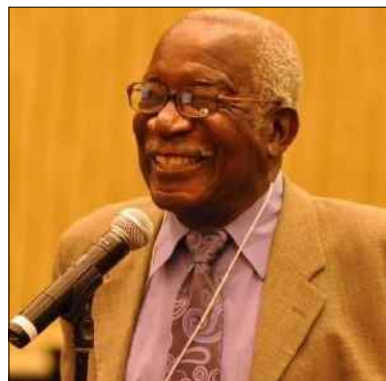
Throughout his life, Edmond Louis Fordham followed his own advice. He put in the work!

"My father was humble. My father had a genius IQ, but he didn't flaunt it," she said. "He was that kind of guy and him being approachable was an opportunity for him to do a lot of things within the community to help people who needed a lift. I admired that about him and I saw him do that."

Krista said her father enjoyed helping people. She said there were several African American women and a couple of men who were displaced out of the public school system that he purposely pulled up by the boot straps, and he gave them a job to get them back in the system.

"He did that because he enjoyed doing that," she said. "That's who he was."

Fordham, a long-time educator and mentor to many, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at the age of 94. He grew up in northeast Marion County and graduated in 1945 from Howard Academy. He served his country and graduated from Paine College. While there, he met his wife Tommie. They were married for 67 years before she passed away in 2020.



While she was in a 15 year cycle lost in drug addiction, Krista said her father never gave up on her. She said he stuck by her through the worst times of her life and in many ways, their lives transitioned to her being a caregiver for him.

"I thanked him before we got here. For everything he did and for never giving up on me. It was pivotal," she said. "Giving him a bath for the first time was hard for him and I had to remind him that God spared my life so I could be here to take care of him."

Krista said she is her father's daughter because they are a lot alike. She said they had the ability to hold fluent conversations about a lot of different things and he always welcomed their point of view. She said her daddy was a book worm. When she was a child, she said, he would sometimes read two novels in a weekend, thick novels. Being a history buff, the research he had the flexibility to do in this era of his life was amazing because he had an Ipad.

Recently, the school board named the site of the former Evergreen Elementary School the Fordham Early Learning Academy to honor the career educator and community leader. The academy, which opens August 10 to four- and five-year-old students in Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) and Kindergarten, will focus on developing strong literacy skills, social-emotional learning concepts and music enrichment opportunities in early learners.

Ronald Jones said Fordham, who he's known for 42 years, was his principal at Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary School where his mom was the cafeteria manager. As a young man, he said, he had a chance to spend hours with him, and one of his favorite memories was driving Bro. Fordham to a fraternity meeting in Jackson, MS. Jones said he can still hear him telling him about Dr. N.H. Jones, the man, during these trips. He was a wealth of knowledge.

Jones said their motto is: Live nobly as all real men do. He said his parents stressed education, being a person of morals and that you can achieve if you believe.

"I had the perfect example of everything they told me. A man that was an administrator. A man that we all looked up to. A man that led by example," Jones said. "A fraternity brother that held you accountable to our cardinal principles of Scholarship, Manhood, Perseverance and Uplift."



Fordham was the oldest member in the local Omega Psi Phi Chapter.

Continued on Page 5

FATHER, GRANDFATHER, ADMINISTRATOR AND LOYAL FRIEND!

(Continued from page 4)

Krista said it was Dr. N.H. Jones that brought her father into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and took him to his very first conclave. She said her dad was sick with the flu and Dr. Jones stopped on the way up to wherever they were going and got him a prescription so he could still attend.

“He mentored my father and my father was committed to what Omega Psi Phi stood for,” she said. “He was committed to the impact that it could have on other men and he took his role within the local fraternity as well as the 7th district and on a national level very seriously.”

The most important thing, she said, she learned from her father was perseverance because she’s a product of the Civil Rights Movement. Krista and her mom integrated Oakcrest Elementary School.

“I went to school with my mom and one of the things my father made sure that he gave to both of us - I could not handle it much better than my sister - was confidence and that it was Ok to be the only one because you’re smarter. (He told us) Don’t be afraid. You’re prettier and it’s Ok to be the only one.

“That stuck with me,” she said.

Krista said she did things, joined clubs, participated and put her name in the pot whether she got accepted into whatever it was or not just to make sure as a people, we were represented.

“My father was strong. He was brilliant and he was caring,” she said, “Men from that generation really didn’t show a lot of emotion, but he made sure that he gave us a quality of life that until we left home, we didn’t realize how good we had it. He was a great provider, he was all of those things.”



Fordham was also preceded in death by his oldest daughter Paula.

In addition to Krista, he leaves to cherish his memories, three grandchildren Jamila, Kristina and Edmond II.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made to his beloved alma mater Paine College. Donations can be mailed directly to the school, located at 1235 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901, or make check payable to Paine College on behalf of Edmond Fordham Class of 1952 and mail to: P.O. Box 3331 Ocala, FL 34478. The family will ensure the school receives the donation.

Fordham will lie in repose on Friday, August 5, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, 55 S.W. 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL 34471.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Mt. Moriah on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Edmond Louis Fordham
1927 ~ 2022

ALL RISE! THE HONORABLE JUDGE ? PRESIDING

County Court Judicial Candidates Seat 1

Seat 2

Name: Lori Cotton

Age: 50

Occupation: County Court Judge

Education: BA in History, summa cum laude, Ohio State University

Family: Married to Steve Tweedle, three children and two step-children



What characteristics and qualities do you believe are important for a judge to possess? A good judge follows the law, is hard-working, fair, compassionate and knowledgeable.

What experience or special training do you have that qualifies you to perform exceptionally in this position? I have been doing the job for more than a year and I'm already performing exceptionally. Former prosecutor for 20 years with a history of enforcing the law and following the rules. At the State Attorney's Office, I did 145 jury trials and I've handled every kind of case from misdemeanor to murder, prosecuted sex crimes, former supervisor, trainer, in charge of hiring attorneys and formally in charge of wire tap investigations.

If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be after taking office?

1. We need some level of mental health treatment to provide to mentally incompetent criminal defendants
2. I would like to see our county implement some type of homeless court. Bringing services to the courthouse or jail, specifically case managers who work with people who need services, could vastly improve their outcomes and reduce recidivism.
3. I'm concerned about the time that people required to take driving school, particularly for DUIs, have to wait to get in class.

Name: William Harris

Age: 47

Occupation: Assistant County Attorney for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Education: University of Maryland Carey School of Law, J.D., University of Florida, B.S., Central Florida Community College, AA., and graduate of Lake Weir High School

Family: Married to Carlean, two daughters



What characteristics and qualities do you believe are important for a judge to possess? A good judge must be fair, impartial and unbiased; understand the importance of listening and the power of effective communication; and must adhere to the law and make rulings consistent with the Florida and U.S. Constitutions.

What experience or special training do you have that qualifies you to perform exceptionally in this position? I began my legal career working at a midsize firm in Brevard County, FL., handling personal injury cases, landlord tenant disputes, foreclosure defense suits, business disputes and defending criminal clients. I worked as a prosecuting attorney for 12 years and then returned to the private sector and worked for Dan Newlin Injury Attorneys representing victims who had suffered catastrophic injury due to the negligence of another.

If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be after taking office?

1. Be fair, polite and compassionate to all persons who enter the courtroom
2. Work to streamline the backlog of cases created by the pandemic.
3. Utilize technology as much as possible to ensure the prompt disposition of cases, when appropriate.

Name: LeAnn Mackey-Barnes

Age: 47

Occupation: Chief Attorney Public Defenders Office

Education: University of Florida, BA Criminology; BA Sociology; and J.D.

Family: Married to Troy for 21 years; two children



What characteristics and qualities do you believe are important for a judge to possess? Patience, integrity temperament and respect for the job and the people that come before the Court. I believe if a judge exemplifies these four characteristics then everything else like fairness and hard work falls into place.

What experience or special training do you have that qualifies you to perform exceptionally in this position? Dual majored from the University of Florida and dual degreed receiving my law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2002. Practiced law for more than two decades and currently manages the second largest law firm in Marion County as the Chief Attorney in my office. I have trained and supervised hundreds of attorneys in the practice of law on how to handle and try large volumes of cases.

If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be after taking office?

1. Master the specific duties of the position.
2. Meet with all vested parties to gain a better understanding of their specific needs in order to help run the docket effectively.
3. Protect the Constitutional Rights of the citizens of Marion County.

Name: Renee Thompson

Age: 48

Occupation: Attorney and Mediator

Education: University of Florida, Levin College of Law, J.D., with honors; University of South Florida, B.S., magna cum laude, Honors Program

Family: Married for 23 years to Tommy



What characteristics and qualities do you believe are important for a judge to possess? All judges must possess the right blend of experience and integrity, to properly and fairly apply the law while upholding our constitutional rights. Any judicial candidate should be closely scrutinized as to education, experience and reputation.

What experience or special training do you have that qualifies you to perform exceptionally in this position?

I am a civil attorney and mediator in Marion County, practicing in state and federal court for more than 20 years. I own my own law firm and mediate with the statewide mediation firm Upchurch, Watson, White & Max Mediation. I have extensive experience representing individuals and businesses in many of the types of civil disputes that are common in county court, such as contract disputes, lien and foreclosure law, collections and landlord/tenant matters.

If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be after taking office?

If elected as a County Court Judge, I will uphold the law, respect the Florida and U.S. Constitutions and serve all members of our community with fairness and courtesy.

Name: Danielle B. Ruse

Age: 39

Occupation: Assistant State Attorney

Education: University of Florida, BA in Political Science; Florida Coastal School of Law, JD; and Trial Advocacy School

Family: triplet girls



What characteristics and qualities do you believe are important for a judge to possess? A judge should be self motivated to work hard and efficiently; Be able to listen, exhibit empathy and flexibility; and Exhibit integrity - not only on the bench but in their personal life.

What experience or special training do you have that qualifies you to perform exceptionally in this position? I have experience in the courtroom, 14 years as a trial attorney with the State Attorney's Office and special training with my education from the Trial Advocacy School with the University of Virginia School of Law, where we focused on the best practices needed for both criminal and civil trials.

If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be after taking office?

1. I want to work together with other agencies to create programs that prevent recidivism by linking up individuals with services, thereby saving the taxpayers.
2. I want to listen to the other judges and attorneys, and find out what the best practices are for managing my caseload and to keep my knowledge up to date.
3. Make sure that I work hard and efficiently to keep my caseload manageable, with maintaining respect for the concerns of attorneys, clients and the tax payers.

2022 Primary Election*

Early Voting:
August 13 to August 20, 2022,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mail Ballot Request Deadline:
August 13, 2022 by 5 p.m.

*Mail ballots must be received
by the Supervisor of Elections
office by 7 p.m. on Election
Day to be counted*



Election Day:

August 23, 2022:
Polls open
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Meet The Candidates Who Want to Represent You!

All candidates were invited to submit information for this publication. Those that responded are included below!

County Commission Candidates District 4

Name: Brian C. Donnelly
Age: 67
Occupation: Owner/Operator Growmor, LLC
Education: Architectural Engineering
Family: two daughters
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Smart Growth
 2. Health and Safety
 3. Farm Preservation



Name: Keith A. Poole
Age: 45
Occupation: Small business owner and general contractor specializing in affordable housing
Education: Graduate, Vanguard High School
Family: Married for 19 years, three children
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Lack of Infrastructure
 2. Affordable housing
 3. Emergency personnel



County Commission Candidate District 2

Name: Gina M. Capone (Write-in candidate)
Age: N/A
Occupation: Owns Pacnoe, Inc. - Publishing & Informational Services
Education: Master's in English
Family: N/A
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Keep urban sprawl in the urban growth boundaries, stopping development from reaching or encroaching into our farming and agriculture farming communities
 2. Stop the Florida Connector Road from crossing through our county
 3. Increase federal funding for infrastructure, road repairs, widening and maintaining existing roadways and finding solutions to traffic.



School Board Candidates District 2

Name: Lori Conrad
Age: 50
Occupation: Educator in Marion County Public Schools for 25+ years
Education: Bachelors degree in Elementary Education; Certified Media Specialist; and Certified in Early Childhood Education
Family: Married to Tom for 31 years, two children
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Recruit and retain certified teachers
 2. Early Childhood Learning Intervention
 3. School Safety



Name: Joseph Suranni
Age: 49
Occupation: Student Services Manager (Dean of Students)
Education: Canisus College, BA in Education; Webster University, Master's in Business Administration; Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership, Webster University
Family: Married to Carolyn for 20 years, two children
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Stewardship of your tax dollars
 2. Increased representation/Information family
 3. Strengthened partnership between school, family and community.



Name: Eric Cummings
Age: 53
Occupation: Pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Elected Official School Board
Education: Edward Waters College, Bachelor of Business Administration (Organizational Management); United Theological Seminary, Bachelor and Master of Theology.
Family: Married to Lisa, six children and four grandchildren
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Working with our Superintendent and Leadership team to provide a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff.
 2. Working with the Superintendent, Staff, Community, Parents and Students to produce more positive "Student Outcomes and Gains" to increase the districts ranking within the state to a high level.
 3. Recruit and retain high performing educators and staff who are student centered and who will help the district obtain better "Student Outcomes!"



Name: Steve Swett
Age: 74
Occupation: Retired USPS Manager/Postmaster
Education: Florida International University, BS
Family: Married to Mary for 52 years, two sons, four grandchildren
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Improve academic performance of school district.
 2. Ensure that the lack of planning for growth, lack of communication/cooperation with other county agencies and failure to provide visionary leadership for the school district is accomplished.
 3. Establish a vigorous program to address the funding/building of new schools as well as plans to use existing resources to handle the projected increase. Research and find solution to fund new construction and maintain a viable school district that delivers the best education possible to our students, and be a good steward of public funds.



School Board Candidates District 5

Name: Dr. Sarah James
Age: 32
Occupation: Owner, Kid City USA Ocala
Education: National Louis University, Doctorate in Educational Leadership
Family: Married to Danny, three children
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Recruit and Retain Quality Personnel
 2. Prepare for Growth & Balance a Student First Budget
 3. Expand Vocational Opportunities



Name: Taylor Smith
Age: 24
Occupation: Currently in partnership for ownership of Circle T Farms and a real estate investor
Education: Graduate, West Port High School
Family: two sisters, one niece
Top 3 Priorities:
 1. Encourage strengthening trade schools and alternative pathways.
 2. Promote Governor DeSantis' educational reforms and ensure our policies adhere to these principles.
 3. Work to increase our students ability to learn, engage and retain knowledge who will grow into strong citizens.



RIGHT TO VOTE. DON'T THROW IT AWAY



2022 General Election*

Voter Registration Deadline:
 October 11, 2022

Early Voting
 October 27 - November 5, 2022, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mail Ballot Request Deadline:
 October 29, 2022 by 5 p.m.

Mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

Election Day:
 November 8, 2022 - Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ELECT

**LEANN MACKEY
BARNES**
FOR MARION COUNTY **JUDGE**
GROUP 1

EARLY VOTING
August 13th - 20th

ELECTION DAY
August 23rd

www.LeannBarnesForJudge.com

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Leann Mackey Barnes, Non-Partisan, for Marion County Judge, Group 1.

LEANN IS EXPERIENCED

- ✓ University of Florida Graduate
- ✓ 20 Years of Courtroom Experience
- ✓ Trial Attorney
- ✓ Law Firm Supervisor
- ✓ Criminal and Civil Experience
- ✓ Helped to Establish Veterans Treatment Court and Mental Health Court
- ✓ Former Special Education Teacher

LEANN IS DEDICATED TO HER COMMUNITY

- ✓ Former Teen Court Volunteer Judge
- ✓ Pace Center for Girls Board Member
- ✓ Member of Kiwanis Club of Ocala
- ✓ Florida High School Athletic Association Appeals Committee Chair
- ✓ Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Business Spotlight



PLANNING | COORDINATION | DECOR

Business Name: Simply Elegant Event Planning & Coordination, LLC

No. of Employees: 5

Business Owner: Charlene Robinson

Business Address: Remote

Business Phone: (352) 229-6678

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2007

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Products and/or Services:

Event Planning, Coordination and select Décor Services.

Email: simplyelegantpc@yahoo.com

Website: N/A

Are you on Social Media? Yes

Facebook: @creationsbysimplyelegant

Instagram: creationsbysimplyelegant

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?

I was inspired by a well-known local decorator who is still very influential in my life today and by the world renowned wedding planner, Preston Bailey.

What Makes Your Business Unique or What's

Your Specialty? As stated in our motto, we take pride in making our client's vision our creation. At our client's first peek, the venue should speak!

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting

A Business? Find your niche and perfect it.

Samples:



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, request a form from Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com. Completed forms can be returned via email or mailed to P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478.



Appleton Museum, Artspace and Store
 Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m.
 4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd. | AppletonMuseum.org



Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council [GWONRC] is hosting a

CANDIDATES FORUM

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES!

Tuesday, August 9, 2022
 6:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m.

MLK First Responder Campus
 515 SW Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

SPEAKERS:
 CHERRIETTA PRINCE, DIRECTOR OF IMPACT INITIATIVE,
 OCALA METRO CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
 BETH MCCALL, DIRECTOR OF TALENT DEVELOPMENT, OCALA METRO CEP
 "YES FOR MARION SCHOOLS: RENEWAL OF 1 MIL AD VALOREM TAX"

This meeting is free and open to the public. Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the candidates running for office in the City of Ocala 2022 Primary Election.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

It's The 5th Annual Women's Equality Day Celebration

EQUALI - TEA

"The Audacity to lead:
 Fighting the barriers
 to
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT!"

**Saturday, August 20, 2022
 12:30-300PM**

**Precious Oaks 13552 N. US.27
 Ocala, FL 34482**

FEATURING:
 Attorney Amaris Ayala - Candidate running for Florida State Attorney General
Plus Special Guests TBA

Donation: \$50 can be made thru: ActBlue:<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/democratic-women-s-club-of-marion-county/>.
 Candidates financial support is encouraged.

Attire (Suffragist) White
 Silent Auction
 Limited Seating
 Contact to Table Sponsor:
Dwcmcpres2016@gmail.com

Mail check to DWCMC PO Box 5837 Ocala
 FL 34478

MONEY SMART TIPS

By Scott Hackmyer

KNOWING WHEN TO BUY CAN SAVE YOU A LOT OF MONEY!

When making long term plans it is great to know the best time of year to make certain purchases. A number of national organizations, such as NerdWallet and Kiplinger put out lists of the best months to make certain purchases. A theme you will find is, it's smart to buy a product just before the next year's models are coming out as the stores want to clear their inventory of brand new and perfectly good merchandise to make room for the new styles coming.

Below are items highlighted by the various publications that keep track of these sale dates. Let me start with August and go through 2022. Next month I will complete the list for you to keep as a resource guide. You can also search online asking "What is on sale during different months of the year?"



August: Summer products go on sale as summer is starting to come to an end. Swimsuits for next year, outdoor items like lawn mowers and other outdoor tools. You can get great deals on many Back to School Supplies. Pay attention to the Tax Free Holiday dates as this is another way to save on your purchases. This year August 7 is the last day for tax free school supplies which includes clothing, shoes, backpacks and of course school supplies.

September: If you need a new mattress September is your month. Watch the ads particularly around Labor Day. Refrigerators, washers and dryers and even small appliances go on sale with the beginning of the month the best time for great deals. Summer gardening equipment can be found with close out prices.

October: If you need a new pair of jeans don't buy them in August or September. October is the time to buy those new jeans. Columbus Day is October 10 and you will find lots of furniture including mattresses and recliners on sale. As we move into fall air conditioners, fans and outdoor furniture have their prices marked down. Watch the ads closely for good deals on Halloween candy. Strangely, October is also a great month to buy wine. National Coffee Day is October 1 and National Taco Day is October 4. Watch for store signs and ads and you might snag a free cup of coffee or taco.

November: Black Friday month but you will find sales all month long, not just on November 25. Don't forget Cyber Monday is November 28. This is a great month to buy electronics such as tablets, laptops and gaming systems. Keep an eye on large home appliances as these are often included in Black Friday sales. If you don't get the newspaper go online to stores like Lowe's, Home Depot, Best Buy, Kohl's, Office Depot and Staples to see what items have big discounts.

December: Electronics and toys lead the way for big sales in December but if you are shopping for a car the second half of the month is a great time to get a good deal. After Christmas if you have storage space in your home you can usually stock up on gift wrap, bows, cards, gift tags and decorations at 50 - 75% off prices. Artificial Christmas trees will also be at great prices.

WANT TO VOTE EARLY? LOCATIONS BELOW

Early voting for Marion County is August 13 - August 20, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the following locations:

Marion County Elections Center,
981 NE 16th St., Ocala

Bellevue Public Library,
13145 SE Highway 484, Belleview

Deputy Brian Litz Building,
9048 SW Highway 200, Ocala

Dunnellon Public Library,
20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon

Forest Public Library,
905 South Highway 314A, Ocklawaha

Freedom Public Library,
5870 SW 95th St., Ocala

Mulberry Center,
8445 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, The Villages

Reddick Community Center,
4345 NW 152nd St., Reddick

Silver Springs Shores Community Center,
590 Silver Road, Ocala



You must show a photo and signature identification before you can vote in person, either early or on Election Day.

COME OUT AND ENJOY A GOOD TIME ! SCHOOL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS!

BACK TO SCHOOL Charity Event
 Sunday, August 7th, from 10am to 5pm
 Hosted by: [Logo]
 3452 NE Jackson Rd. Ocala, FL. 34479
 Little Caesars Pizza
 Free Haircuts
 School Supplies
 Food and more!
 Double D, Fresh Vision Foundation, Development, A B I B A M

NAACP DAY 2022
 Aug 6, 2022 • Webb Field 1-6 pm
 NAACP 5114 MARION COUNTY BRANCH
 CANDIDATE SPEECHES
 SCHOOL BOARD, JUDGES, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, STATE & NATIONAL
 LOCAL TALENT ON DISPLAY
 MANY VENDORS, FOOD, INFORMATIONAL TABLES, MERCHANDISE FOR SALE
 FEATURING DJ FRESH FORCE
Protecting Our Right to Vote
 Sponsored by:
 NAACP5114MarionCountyBranch
 NAACPofMarionCounty
 SECOND BETHLEHEM PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS

HELPFUL THINGS YOU MIGHT NEED TO KNOW

ORIENTATION/MEET THE TEACHER DATES AND TIMES

Monday, August 8, 2022

Elementary Schools

Fort McCoy: Pre-K - 8, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Howard: New 7th and 8th grade students, 2 p.m., 6th grade Welcome, 2:45 p.m.
Madison Street: Pre-K and Kindergarten, 10:30 a.m. Grades 1st - 5th, 1 p.m.
Maplewood: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Reddick-Collier: 10 a.m. to noon
South Ocala: Kindergarten, 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.; School-wide, 10 a.m. to noon
Sparr: 10 a.m. to noon
Stanton-Weirsdale: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Middle Schools

Dunnellon: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Lake Weir: 6th grade and New Students, noon to 2 p.m. (Auditorium)
Liberty: 6th grade and New Students, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Cafeteria)
Osceola: 6th grade and New Students, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

High Schools

Bellevue: Orientation Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTicjjGKJQA>
Dunnellon: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Forest: Incoming Freshmen (Choose one ~ August 8 or August 9)
 Reserve a spot at <https://forms.gle/7dJnccuVj58tLE5d7>
North Marion: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Vanguard: New Student/Family, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Elementary Schools

Bellevue - Santos: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
College Park: Pre-K - 2nd, 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., 3rd-5th, 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Dr. N.H. Jones: Pre-K - 2 p.m. noon to 1 p.m. and 3rd to 5th, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Emerald Shores: **August 6**, Pre-K, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and **August 9**, Kindergarten, 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. 1st - 5th, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Hammett L. Bowen, Jr.: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Legacy: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Marion Oaks: Sensory Friendly (ESE) Pre-K - K, 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and 1st - 5th, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
Wyomina Park: noon to 1:30 p.m.
***Sunrise:** **August 5:** Meet Your Teacher (All Day)

Middle School's

Bellevue: 6th grade, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
 *Go to www.marion.k12.fl.us for updates or more information



IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL



The first day of school for Marion County Public School students is Wednesday, August 10! Make sure your contact information is current in Family Access to receive up-to-date information as the school year begins. To learn more about Family Access

go to <https://www.marionschools.net/Page/52062>.

Are You Ready for The Next Parent Partnership Event?

Parent Partnership is a collaboration of district schools, departments, and community organizations to provide families opportunities to assist their child(ren) with strategies to be used at home and link families with community resources.



The next Parent Partnership event will be held on **Saturday, August 27, 2022** at Lake Weir High School from 9 a.m. to noon. Call the Communications and Community Engagement office at (352) 671-7759 for more information.

New Start and Stop Times For in the 2022 - 2023 School Year

School	Start Time	End Time
Howard Middle	9:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.
Lake Weir Middle	9:30 a.m.	4 p.m.
Liberty Middle	7:50 a.m.	2:10 p.m.
North Marion Middle	9:20 a.m.	3:50 p.m.
Osceola Middle	7:50 a.m.	2:05 p.m.
Marion Technical Institute	7:30 a.m.	2:05 p.m.



*Start and Stop times at all other Marion County Public Schools will remain the same as the previous school year.

HERE COMES THE BUS ... A SCHOOL BUS TRACKING APP FOR PARENTS

Tracking Features:

- Shows the real time location of your child's bus on a map
- Gives scheduled and actual arrival times at home and school for bus routes
- Provides push and email notification when the bus is near



To Sign Up: Download the "Here Comes the Bus app or visit herecomesthebus.com.

- Install the free app then click the "Don't have an account? Sign Up" button at the bottom of the screen and click "Continue"
- Enter district code 670 and follow screen directions for name, district code and email address. Click box to accept terms. Confirm Marion County School District.
- Complete password process. Activate account via message sent to email address.
- Log into account. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID/lunch number
- Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin.

Questions, call (352) 671-7050 or email ContactUs@marion.k12.fl.us

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OCALA, FLORIDA
PERMIT NO. 748

ECRWSS

Howard Academy Community
Center presents

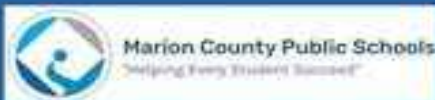
Community Day

Saturday, August 6, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Howard Academy
Community Center**
306 N.W. 7th Ave.
Ocala, FL. 34475

**Information will be provided
on the following:**

- Tutoring
- Ramal Educational Services, Inc.
- Volunteer opportunities
- Homeownership classes
- Financial literacy classes
- Zumba and line dance classes
- Vanguard Educators Academy
and much more!



The Marion County Hospital District
will be in attendance to introduce
some exciting new programs
available at the center to the community.

Free food, giveaways, and much more!
Come to find out about all the great programs Howard Academy has to offer!

For more information please contact us at
[352] 671-4175