



Remembering the 20th Anniversary of 9/11



CMDR James A. Curley Sr. ~ See story on Page 6

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Marion County hosts a commemoration
of the 20th anniversary of
the events of Sept. 11th, 2001
At Ocala / Marion County Veterans Memorial Park
2601 SE Fort King St., Ocala

- Friday, Sept. 10**
10 a.m. Motorcycle escort of Remembrance Wall from War Horse Harley-Davidson to Veterans' Memorial Park, wall raising ceremony.
- Saturday, Sept. 11 - Opening Ceremony**
8:30 a.m. Musical performances, 9/11 history and remembrance, placement of wreaths, flyover, Last Call audio and more
6 p.m. Dance by Sheila student performance
- Saturday, Sept. 12**
10 a.m. First Responders' Chaplain Corps service
3 p.m. Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band
6 p.m. Joan Crowder & Friends performance
- Monday, Sept. 13**
10 a.m. School Learning Experience
- Tuesday, Sept. 14**
10 a.m. Meet Your Hometown Heroes
- Friday, Sept. 17**
8 a.m. Hometown Heroes Breakfast (Invitation Only)
12 p.m. PTSD support - talk, share, ask questions
3 p.m. MIA / POW ceremony
4 p.m. Survivors share stories
6 p.m. Delta Rose Band
- Saturday, Sept. 18 - Veterans' Appreciation Day**
10 a.m. Veterans' Prayer Service
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. American Flag story time with Betsy Ross & George Washington, flag-folding demonstration
2 p.m. "Four Seasons" concert
3:30 p.m. "Music by Barry" concert
7 p.m. "Taking Chance" movie on the BIG Screen
- Sunday, Sept. 19 - Closing Ceremony**
10 a.m. First Responders' Chaplain Corps service
1 p.m. Closing ceremony

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

Loretta Pompey Jenkins

Scott Hackmyer

Ashley R. Lopez

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.

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The opinions expressed in this
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Contact Us:

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EDITOR'S DESK

Monica Bryant



It's hard to think about the day our lives changed forever. And although it's been 20 years, just thinking about what happened on 9/11 is still painful.

We asked a few community members to remember where they were, what they were doing and to share their thoughts and feelings on the terrorist attack.

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when the first plane hit one of the twin towers? Do you remember how you felt when you realized it wasn't an accident?

I do! I was standing in the newsroom with some of my colleagues at the Star-Banner. Of course the TV's were always on in the newsroom, so when the first plane hit the north tower, all eyes were glued to the television set. In the beginning, we thought it was a horrible accident, but soon the ugly truth became apparent and we knew nobody was going home no time soon.

That event, as tragic as it was and still is, brought our community together in ways that we had never seen before. We were definitely united and stronger together! It seems that when tragedy strikes, regardless of what it is, we always come together as a community to get through it. The problem is, after the crisis has passed, we go back to the way we were.

Life is too short. We're experiencing another attack in our community. No, it's not a terrorist attack, but the result is the same ... loss of life.

Everyday, we are losing family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues due to Covid -19. If you're fortunate enough to have a roof over your head, clean clothes, food to eat and you're in your right mind, thank God. Many don't and would love to trade places with you. Their circumstances are not always the result of them making bad decisions. You made some too. We all have!

We can do better, be better or make life better for someone else. Dr. Charles McIntosh said it best as he reflected on the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in this issue: *"We need to realize that love for our neighbors once again. It shouldn't take a catastrophic event for that to happen."*

I agree. It shouldn't! If you get the opportunity to brighten someone's day, do it. You never know how that small act of kindness may change that person's life.

City of Ocala residents, don't forget to vote on September 21. If you don't vote, don't complain!

Let's Talk!

Monica

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

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2021 City of Ocala General/Special Election

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S RUNNING FOR OFFICE? MEET YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

Mayoral Candidates

Incumbent: Kent Guinn



Dr. Manal Fakhoury



*Kent Guinn

District 1 Candidates

Incumbent: Brent Malever



Barry Mansfield



*Brent Malever

District 5 Candidates

Incumbent: Justin Grabelle
(did not run for re-election)



James Hilty



Gregory Steen

District 3 Candidates

Incumbent: Jay Musleh



Rusty Juergens



Jay A. Musleh



Ty Schlichter



September 11, 2021

is the deadline to request a **Vote by Mail Ballot**

to be mailed for the 2021 City of Ocala General and Special Election.



Request a Mail Ballot online or please call **(352) 620-3290**.

District 4 Candidates

Incumbent: Matt Wardell (did not run for re-election)



Kristen Dreyer



Alexander R. Everts



Barbara Fitos



Curtis Jones



Kevin Lopez



Lori Martin Gregory

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE



City of Ocala Registered Voters

as of August 31, 2021

Total Number of Voters 38,284

Democrats: **13,859**

Republicans: **15,712**

No Party Affiliation: 8,097

Other: 616

(registered with Minor Parties i.e. Green and Libertarian, etc.)

-- Inactive Voters --

(Technically eligible, but in the process of being removed)

Democrats: 1,211

Republicans: 1,085

No Party Affiliation: 966

Other: 49



Tuesday, September 21, 2021
Polls Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

* Source: www.ocalafl.org for photo of Guinn and Malever

DR. MANAL FAKHOURY: THE NEW FACE, NEW FOCUS OCALA NEEDS!

Opinion on Mayor's Race: Submitted by Loretta Pompey Jenkins, Community Leader

As a life-long citizen of Ocala (living on the NW side of town), it is my humble and focused opinion that our city needs a New Face and a New Focus. I believe this can be accomplished with the election of a new Mayor of Ocala.

I am qualified to speak on the need for this "New Face and New Focus" based on my experience as a leader in this community. A retired elementary school principal, former president of the local branch of the NAACP (multiple terms), and former president of the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (multiple terms) provides substantive rationale for me to share my voice as a respected leader in Marion County. Moreover, I presently serve on the Marion County Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission where I lead the organization in the implementation of the annual prayer breakfast. These leadership roles serve as conduits for me to engage with diverse residents across the city, thereby gaining relevant knowledge about the needs, challenges, opportunities and vision of the residents.

Cities deserve and require leadership that is responsive to the dynamic demands of its residents. The city of Ocala is no different. Dr. Manal Fakhoury has a proven track record of leading organizations strategically to realize meaningful outcomes for all stakeholders. Fakhoury is the person Ocala needs to serve as the next Mayor. She is one who creates and nurtures opportunities for those with whom she has the opportunity to serve.

Fakhoury's experience and leadership acumen are ripe for developing a plan for growth, sustainability and economic development for the City of Ocala. Founder of Ollin Women International and Fakhoury Leadership International, Fakhoury demonstrates her commitment to progressive (futuristic) critical thinking and collaboration, all ultimately designed to promote a compassionate and equitable society.

Manal Fakhoury is the "New Face! Manal Fakhoury is the New Focus!"

Let's Make Ocala An All-America City Again!

As mayor, Manal will put Ocala back on the path to becoming an All-America City once again as we were last designated in 1995—revitalizing and reinvesting in our community.

Public Safety & Lowering Crime ★ Creating Opportunity For ALL ★ Tackling Homelessness

VOTE
★ Sept. 21★

Dr. Manal
Fakhoury
FOR **MAYOR**

Serving ALL of Ocala
ManalForMayor.com

Paid for and approved by Manal Fakhoury for Mayor of Ocala.



Community Sen\$e

COMMUNITY CONNECT: THE APPLICATION THAT PUTS YOU IN COMMAND OF YOUR EMERGENCY

By Ashley R. Lopez, Public Information Officer, Ocala Fire Rescue

As wonderful as it is to know that first responders are a call away, the thought of calling 9-1-1 is exhausting for anyone who's had to do it more than once.

9-1-1, what's your emergency?

The moment you call 9-1-1, a countdown begins. Seconds turn to agonizing minutes as you wait for first responders. Despite their rapid arrival and efficient response, the only information your aides have is a rough idea of a bystander's account. As you may suspect, these accounts are often misleading, consuming seconds better suited toward life-saving efforts.

To bridge the gap between the necessities arising from an emergency and a family's unique needs, Ocala Fire Rescue (OFR) has partnered with technology developer First Due to release **Community Connect**, a pre-planning tool for fire and medical emergencies. Allowing firefighters to access household-specific information before they arrive on the scene, Community Connect is a platform where you can share details about your home and the people within. By providing information that you feel is important for our emergency response personnel to know in an emergency, we can ensure everything you care about is better protected.

Having information specific to your household is invaluable during an emergency. By providing details such as family members' mobility restrictions and functional needs, the number of people and pets in the home and the location of your utility shut-offs, you are helping us save valuable time in the fight for your family's life and property.

Community Connect profiles empower you with an active role in protecting your family in situations when control is no longer in your hands. Every detail you provide allows us to decide the best attack plan before arriving on the scene. It is this level of pre-planning that helps save time when seconds matter most.

Enrollment in Community Connect is 100% secure and completely voluntary, letting you input as much or as little information in your profile as you see fit. The data entered within is protected with bank-level encryption and is used to serve your family during emergencies only. Your information is never used for any other purpose.

Benefiting from Community Connect is free and easy. City of Ocala residents can create an account with critical property and occupant information by visiting **Register.OcalaFire.org**. Once your profile is completed, the data is stored and accessed only by public safety agencies when an emergency unit is dispatched to your home.

Community Connect is a reliable platform where the fire department's resources and your family's needs meet. Its potential to increase the number of lives saved during a medical emergency and decrease the percentage of property loss during a fire is undeniable, and one which we get closer to with every household enrolled.

We encourage you to explore the many benefits offered by Community Connect and champion the challenge of helping save lives one profile at a time.

For more information about Community Connect, visit **Register.OcalaFire.org** or contact OFR's Administration Office at **(352) 629-8306**.



Business Spotlight



Business Name: Kayler's Notary Services, LLC

No. of Employees: 1

Business Owner: Kayler McGill Walker

Business Address: Ocala, Florida

Business Phone: (352) 354-2883

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2017

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Products and/or Services:

Mobile Notary Services, Apostille Services, Loan Signing Services and Remote Online Notary Services.

Email: Kaylermcgillnotary@gmail.com

Website: Kaylersnotaryservices.com

Are you on Social Media? Yes

If yes, what platforms?

Facebook: Kayler's Notary Services, LLC

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?

I wanted something different and better for myself and my family instead of living paycheck to paycheck.

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

I strive to give a person the best experience and focus on having an error free notarization.

What Advice would you give someone starting a business?

Stay focused, write down all your ideas and take small steps towards each goal.



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.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM SET TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

The **IMPACT FastTrac® V** Entrepreneurship Training Program will begin Thursday, September 9, 2021. The course will continue for 10 weeks, until November 11. Each session will begin promptly at 5 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. To receive the Kauffman IMPACT FastTrac® certification at the end of the series, participants are expected to attend at least eight sessions.

The agenda includes *Introduction to Entrepreneurship* and the *Business Plan*. Guest speakers will discuss their entrepreneurial journeys, financial planning, insurance, taxation, SEO, marketing, where to locate resources (i.e. funding, employees, research), building and training your staff and management team; and understanding the importance of an exit strategy. Please bring your laptop (not required) during certain sessions. Having your computer available will also provide an opportunity to review the course setup on your own device.

Review your schedule for the next couple of months, and earnestly determine if you can designate three (3) hours each Thursday afternoon to attend. There is a waiting list of entrepreneurs interested in this training. Send email to Cherrietta@ocalacep.com as soon as possible to reserve your seat, or allow for another interested entrepreneur to attend. For questions or more information, call **(352) 629-8051 ext. 123**.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Twenty years ago CMDR. James A. Curley, Sr., was on his way to Citrus Springs and Dunnellon with a car full of packages to deliver when he initially heard a plane had hit one of the twin towers.

"I had a full days work ahead of me, but I managed to get as much information as I could between stops," said Curley, who is currently the Commander of VFW Post #7193 and Past Cmdr. of Military Order of Purple Heart.

Curley said when he found out that it wasn't a horrible accident but a terrorist attack, his thoughts and prayers went out to the people who had been trapped in the building and any survivors.

This year marks 20 years since 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, according to www.history.com/topics/21st-century/9-11-attacks.

"Everyone was impacted by this tragedy and I was a bit numb when thinking about the families of the victims who will forever live this tragedy in their minds," he said. "Personally, I knew no one, but my heart was grieved and I could not get the image out of my mind of the plane flying into the Trade Center."

Curley said Post #7193 lowers their flag to half staff and they have a prayer session for anyone who wants to pray. Mostly, he said, they observe the entire day with sober thoughts and prayers. He said we should have learned that we as a nation are targets and if having the inclination and the hatred is strong enough, look out! We are not immune from attack.

Curley said he doesn't plan to ever visit any of the sites.

"My heart just couldn't take it," he said. "Just reliving the incident gives me the vapors."



James A. Curley, Sr.



Rafael and Angie Rivera

Angie Rivera was teaching in her classroom at Prairie View Elementary School in Gainesville, Fl., when she heard a teacher screaming "Oh my God, a plane just hit the twin towers in New York City."

She said the principal told everyone not to turn on their TV for any reason and if it was on to turn it off immediately and for them to continue with their daily activities and follow their respective schedules.

Rivera said the news was reporting everything that was happening. You could see people jumping out office windows, calling their loved ones to say good-bye. The scenes were dramatic and sad, she said.

"I was feeling confused because as a foreigner my belief always has been the USA was the safest country in the entire world," she said. The USA has the biggest active military force and they are always fighting with other countries for our safety and freedom."

Angie's husband, Rafael Rivera, said he was in Orlando at a mechanic shop when the first plane hit one of the twin towers. He said he had mixed emotions when he found out it wasn't an accident but a terrorist attack.

THE DAY OUR LIVES CHANGED FOREVER!

communication with them as a coordinated attack.”

Rafael Rivera said one aspect of the attack was that it was methodical, coordinated and well-funded. He said with that in mind, we have learned not to underestimate the terrorists and their willpower to inflict damage and death.

“Their actions that day have changed the way we travel not only here in the U.S., but also around the world,” he said. “While there were incidents that caused changes to how we traveled abroad (Lockerbie) and other incidents, 9/11 was the one that we took personally and recognized as a personal threat to our way of life.”

Dr. Charles McIntosh, Dean of Criminal Justice and Public Service, College of Central Florida, said he was alerted by an inmate who saw it happen on a television in the library. He said the inmate ran out shouting trying to get his attention.

“I was a bit confused. I didn’t think that this could happen in our country.” said McIntosh, who was a Sergeant with the Florida Department of Corrections at Putnam Correctional Institution at the time the attacks occurred. “We are supposed to be a world superpower.”



Dr. Charles McIntosh

McIntosh said everything began to move in slow motions as many of the officers who were also military reservists had to call and check in. He said they had to leave immediately. They locked down the compound, but he said he was thinking that this was literally something from a movie.

“In the aftermath of the attack, we quickly realized that we all loved this country. We were all Americans. It was apparent that all of us united were stronger than any one of us,” McIntosh said. “We need to realize that love for our neighbors once again. It shouldn’t take a catastrophic event for that to happen.”



Henry DeGeneste

Henry DeGeneste said after watching the second plane crash into tower #2 of the World Trade Center (WTC), he knew immediately that it was no accident. DeGeneste, who at the time was Senior Vice President and Director of World Wide Security at Prudential Financial, Inc. was in his office, which was five blocks east of the WTC. He said he had just completed a staff meeting when his executive assistant told him to turn on his TV because a plane had just hit the WTC.

“A major concern I had after observing from my office the building fires and explosions I heard from both twin towers, was how could people escape,” DeGeneste said. “I knew from having offices at the WTC and knowing the buildings were 110 floors high, how difficult escape would be from where the planes hit the towers. “Ironically, I was scheduled to have lunch at the WTC at 1 p.m. that day.”

He said they were able to evacuate all of their non-essential staff from their four buildings in lower Manhattan, and they managed to keep their financial trading systems operational. DeGeneste and his essential staff slept in their office for about five days until the National Guard opened parts of the area for some businesses to reopen.

Two days later, he said, he walked five blocks west to the site of the WTC attack and found out that the person that succeeded him as the Director of Public Safety and Superintendent of the Port Authority Police Department of New York and New Jersey (PAPD) had died at the site trying to rescue people in the buildings. He said by the end of the week, he learned that **37** PAPD officers had lost their lives, all of whom he knew and another **89** Port Authority employees, most of whom he knew, had also died at the scene. Additionally, **23** New York City police officers, **343** New York City firefighters and eight emergency medical technicians also died.

“Terrorism is a fact of life for everyone. We as a nation are now aware that terrorism is alive and active in the U.S. and is probably here to stay,” DeGeneste said. “Hopefully we have learned about brave and selfless acts of heroism where people risked their own lives to save others ..”



Free First Saturdays

September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4



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



-an equal opportunity college-



Saturday, September 11, 2021
10:00am to 2:00pm

Join us at Tuscawilla Park

Join us in celebrating those who are on their recovery journey and remembering those who have been lost to addiction.

Live music from Mike Smithson!

FREE t-shirt and lunch. Memory Wall to honor loved ones lost and guest speakers from the community to share their experiences. Pony rides, face painting, vendors, selfie booth, balloon artist in the Kids Zone! FREE event for the entire community and family friendly!



This year's event is dedicated to the late Chief Greg Graham

5th ANNUAL FALL IN LOVE WITH READING FREE Drive Thru Event

When:

Saturday, September 18, 2021
 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Location:

One Health Center
 1714 SW 17th St. Ocala



joins with community partners to present a **FREE STORY BOOK DRIVE THRU LITERACY EVENT!**

Come experience story book lane and be greeted by story book characters as they hand out Free children's books!

For more information call 352-369-2315 ext. 201 or email: jrathel@elc-marion.org



Things You Need to Know:



FOR CANDIDATES

The Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council is hosting a Meet & Greet for candidates running in the City of Ocala General/Special Election.

The Meet & Greet is an opportunity for residents to meet and learn more about the candidates and their priorities.

Each candidate will have 3 minutes to speak followed by a networking session so attendees can meet with candidates and ask questions on a one on one basis.

***Please note:
This is not a candidate debate!**

GOVERNOR'S
WEST OCALA
NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION
COUNCIL
invites you to join us

Monday,
September 13, 2021
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ed Croskey Center
1510 N.W. 4th Street
Ocala, FL 34475



P.O. Box 3881
Ocala, FL 34478

GWONRC@outlook.com

Follow us on



COMMUNITY MEETINGS: GET INVOLVED

The Dr. MLK Commemorative Commission invites you to attend its monthly meeting.

The Commission meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the First Responder Campus, (Community Rm.) 340 N.E. 8th Ave. Meetings are open to the public

County Commission Meetings
September 7 and 21, at 9 a.m.
McPherson Governmental Campus
Auditorium, 601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala.

Ocala City Council Meetings
September 7 and 21, at 5 p.m.
110 S.E. Watula Ave., Ocala

Marion County School Board
September 14 and 28, at 5:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting Room
512 S.E. 3rd St., Ocala

Marion County Historical Commission
Advisory Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6 p.m.
Growth Services
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Grand Opening

CELEBRITY'S SOUL FOOD
The Fastest Growing Soul Food Franchise In The Country

2020 BUSINESS STEVE WINNER
Celebrity's Soul Food
AMERICAN BUSINESS AWARDS

2237 SW 19th Ave Rd Ste 102 - Ocala, FL September 3rd @ 12:00 pm

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL TERM! COURSE HELD ONLINE

The Fall term at the Ocala Extension of the United Theological Seminary and Bible College will begin on September 7, 2021. All fall term classes will be offered online due to COVID 19.

UTS & BC will offer course work for students pursuing the Bachelor of Theology degree. Students interested in attending UTS & BC should text their email address and phone number to Rev. Nathan Sommon at (352) 234-5058. An online Information and orientation session was held on August 17, at 6 p.m. *Late registration ends on September 14.*

For private appointments or consultations, please contact Rev. Sommons or Dr. Jerone Gamble at (352) 454-5720.

ONE OF MARION COUNTY'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

When Judy Delk retired, she already knew what she wanted to do pursue her love of American and local history. She found the perfect place to carry out her passion at the Marion County Museum of History and Archaeology.

"We've lost so much of our local history and architecture," said Delk, a volunteer and trustee at the Museum. It's so important to protect what remains of the legacy of the people who built our county. We also teach young and old alike about our town and county."

But although the Museum, located at 307 S.E. 26th Terr., on the McPherson County Government Complex, has been open since 2011, a lot of people in the community have never heard of it or visited it.

"Many people just simply don't know we exist, and we have a website, Facebook page, we're on the county's website and have displays at events throughout the county as well as advertise programs in local news media," she said.

Delk said they had planned to celebrate the museum's 10 year anniversary this month, but due to the increase in Covid cases, the celebration has been scaled back. The presentation on Black History in Marion County by Cynthia Wilson-Graham, previously scheduled on September 19, as part of the event also has been postponed, but the celebration will include an anniversary display in the lobby.

"It's now a soft celebration due to Covid resurging," said Hoyalene Thomas, a faithful volunteer. "All our museum programs are about some point or event in history that affected some of our early settlers."

Thomas said the museum is run by a Board of Trustees and volunteers elected annually since the Association that oversees the museum is a non-profit. She said all the trustees and volunteers involved are interested in the preservation of our local history, and the museum is where that history is exhibited and shared.

"Hoyalene is the one who documented genealogies of the early African-American families across the river and in northeast and northwest Marion County, Delk said. "Those 40-some years of records are being gathered and donated for the research library at the museum."

Delk said the most interesting facts people would be surprised to find out about the museum include the history of the building itself, local artists' work on display and many for sale, a chronological history of Marion County from prehistoric to 1960's people, places, animals and things and docent or self-guided tours for visitors or appointments can be made for group tours.

"The jewel in our crown is a one-of-its-kind artifact on display you have to go to find out," she said.

Price Landrum, president of the Museum, said that there are areas devoted to early transportation, early industry, tourism and local authors. The tourism area includes vintage images of Paradise Park, the segregated section of Silver Springs. He said their greatest need right now is storage space, more exhibit space and money for a paid curator and staff plus exhibit building is on their ultimate wish list.

Thomas said the span of years the museum represents is some 14,000 years of time here in Marion County. The museum, she said, is a good place to research local history especially those very early African-American settlers to "northeast" Marion County area. She said several new collections and historical items have been acquired, new exhibits installed and the research library opened to the public for their use.

Thomas said they've had some minority participation and visitation through the years and they hope to reach out to the minority community through this article and others.

"We would love to receive more African-American historical items to exhibit and old photo's and family genealogies of old Marion County families for the research library," she said.

Landrum said the museum only has what it has been given and no artifacts have been purchased. He said if there is a lack of material on a subject it is because no material on that subject has been donated or loaned to the museum.

Delk said they've had fewer visitors to the museum than normal over the past year and a half due to Covid but she's hoping that will change.

"We have plenty of room for more folks to come enjoy our museum," she said.



HOURS OF OPERATION:

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Closed

Wednesdays, Sundays and all County holidays.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

\$20 Individual

\$40 Family

DAILY ADMISSION:

\$3 for visits and tours

\$5 per person for programs

*Admission is free for
members and kids under
13 years of age

For questions, information or volunteer opportunities, call the museum at **(352) 236-5245**.

STRETCH YOUR BUDGET WITH FREE STUFF

By Scott Hackmyer

I like free stuff. One way to stretch your budget is to get whatever you can for free. There are more opportunities out there than you may think. Publix Pharmacies offer the following **prescriptions at no cost**: Amlodipine, Lisinopril, Metformin, Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim (SMZ-TMP), Ciprofloxacin and Penicillin VK. If your doctor gives you a prescription for an antibiotic, high blood pressure or diabetes medication ask if one of these drugs will work as well if something different that you have to pay for is prescribed. Free is good.

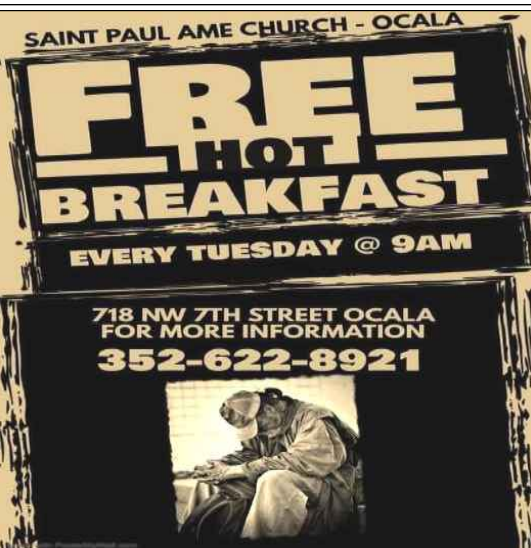
Has the **smoke alarm** in your home stopped working even with a new battery? Your local fire department will come install a working smoke alarm and even include batteries at no cost.

Do you sometimes go days or weeks with no phone because you can't afford your phone bill? If you are on Medicaid or receive food stamps (SNAP) you automatically qualify for a **free phone** and free talk and text time from two different providers. You may also qualify based on your income even if you do not receive SNAP or Medicaid. You can look online or call either Assurance Wireless **(888) 321-5889** or Safelink Wireless **(800) 723-3546** to submit your request. Having a working phone number is so important if you are filling out job applications and waiting for a call back or if you have children in school and want to be able to be reached in an emergency or if the teacher just wants to talk with you.

West Ocala used to have a shortage of health services, but no more. Interfaith Emergency Services Center for Life provides many **free health services**. For medical examinations and treatment call **(352) 877-9907** for an appointment. Vision and Dental services are offered through Hope Clinic by calling **(844) 537-3336**. Mental Health Counseling, both group and individual, can be arranged by calling **(352) 629-8868** ext. 204. Interfaith also has an Emergency Prescription Medication Program which offers up to \$200 per person once a year for prescriptions. They will also help you apply for long term assistance offered directly by the drug companies.

The Estella Byrd Whitman Wellness Center, 819 N.W. 7th St., can also help you with medical and dental care. For more information, call **(352) 875-2226**.

Does your budget run out of money leaving you short on food? Interfaith Emergency Services on NW 2nd Street has a generous **food bank** that includes meat and refrigerated food. The intake starts in their main office across from the food bank. Many neighborhood churches now give away food one day per week. Keep reading Town Talk and you will find names, days



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

GOVERNOR'S WEST OCALA NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COUNCIL



Mission:

The Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council works with agencies and community organizations to enhance the West Ocala community; improve the livelihood of residents that live in the area; and provide input on revitalization efforts

Advocacy:

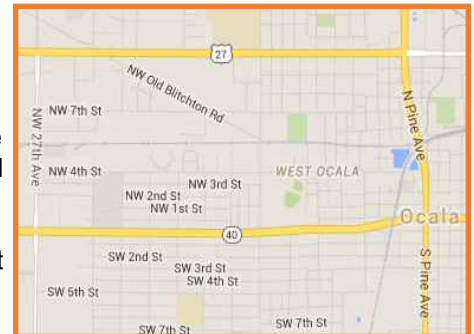
The Council works on behalf of residents and businesses in West Ocala to:

- Encourage cooperation between local, state and federal agencies to address and respond to the needs and concerns expressed by the community.
- Promote economic development and the well-being of the community by focusing on community revitalization, local partnerships, job creation and retention initiatives, affordable housing programs and quality of life initiatives.
- Disseminate relevant information through Governor's West Facebook page, E-mail blast and other forms of technology to keep residents and businesses informed.

The Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council (GWONRC), incorporated in November 2002, was established as a 13-member board in response to the Weed and Seed Initiative by then Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

The board was comprised of local residents, organizations, and business leaders. In its formation, it served as a clearinghouse for proposed projects in West Ocala neighborhoods and made recommendations to the Ocala City Council on matters of disbursement of Community Development Block Grant dollars, zoning and land use issues, transit system routes, housing and environmental issues, infrastructure improvements, crime, economic development, fire protection and code enforcement. The Council was instrumental in advocating for adequate resources and accessibility for the citizenry of West Ocala.

Today, The Council is committed to continuing to work on behalf of residents and businesses in West Ocala to encourage cooperation between local, state and federal agencies to address and respond to the needs and concerns expressed by the community; promote economic development and the well-being of the community by focusing on community revitalization, local partnerships, job creation and retention initiatives, affordable housing programs and quality of life initiatives; and disseminating relevant information to keep residents and businesses informed and aware of pertinent issues and opportunities that arise at the local, state and federal levels.



Due to Covid-19, the Council currently meets monthly via Zoom at 9 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public.

Dr. Diane Gullett, Superintendent of Schools and Chief Academic Officer Margarete Talbert-Irving will be the guest speakers at the next meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

For more information or to be added to the e-mail list to receive the link to join the meeting each month, send your first and last name and email address to gwonrc@outlook.com.

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.



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