



Take A Stroll Through West Ocala Heritage Trail



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The Place of Health, Hope and Healing

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Don't Forget to Vote: Primary Election on August 20, 2024



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
August 6
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lillian Bryant Park

Join us for an evening filled with excitement!
This **FREE** event will have games, bounce houses, dancing, arts and crafts, emergency vehicle displays and more!
For more info, call 352-369-7182

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

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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



In less than two weeks, those bright yellow school buses will be rolling again as our students prepare to go back to school on August 12. As a community, we came together to ensure as many students as possible start the new year off right. Revo Church purchased new clothes and shoes for more than 75 children, and the Back to School Community Giveback 2024, held last weekend, provided thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies to children throughout Marion County.

If your child still needs school supplies, check out these events:

Cross Pointe Ocala Back to School Bash: Saturday, August 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5494 S.W. 50th Ct., Ocala, FL. Come have fun and celebrate the start of a new school year with pizza and water slides. Bring a towel, a change of clothes and kids should wear a swimsuit. Elementary-age kids will be on the slides from **10 a.m. to noon** and middle/high school students from **noon to 2 p.m.** The event includes free pizza.

Silver Springs Shores Recreation Center Back 2 School Splash Bash: Saturday, August 3, 10 a.m. to noon at 590 Silver Rd. for ages 6 to 15 years old. From **10 a.m. to 11 a.m.** backpacks and school supplies will be distributed while supplies last. Free haircuts, clothes and food/meal for 18 & under. Snow cones, cotton candy, raffles and music. Bike rodeo course with free helmets and reflective arm bands while supplies last. To receive free gear, you must complete course training. Bikes will be provided or bring your own bike for a free inspection. Bubble Battle at Volleyball Court. Bounce houses, Train in the Circle and a Martial Arts Demo. From **11 a.m. to noon** there will be a free Float and Foam Pool Party, Dunk Tank and music. Swimwear required in the pool. Anyone under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Children must be present to receive any supplies.

Back to School Bash: (in front of Ocklawaha Bridge Baptist Church), Saturday, August 10, at 10 a.m. at 14100 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL. Everything is free and includes backpacks and supplies, shoes, haircuts, manicures and food.

A1 Cutz Phase II Back to School Event (sponsored by the Freddie Swain Foundation): Saturday, August 10, 8 a.m. to noon at 1725 North Pine Ave., Ocala, FL. Includes Bounce House, backpacks and supplies, school giveaways, haircuts and food.

Izaiah Guy Presents Back 2 School Giveaway: Sunday, August 11, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New Look Beauty Salon and Barbershop, 3495 W. Anthony Rd., Ocala, FL. Includes free haircuts, school supplies and food.

Let's support the ROCK program! On Sunday, August 4, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Church of Hope and Kingdom Revival Church invites you to join them for an intentional night of Prayer & Praise. The churches are partnering with The ROCK to provide needed supplies for Marion County ROCK programs. The service is being held at Church of Hope, 3233 S.E. Maricamp Rd., Ocala, FL. If you plan to come, please bring and drop off the following items: Belts (adult sizes); Face Wash/Wipes; Ready-to-eat meals; Sneakers (sizes 5-15); Non-Perishable Foods; Full size Hygiene products; Basketball Shorts (all sizes); and Feminine Hygiene Products.

Let's Talk!

Monica Bryant

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

Don't forget to take advantage of the
Back to School Sales Tax Holiday
which ends August 11., 2024.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



When Yolanda Mitchum realized that there were other successful individuals suffering in silence like her, she felt compelled to do something about it. So, in 2022, she founded H3Haven, Inc., because of her personal journey through immense pain and healing.

As a young girl with low self-esteem and suicidal thoughts, Mitchum faced numerous challenges including being a teen mom. Her daughter, Amaria Edwards, became her reason to live and have a better life. But despite achieving professional success as an RN and earning a master's degree in business, she was still suffering silently from unresolved pain and trauma. Her world was shattered in 2020 after she suffered a miscarriage and Amaria died unexpectedly when she was 18 years old. Six months later she lost her mom and those losses led her to pursue certification to be a grief recovery specialist and coach to support others. After losing her daughter, Mitchum believed it was the beginning of the end for her and said whatever journey she was on stopped. She said her life stopped and at times her heart raced over 120 beats per minute at rest and the very breath in her body stopped.

"I remember the devastation I felt when my world stopped moving, and I was devastated by the death of Amaria. I remember the clients who have come to me in hopelessness," she said. "I know I am fulfilling God's calling on my life. To know it's possible to live an abundant life after the unthinkable happens is something I want the world to experience. There is Health, Hope and Healing here at H3Haven! I am a testament and so are so many others."

H3Haven is hosting its first annual Grief Awareness Scholarship Gala in honor of National Grief Awareness Day on Friday, August 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, 1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala to educate on what grief is and what it's not. The Black-Tie event features testimonials from past clients, a formal dinner by American Sunday Plate Catering, music by DJ Showtime and the history of the organization. Pastor Kevin Thorpe, a former client and local pastor, will be the keynote speaker. Tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased via Eventbrite through August 15. Sponsorships are also available and due by August 15, for banner recognition. A scholarship, which includes an 8-week evidenced-based grief recovery program for up to 12 individuals and facilitated by an advanced grief recovery specialist, will be awarded to a local nonprofit organization, ministry or business. To be eligible, a representative must attend the Gala, utilize the scholarship within 12 months and commit to completing the educational support group. Additional funds raised will be used to support individuals who come to H3Haven ready to take action steps to heal but need assistance covering the support group investment for getting relief after a loss.

"Through H3Haven, my board and I aim to empower others to confront their pain, seek support and find health, hope and healing. My journey underscores that while pain is inevitable, suffering is a choice," said Mitchum, a Faith-based Life Coach and Grief Recovery Method Specialist. "I am dedicated to supporting others in their path to health, hope and healing through my nonprofit, faith-based life coaching and community resources."

H3Haven stands for health for the physical body, hope for the spiritual being and healing for the emotional heart or mental health. Mitchum said throughout her life, God used other people and situations to reveal that her wholeness would come through the restoration of her health, hope and healing.

"I had no clue I would be advocating for healing as I am; that was birth through pain and the ability to live," she said. "That's what I want to share with everyone."

The Grief Recovery Program is the primary service they offer. The board includes certified health coaches, a nurse practitioner, a pastor and a counselor. Periodically they offer free educational seminars, health fairs, workshops and Zoom meetings aimed at preventing, reversing and managing chronic diseases, which supports the organization's first pillar.

"The Grief Recovery method is the tool that God used to change my life. Not only did it help me deal with the loss of hopes, dreams and expectations I had for a future with my children, but it also helped me deal with the unresolved pain of my childhood and provided the tools to face losses that occurred since, including my divorce," she said.

Mitchum's long-term goal is for the organization to become a household name like the Boys and Girls Club or the YMCA. She said it's an umbrella organization offering multiple resources and tools for abundant living and a safe haven where individuals from all walks of life can experience Health, Hope and Healing. Many of their clients come from individuals who have experienced Grief Recovery with H3Haven, but they do accept referrals. She said their greatest challenge they need to overcome is a lack of awareness because people don't know who they are, what grief is or that they need their services because 100% of us are griever because we have all lost someone or something. They not only support individuals after the unthinkable happens, but they also provide tools to support those you love when they have losses.

"We believe that improving physical health and healing broken hearts is the work of the Lord and hope is inspired through the work we do. My greatest request is that you buy a ticket and bring a friend. Spread the word," she said. "This will help you understand more about the topic most people avoid. Let's learn together how to add life to the years we live after loss."

A free E-book copy of The Grief Recovery Method Guide for Loss is available to download at <https://h3haven.org/guide-for-loss-ebook-download>. H3Haven is active on Facebook and Instagram. Go to [H3Haven.org](https://h3haven.org) and use the links to schedule a consultation or to send them an email. You can also call or text them at (352) 480-8868 for more information.



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.

DON'T FORGET TO REQUEST YOUR BALLOT TO

All School Board and County Commission Candidates were invited to submit information.

School Board Candidates for District 1

Dr. Allison B. Campbell

Age: 48

Current Occupation: School Board Member; Owner A & A Campbell Group (Public Relations and Communications Firm); Adjunct College Professor for College of Central Florida and Southeastern University



Education: Doctor of Strategic Communication – Regent University; Master of Arts in Communication – Regent University; Bachelor of Arts in Communication – Lee University; Accredited in Public Relations; Certified Public Relations Counselor

Family: Andy, Husband of 20 years (on August 14); Cole (17) rising senior in Belleview High AICE program; Cade (16) rising junior in Belleview High AICE program; Connor (14) rising 8th grader at Osceola Middle School

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

- 1. Accountability** – high expectations produce greater results. I will continue to ask the tough questions to ensure our students and families receive the best.
- 2. Budgeting for Student Success** – because funding should follow students. It's our job to ensure teachers and students have the resources they need to be successful.
- 3. Common Sense in Education** – because our next generation deserves the best facilities, best instruction, and best decision makers leading our District. From our most affluent to our most marginalized, we must do all we can to ensure our students become successful community citizens.

Why you are the BEST candidate or what sets you apart from your opponent.

"As a candidate four years ago, I made promises to improve our schools. It's working! We've improved academically, fiscally, and operationally – let's keep going! We need the vision, unique skillset and leadership I bring to the board. As a strong voice for taxpayers and families with the focus of a parent, not a politician, I'm driven to work for you. With your vote and support, we can keep improving our schools with ABC."

2024 Primary Election*

Early Voting:
August 10 to August 17, 2024,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mail Ballot Request Deadline:
August 8, 2024 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 20, 2024:
Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2024 General Election*

Voter Registration Deadline:
October 7, 2024

Early Voting:
October 21 to November 2, 2024
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mail Ballot Request Deadline:
October 24, 2024 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 5, 2024
Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beth McCall

Age: 72

Current Occupation: Executive Director of the Marion County Children's Alliance

Education: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education & Music from Eastern New Mexico University, Master of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University



Family: Married to retired attorney and Ocala native Wayne McCall for 48 years. Children: Diana McCall Scroggie married to Josh Scroggie. Diana and Josh live in Ocala and have 2 boys, Collin, 18 who has just graduated Forest High School and will be attending FSU and Grady, 16 who attends Trinity Catholic High School. Melody McCall Hardy resides in Tampa. Melody has 2 children, a daughter McCall who is 15 and a son Jack who is 10. Matt McCall lives in Jupiter FL with his wife Allison and their 3 children Brooklyn age 10, Kylie age 7 and Maverick age 3.

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

- 1.** I plan to work with city and county officials to understand growth areas impacting schools. I will gather data on population growth, housing developments, and other factors that may affect school capacity. I will involve the community in discussions about school infrastructure needs and the funding of those needs. I will work diligently to keep all stakeholders informed about the progress and challenges in improving school infrastructure.
- 2.** The role of the school district is to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for all students to be productive and contributing members of society whether they attend college, enlist in the armed forces or go directly into the workforce upon graduation. As I did with the CEP for 2 years, I will continue to work with the Career Technical Education Department of MCPS and the business community to ensure that the CTE programs the school district offers are aligned with the needs of the business community. Work with local businesses, Career Source, and the district on ways that students can interact with industry experts through pre-internships, on the job training, and volunteerism to help with the workforce pipeline for Ocala/Marion County.
- 3.** Recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers is a challenge. Our greatest resource is our people, those that day to day step into the classroom providing not only teaching but parenting, counseling and much more. They should be respected and regarded as professionals. They should have the resources they need and the support to do their jobs. I would work diligently to ensure teachers have excellent staff development to stay up to date with trends and new curriculum. I would encourage mentoring and coaching of new teachers from veteran highly effective teachers. I would promote wellness and self-care initiatives within the district to keep our teachers mentally and physically fit. To build a positive environment where those working in it want to stay and thrive, a community of trust and respect must first be built.

Why are you the BEST candidate or what sets you apart from your opponent.

I am running to serve the citizens of Marion County and the students who attend our public schools. My record as a previous school board member speaks for itself. With the growth of our student population and the myriad of other issues and opportunities facing the School Board over the next few years, it is essential to have a leader who is not only experienced but also deeply committed to the well-being of our community. My calm demeanor, strategic thinking skills, and ability to connect people to solve problems uniquely positions me as the most qualified candidate. My love for this community and my years of experience working towards its betterment have always driven me to prioritize the needs of our school district.

SAVE THE DATE Charity Taste of The Town

Mark your calendars for September 13, 2024 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Ocala Downtown Market for an evening of fun, music, libations and savory samplings of many of our community's different restaurants, including beer and wine vendors.

You won't want to miss this event that will surely offer something for every palate, plus help a great community organization!

Ticket prices:
\$55 in advance
\$60 at the door

Look for upcoming invite on social media!

Hosted by
Estella Byrd Whitman
Community Health Center



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

VOTE BY MAIL: EVERY VOTE REALLY COUNTS

County Commission Candidate for District 3

David Blackwell

Age: 52

Current Occupation: Electrician

Education: GED (My High School lost its accreditation so my diploma would've been useless). I attended Auburn University at Montgomery, AL for a short time studying commercial art.

Family: I am married to my best friend Luci. We have been together around 25 years. We have a son who is 27 (I have been his dad since he was 2).



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

1. Pushing to stop the growth until our infrastructure catches up and then we move to build out existing neighborhoods then revisit new growth.
2. Pushing to build the new animal shelter that should've already been built.
3. Taking better care of our first responders and county workers, by way of better pay, hiring more personnel, more down time, and less administrators and assistants.

Why you are the BEST candidate or what sets you apart from your opponent.

As your County Commissioner I will:

- Encourage responsible and balanced growth while improving current infrastructure for our safety
- Maintain conservative fiscal responsibility
- Encourage and protect small businesses
- Protect our beautiful horse farms and rural lands
- Promote and encourage Eco-tourism and local arts
- Allot funds for animal welfare and wildlife conservation
- Protect individual property rights
- I support term limits
- I will uphold the Constitution
- Ensure developers pay at least 100% impact fees
- Promote growth in our law enforcement, fire departments and other first responders to allow for more downtime, better pay, and improved benefits.

I would like to also add that I am not supported monetarily by any contractor, developer, builder or incumbent establishment politicians. I am supported by small business owners, retirees, farm owners and working citizens. My loyalty is to the citizens of Marion County and their need for safety, a voice and for their families prosperity. I want to represent us, because I am us. They have a machine, we have a movement.

County Commission Candidates District 3

Rich Brown
Matt McClain

County Commission Candidates District 1

Craig Curry
Sarah Almeida Dennis

Sheriff

Milton Simmons Busby Jr.
Billy Woods



Democratic Women's Club of Marion County  

Presents

"Equalitea" Day Event

AUGUST
SATURDAY 24 AT 12:30 PM
2024

Appleton Museum of Art- 4333 E Silver Springs Blvd.
12:30-3:00pm



Keynote Speaker
Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Former United States Representative.

The theme will be "Well behaved women seldom make history"
- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich.

Wearing White is encouraged to honor the Suffragist Movement.
Special guest speakers from our Florida legislature.
Proceeds will go towards two scholarships for deserving high school students.



\$65 ticket payments made through ActBlue
(Scan QR Code)




Ocala/Marion County Candidate Event

Meet the Candidates

Sunday, August 4th

2:00-4:00 pm

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place

1821 NW 21st Ave. in Ocala



Informing voters.
Empowering people.

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Multiple candidates on the ballot in Marion County races including sheriff, county commission, school board and 5th District Circuit Court judge have indicated they will attend. This is your opportunity to ask them questions as it will not be a formal forum or debate.

Sponsored by The League of Women Voters -The Villages/Tri-County Area in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Tau Omega Chapter.



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY

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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE

BACK TO SCHOOL

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

JULY 29 - AUGUST 11, 2024 THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TAX-FREE:

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- Lunch boxes
- Notebooks
- Binders
- Pens & pencils

LEARNING AIDS SELLING FOR \$30 OR LESS, SUCH AS:

- Jigsaw puzzles
- Interactive books
- Other toys that teach math or reading skills

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR SELLING FOR \$100 OR LESS, SUCH AS:

- Backpacks
- Skirts
- Pants
- Sweaters
- Shoes



PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES SELLING FOR \$1,500 OR LESS, SUCH AS:

- Personal computers
- Tablets
- Computer batteries
- Printers
- Headphones

\$10/Person
\$50/family of 5+
FREE to
foster/adoptive &
kinship families

Presents

OCALA'S FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY SOCK HOP

Sunday, August 25th 4-6pm

Ft. King Presbyterian Church
Sign up at thepearlproject.org

LAKE WEIR MIDDLE & HARBOUR VIEW ELEMENTARY

FAMILY & COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY Aug 17th 10AM-2PM

10220 SE SUNSET HARBOR ROAD, SUMMERFIELD, FL

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Mrs. Haynes 352-671-6120

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- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- IMMUNIZATIONS
- AND MUCH MORE

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THE ULTIMATE FAMILY FUN EXPO

SAT/SUN AUG 10-11 10AM TO 4PM

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1284 NW 87th Ct Rd
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- Bounce Houses
- Touch A Truck
- Meet the Soccer Collies
- Gaming Truck
- Picture Booth
- Reading Nook
- Giveaways & Prizes
- And So Much More...

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**PLAN YOUR CHILD’S DOCTOR/DENTIST APPOINTMENTS AND VACATION TRIPS
AHEAD OF TIME TO LIMIT HOW OFTEN THEY’RE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL!**

**Marion County Public Schools
2024-2025 Instructional Calendar**

July 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December 2024				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

January 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June 2025				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

1st 9 Weeks - 48 Days	3rd 9 Weeks - 45 Days
2nd 9 Weeks - 40 Days	4th 9 Weeks - 47 Days
Total: 88 Days	Total: 92 Days

- = Teacher In-Service Day – No School for Students
- = Professional Learning - No School for Students
- = Teacher Workday- No School for Students
- = Two Hour Early Dismissal for Professional Learning and Collaboration
- = School Holiday - No School for Students and Teachers

First Day of School

★ August 12, 2024

Last Day of School

★ May 29, 2025

End of Grading Period

October 17, 2024 - Quarter 1

December 20, 2024 - Quarter 2

March 13, 2025 - Quarter 3

May 29, 2025 - Quarter 4

Student Return from Winter Break

January 8, 2025

**Teacher Work Day-
No School for
Students**

October 18, 2024

January 6, 2025

March 14, 2025

In-Service Day:

January 7, 2025

Post-Planning

May 30, 2025

School Holiday - No School for Students and Teachers

September 2, 2024 - Labor Day

November 25-29, 2024 - Thanksgiving Break

December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025 - Winter Break

January 20, 2025 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 17, 2025 - Presidents' Day

March 17-21, 2025 – Spring Break

April 18, 2025 – Mid-term Break

May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day

****Weather Make-Up Options****

Early Dismissal Days May Be Used for Weather Days
November 25, 2024 November 26, 2024 January 7, 2025
April 18, 2025

HERITAGE TRAIL PARK: HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS

Although Lorene Raines-Cloud was young, she still remembers going to Miss Pearl's Soul Food Café with her late husband Kalvosia Raines. She said you would always hear people talking about Miss Pearl's, Miss Pearl's, Miss Pearl's because when you have good food, people are going to talk about it and tell someone else.

She said her husband went more often than she did, but she went enough to know that Miss Pearl's had good food. Raines-Cloud said she greeted everyone with a smile when they walked in and made sure to thank them as they were leaving. She made sure you knew you were welcome to come back.

"She could rattle off that menu when you walked in the door without a piece of paper and could remember your order after giving you what the menu was that day," Raines-Cloud said. "She could remember it and go back there in the kitchen with whoever she had working with her, cook it and bring it out to you."

Miss Pearl's, founded by Sallie "Pearl" Jackson in 1945, was famous for its ribs, smothered pork chops, fried chicken, collard greens, candied yams, etc. The café was a treasured institution, which attracted people from all walks of life before it closed in 1997.

Pinkney Woodbury was a local civil rights activist and the first black to run for the Ocala City Council after Reconstruction. He also edited the book *The Struggle for Survival*, which recounted the history of blacks in Marion County since 1965. The baseball field adjacent to the E.D. Croskey Recreation Center was dedicated to Woodbury and named the "Pinkney Woodbury Field" in 1999.



Pinkney Woodbury

"He walked everywhere he went," said Lena Hopkins, who attended church with Woodbury at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. "He was a historian and a keeper of facts."

Although Jackson and Woodbury are both gone, their legacy continues to live on. They are among 24 West Ocala citizens being honored for their contributions in influencing the community's culture and history.

A ribbon cutting for the West Silver Springs Heritage Trail Park, known as the Heritage Trail, will be held on Monday, August 5, at 9 a.m. Parking will be available at Webb Field, 1501 W. Silver Springs Blvd. Guests can walk to the trail site or a shuttle service will be available for transportation to the ceremony.

Ramona L. Williamson, City of Ocala Community Engagement Coordinator, said the project is very important.

"It's actually one of the major milestones of giving back to the community and showing the importance of our black historians and how much they contributed to our community, which our kids and some of us need to know" she said. "A lot of things I learned along the way that I didn't even know."

The Trail doubles as a sidewalk and includes a series of art panels painted by Charles Eady and plaques displaying historic images that honor prominent West Ocala citizens, like Jackson and Woodbury, who have made significant contributions to the community. Selections were done by the Heritage Trail Selection Committee comprised of members from city staff and community organizations.



~ Panels ~

Lillian Bryant
 Dr. Richard S. Hughes
 Dr. N.H. Jones
 Dr. Playfair T. Lloyd
 Austin Long
 Sallie Pearl Jackson
 Dr. James M. Ponder
 Pinkney Woodbury

~ Plaques ~

Rev. Dr. Eugene Broxton
 Edward D. Davis Sr.
 Judge James Dean
 Loretta P. Jenkins
 Whitfield Jenkins
 Dr. Pamela Lewin
 Reuben S. Mitchell
 Thelma M. Parker
 Rev. Frank G. Pinkston Sr.
 Mattie Shaw Cohens
 Dorothy Vernon
 William B. Vernon
 Rev. Dr. O. Van Pinkston
 Dr. Deborah Dorothy Brown
 Margaret Ann Thomas
 John David (J.D.) McDuffy

Continued on page 9

OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IN WEST OCALA TO THE COMMUNITY

Continued from page 8

Originally eight members of the community were selected for the panels from the 63 nominations received, but since the reduced list was 24 individuals, the City decided to honor the additional citizens with plaques.

Heritage Trail, which features a decorative sidewalk, public art and lush landscaping, is approximately 500 ft. in length and runs along the north side of State Road 40, between N.W. Ninth Ave. and N.W. 11th Ave. The project cost \$308,772.66.



Charles Eady

Eady endeavors for his work to teach history and improve social conflict. The incredibly powerful pieces disrupt mainstream imagery and gives voice to a population silenced from history.

The Heritage Trail project was conceptualized in 2018 by the Community Redevelopment Agency’s (CRA) West Ocala Advisory Committee with the support of the Florida Department of Transportation and funding from the West Ocala CRA, which aims to address the area’s unique needs, focusing on eliminating physical and economic blight, according to a press release.

To learn more about the City of Ocala’s CRAs, visit www.ocalaf1.gov/cra. For more information about the event, contact the Growth Management Department at (352) 629-8488.

~ About the Artist ~

Charles Eady is a contemporary artist and author who uses art to examine long-held beliefs about the south. His paintings open dialogues into little-known facts about southern history. His emphasis for the past decade has been on the lives of those living in the South before the Civil War. He has a unique artistic language for layering art into history, according to <https://deepsouth.org>.

Born in South Carolina he currently lives in Ocala, Florida. Eady graduated from Claflin University with a BA in Art Education. He won the 2021 ArtFields Grand Prize with a portrait of a girl who wanted to read. His art has been exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Eady’s pioneering approach to mixed-media incorporates documents on his paintings. In 2023, he received his first solo exhibit at a national museum, the Appleton Museum in Ocala, Florida. A recent painting of his is a part of their permanent collection.

The central theme within his work includes scenes from the everyday life of free Blacks.

ART CLASS WITH CHARLES EADY

HISTORY OF OCALA

Join artist, author & historian Charles Eady for weekly sessions the month of August. He will explore Black History in early Ocala by using an exciting silk-screening method to produce art projects related to various achievements of local Blacks. The student will use inks & paints.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- **WEEK 1 - AUGUST 5**
Learn about the Metropolitan Bank, a prosperous two-story bank in downtown Ocala, that was founded by successful Black businessman in 1914.
- **WEEK 2 - AUGUST 12**
Discover how M.A. Clouts, regarded as a respectable man who served his community, became the first elected sheriff by the city council in 1868.
- **WEEK 3 - AUGUST 19**
Explore the career of Dr. Richard Hughes, a pioneer for health care and who founded a two-story hospital near downtown Ocala in 1925.
- **WEEK 4 - AUGUST 26**
Examine the life of Dr. Effie Hampton, known as the first Black female doctor in Florida, and citizen of Ocala. She received her medical license in 1906 and served the community with honor.

MONDAYS | 5 - 6 PM | \$25 PER PERSON | AGES 18+

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave.

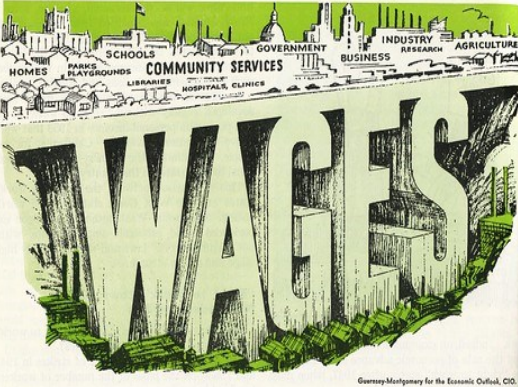
RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING AT:
Ocalafl.gov/RecPark
 or 352.401.6980

West Silver Springs Heritage Trail Park



IS A FAIR WAGE REALLY POSSIBLE?

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



With more than two decades working for others, I totally understand the plight of the gainfully employed in making enough money to live the life they desire. So much so, I started several businesses to pay me what I was worth or at least give me the opportunity to direct the path of my life, sink or swim.

Now I work with business owners who are looking beyond the ability to pay themselves to how they can elevate their companies to the next level. In my values system that is accomplished by building exceptional teams and growing the individual members to peak performance.

I am also a proponent of paying well. Companies that use the collective knowledge of their teams should reward them with a wage that allows them to accomplish their personal goals. That being said, we have reached a point in our country where a “fair wage” may be a pink unicorn because of macroeconomic conditions?

For example, you own a pizzeria with five employees. Your business is in a middle-class neighborhood, and you pay your employees as much as you can and maintain a reasonable living for your family. Recent increases in material costs have you faced with a 15% - 20% price increase for your pizza if you are to continue to meet your expenses and your competitors have already begun offering coupons and specials to attract your customers and expand their market share.

The federal reserve is trying to stem growing inflation by raising interest rates, but that has resulted in a tightening of discretionary spending as the costs of household necessities continues to increase. Add to that a mandatory increase in minimum wage and we have the makings of a business doomed to fail.

The final piece of the puzzle in this example is inflated residential rental prices that result from many factors including high demand, low inventory, higher material and financing costs for builders of single family and multi-family homes. Although this is a hypothetical scenario, I can tell you that it is one that is playing out in many markets across our country.

If the pizza shop owner called my firm, our strategy would be to work with the business owner and their teams to increase productivity, creativity and value for customers, by building greater relationships between all departments and how that affects short and long-term growth.

Next we would advise the company on ways to engage their customers on a level that they understand the necessity of the price increases and support your efforts of “doing the right thing.”

But how do business owners who do not have the funds to hire an outside firm achieve the goal of a fair wage amid rising costs and competition? How will he/she know the concept of training employees to be growth agents, when the natural tendency would be to cut staff?

How does he/she know which employees will be good supervisors/managers and which should be given production responsibilities?

I was going through a drive thru the other day and asked for four biscuits. The young lady told me the biscuits are only sold in packs of two or six. How does the business owner know if this is an employee that needs to be retrained or if she is a good fit for the growth of the company?

Instead of offering solutions, my goal is to start the conversation of how to begin a paradigm shift in the way thriving businesses are built and sustained, how we keep “quiet quitting” from being the next weight on our economy, and using elevated coaching skills to make companies resilient through economic disruptions.



Ready to Read Expo

Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Headquarters-Ocala Public Library, 2720 E. Silver springs Blvd. Ocala, FL

Give the gift of reading to your child. Connect with local organizations for services and support with activities and giveaways for parents and children to enjoy.

For parents and children ages birth to 3 years old.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

TEEN SUMMER BASKETBALL

OCALA
Recreation and Parks

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave.

July 29 - August 28
Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays

6 - 8 PM | Ages 13 - 17
\$50 per person

For more information or to register:
352.401.6980 | OcalaFL.gov/RecPark

SHOW OUR SURVIVORS WE CARE SPONSOR A BASKET TO GIVE THEM



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



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

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

Deadline: Friday, September 20, 2024.



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

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

NEW DATE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Howard Academy Community Center

Graduation Cotillion

for

Dare 2 B Great

Girls Mentoring Program

Saturday, August 24, 2024
6:00 p.m.

College of Central Florida
Webber Center
3001 S.W. College Road
Ocala, FL 34474

Attire: Dressy Casual

Light refreshments will be served



MONEY SMART TIPS

By Scott Hackmyer

MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU!

There is a very old joke that goes, How Do You Feed an Elephant? The answer is One Bite at a Time. For readers fortunate enough to have enough money to pay their bills every month, and have a little extra left over, that is the philosophy I follow with my money. It is hard to come up with the money for those once-a-year large bills like property tax and homeowner's insurance. I look at my last annual premium, divide that by 12 months, add a little extra knowing that bills go up every year and transfer that money every month from my local bank's checking account into either my American Express or Capital One High Yield Savings Account. So that you don't miss a month I suggest you set these transfers up to happen automatically.



I do the same thing with my Federal Income Tax. Knowing my income is about the same year to year I just look at the amount I had to send in this year, divide that by 12 and move that money too. It takes some money discipline to do this every month but when those big bills come it is so nice to already have the money saved. A similar

strategy to this can help with buying a car. Once your car payments have ended keep making them to yourself, or at least a certain part of them. I put \$200 a month into my High Yield savings for this and in three years' time will have \$7,200 for a down payment on my next car. If I wait four years I will have \$9,600. It does make buying that next car so much easier.

Speaking of High Yield Savings Accounts, if you are fortunate enough to have extra cash a high-yield interest account can help make your savings grow much faster than a traditional bank checking or savings account. A traditional bank usually offers .01 to .04% on these accounts. U.S. News and World Report just printed an article showing different online banks paying between 4.25 to 5.25% interest. They went on to say you should evaluate a few things to find the best high-yield savings account for you. Compare a few online banks, check their annual percentage rate, the minimum amount you need to open an account, the fees they might charge, how many withdrawals you can make per month and how easy is it to sign up and transfer your money back and forth to your regular local bank checking account. From my experience almost all these accounts have no fees, no minimum balance and can move your money in one to two days.

Last month we wrote about scams. The American Bankers Association Foundation warns us of another way we can lose our money. If a stranger asks to use your cell phone for any reason, do not let them do that. You can always offer to put your phone on speaker and make a call for them but do not let them hold your phone. If you let someone use your phone, they can easily hit the payment app on your phone and if you aren't logged out, they can hit the "pay" button and easily transfer money to their account. It looks like they are just dialing the number they want to call but in reality, they are stealing your money. Always make sure you log out of your payment and cash payment apps after you use them.

Saying goodbye to an old friend. I have had a J. C. Penney credit card since 1974. I just received a letter from them stating they are raising their interest rate to 34.99% If you make even just one late payment the rate goes to 39.99% and stays there for as long as they want. Returned payment fees are now \$41 and if you want to continue getting a statement in the mail the monthly charge for that is \$1.99. These rates are obscene and an insult to every customer. It is indeed time to cut up this card. I urge you to look at the interest rate on all of your credit cards and make sure the rate they are charging isn't excessive. Paying your balance in full each month is, of course, the best thing you can do.

Business Spotlight



**C/POWER
REALTY LLC**

Business Name: C/Power Realty LLC

No. of Employees: 3

Business Owner: Claire Casseus, Broker

Business Address: 3001 W. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34475

Business Phone: (352) 598-7202

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2024

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday by Appointment Only

Products and/or Services: Real Estate Services

Email: Clairec@powerenterprisesllc.com

Website: N/A

Are you on Social Media? Yes

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559483530009&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cpower_realtyllc?igsh=aDNqZ3JmmjgyZHJi

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?

I've been homeless, on housing and a frustrated renter so I am extremely motivated to be able to help customers find their path to homeownership because I've felt the hopelessness that can make it seem unobtainable.

What Makes Your Business Unique or What's Your Specialty? My approach is definitely a customer over dollars. I mentor my agents to understand that our profit is built by meeting our customers where they are.

We partner with like-minded lenders to help buyers that are often overlooked to find their personal path to homeownership whether buying or through our new construction options where they can build in budget

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting a Business? Be prepared to work harder than ever, but also more satisfied. Have a secure source of income until the business can support you. File your taxes no matter what because no taxes equals no business financing options other than predatory lending.

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.



international overdose awareness & prevention day event

Join Us!

Saturday August 31st
1pm-8pm

Citizens Circle

Picking Up The Pieces

INSPIRE

IODAD can be sad as we're reminded of those that we've lost. Our purpose isn't to be sad, we want to take this time to bring awareness to and educate our community—especially our youth on the dangers of substance use. Hear the testimonies of family, friends, and individuals who have been affected by SUD. This is also a day to celebrate those who are in recovery and with us.

www.pickingupthepieces.us **352-816-3793**



FREE Ocala-Marion Cty Baby & Family EXPO

Sat, September 14th 10:00-2:00pm

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

Sponsored by **SLC 110** **Pigtails & Crewcuts** **PRIORITY PEDIATRICS**

Please RSVP at bit.ly/OcalaFamily

PADDOCK MALL 3100 SW College Road
Ocala, FL 34474

To become a vendor, email Info@TouchofMagicEvents.com



REVEALING TRUTH MINISTRIES OUTREACH CHRISTIAN CENTER

FRESH FOOD THURSDAY

EVERY THURSDAY
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

A Smile.
We are Blessed to be a Blessing to our community each week; no questions asked. Share this flyer with family and friends and meet us on This Thursday.

7575 SW 62nd Ct.
Ocala, FL 34476

Get more info at:
info@revealingtruthhocc.org

CALL FOR MORE INFO **352-209-7515**


Marion County Public Library System Seeks Volunteer Readers For Children's Program

Did you know that reading aloud to young children helps them recognize rhyming patterns, develop vocabulary and be better prepared to start school? As a volunteer for the Marion County Public Library System "Library Express" program, you can share your love of reading and learning by providing a monthly story time session at designated Head Start locations throughout Marion County.

"Library Express" volunteers will receive thorough training on how to provide children's story time sessions at the Head Start locations during the school year. They will also receive all of the reading materials to be used for their volunteer assignments.

Adults interested in volunteering for the "Library Express" program should submit a public library volunteer application. The application is available at all nine public library locations, as well as online at Library.MarionFL.org and should be submitted by Monday, August 26. All prospective volunteers must be cleared by a confidential background screening, attend an orientation and training and commit to the program schedule prior to being accepted into the program.

For more information about the "Library Express" program, please call **(352) 671-8551**.



OEU CUSTOMERS TO RECEIVE CREDIT ON THEIR BILL

Starting in August, Ocala Electric Utility (OEU) residential customers may receive a credit to their account, reducing their bills. This change is due to a new city ordinance that will see customer's initial sign-up deposit be transferred and credited back to their accounts.

Under this ordinance, the City of Ocala will return over \$1.89 million to 10,820 OEU accounts in August alone.

To be eligible for this credit, customers must meet the following requirements:

- Twenty-four months of consecutive service with OEU
- A demonstrated satisfactory payment record:
- A payment history with fewer than two penalties
- No returned checks
- No delinquencies for 12 consecutive months before the refund

Customers who are not currently eligible for this credit due to not meeting the satisfactory payment record requirement will become eligible after 12 months of satisfactory service.

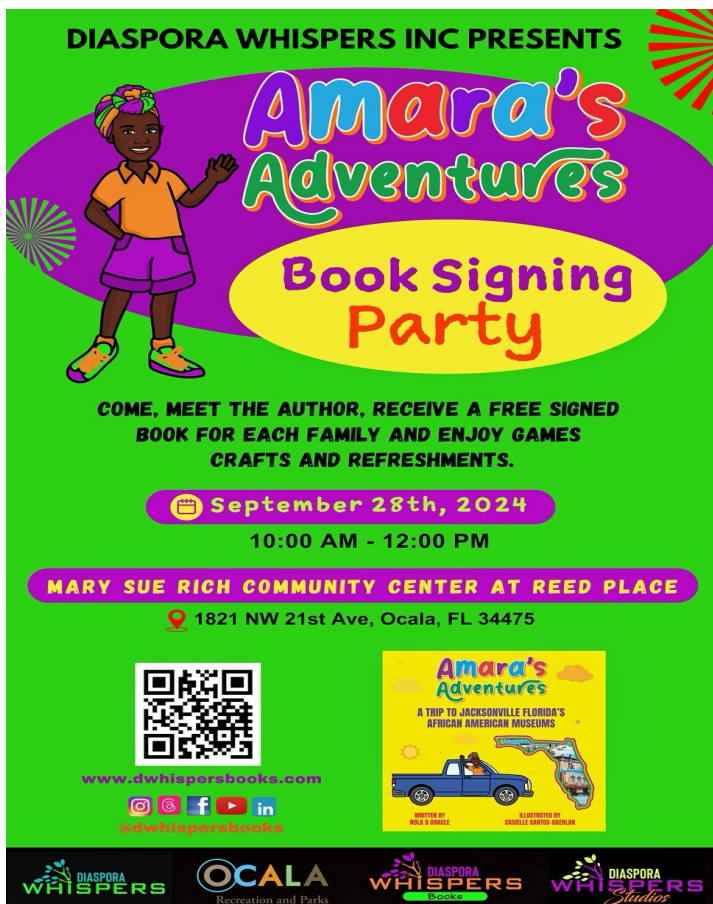
Deposits are still required for new OEU customers who do not have a positive history with a previous electric utility provider. After meeting the above criteria, those deposits will be credited to the customer's account.

For more information, please contact our Customer Service Department at (352) 629-2489.

We are getting ready for our annual Pop & Drop Drive Thru event for Marion County Public Schools teachers to drive up, pop their trunk and get back to school supplies for their classroom and students in need!

Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/x5mJmmSp3upMus7g9>

MCPS Teachers - make sure to register as spots will fill up fast! We are offering seven different timeslots on August 8, to accommodate teacher schedules.



DIASPORA WHISPERS INC PRESENTS


Amara's Adventures

Book Signing Party

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

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

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

QR Code: 

www.dwhispersbooks.com

📱 [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

📧 info@dwhispersbooks.com

Amara's Adventures
A TRIP TO JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUMS
WRITTEN BY WILK & WINKLE
ILLUSTRATED BY DANIELLE WINTERS GIBLIN

DIASPORA WHISPERS Ocala Recreation and Parks
DIASPORA WHISPERS Books
DIASPORA WHISPERS Studios



ANNUAL

Pop & Drop

DRIVE - THRU

AUGUST 8TH

Marion County Public School teachers can drive up to our event, pop open their trunk and we will drop in goodie bags of classroom supplies!

MCPS TEACHERS MUST REGISTER ONLINE AND CHOOSE A TIME SLOT IN ORDER TO PICK UP SUPPLIES

Public Education FOUNDATION OF MARION COUNTY
Connecting Children, Classrooms & Community

Spots are limited and registration will close once all spots have been filled.
For more information, please call 352-671-4167

The Cosmopolitans of Ocala Inc. will resume meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting will be held September 25, at 11 a.m. at the Marion Oaks Community Center, 294 Marion Oaks Ln, Ocala, FL in the Arts and Crafts room.

New members welcomed.

**ARE YOU
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR
MEMORY?**



RENSTAR
MEDICAL RESEARCH



(352) 629-5800
www.renstar.net

**Estella Byrd Whitman
Community Health Center**

**HOSTS ITS 3RD QUARTER
TOWNHALL MEETING**

**819 NW 7TH ST.
OCALA, FLORIDA
34475**

COME OUT AND BE HEARD!

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

**1821 NW 21st Ave.
Ocala, Florida 34475**

10AM- 1130AM
**YOUR HEALTHCARE CONCERNS ARE OUR PRIORITY! STOP BY AND
SHARE THEM WITH THE TEAM. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**



WWW.EBWCHC.ORG
352*875*2226

**Grief Awareness Day
Open House**

To honor your grief on National Grief Awareness Day, Hospice of Marion County invites you to a free open house at the Monarch Center for Hope & Healing, 2895 SE 62nd St. in Ocala.

Friday, August 30, 2024 | 8:00 am-3:00 pm

- Meet the HMC Grief Care Team
- Paint Your Grief
- Special treat for kids and kids at heart

Learn about upcoming programs and services for kids, adults and community partners. Tour the Monarch Center and memorial park, pick up resources and information and express your grief through art.



**Call the HMC Grief Care
Department at the
Monarch Center
for more information at
(352) 873-7456.**



HospiceofMarion.org

File# 24-0512

SAVE-THE-DATE

NIGHT OF HOPE

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dinner ~ Music ~ Giveaways ~ Survivor Testimonies ~ Vendors

Keynote Speaker

Pastor Michael Neely

**Senior Pastor of New Millennium
Community Church**

~ **Domestic Violence Survivor** ~

Author of

“Black Eyes and Sweet Talk.”



Thursday, September 26, 2024

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**College of Central Florida,
3001 S.W. College Rd., Ocala**

**Tickets:
\$40 per person**

FREE Childcare for children 2 years old or older.

For information, sponsorship opportunities
or to purchase tickets, scan the QR Code
or call Valerie at (352) 438-5990.

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