

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Clinton Burns Awarded Quilt of Valor



See Story on Page 6 and 7

In this issue:

Clinton Burns Awarded
Quilt of Valor

There is no Blame
in Leadership

Ed Croskey Recreation Center
Gets New Look



DID YOU ORDER YOUR FREE TESTS?

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free, and orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. To order your tests, go to <https://www.covidtests.gov> so you have them when you need them.

The Biden administration recently announced that private health insurers will be required to cover up to eight home COVID-19 tests per month for people on their plans to lower costs and make testing for the virus more convenient.

Under the new policy, first detailed to the AP, Americans will be able to either purchase home testing kits for free under their insurance or submit receipts for the tests for reimbursement, up to the monthly per-person limit. For example, a family of four could be reimbursed for up to 32 tests per month. PCR tests and rapid tests ordered or administered by a health provider will continue to be fully covered by insurance with no limit.

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

Elgin Carelock

Let's Talk

We want to hear from you:

Email your submissions, events,
comments or questions to

Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com.

Please include contact information
(name and phone number) on the

submission. Deadline is the first

Monday of each month for the

following month's publication.

Policy Statement

All submissions become the sole
property of Town Talk Magazine.

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

Contact Us:

Town Talk Magazine

P.O. Box 6212

Ocala, FL 34478

(352) 897-1817

Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com

or Towntalkmagazine.org.

EDITOR'S DESK

Monica Bryant



Where would we be without the contributions, accomplishments and self-sacrifices of trailblazers such as Harriett Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Claudette Colvin, Jane Bolin, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other American heroes?

During the month of February, we often remember their accomplishments in United States history; however we have other heroes, right here locally, and across the state of Florida, who have paved the way and made significant contributions in shaping our future as well. These heroes include Mattie J. Shaw who started The Florida Watchman newspaper; Levi Alexander, who started his own contracting business; Effie Carrie Mitchell, the first African American woman to practice medicine in Florida; and Dr. R.S. Hughes, who opened the American National Thrift Association Hospital, the only facility around that treated African Americans for hundreds of miles.

One of my favorite quotes, attributed to Mahatma Ghandi, is "Be the change you want to see in the world." It reminds me that I must be an example by first changing myself in order to inspire others to do the same.

Carter G. Woodson was a perfect example. A historian and professor, Woodson was very aware that Black Americans were being left out of the narrative of American History. He wanted that to change, and his desire to correct the deliberate oversight led him to develop Negro History Week in 1926 to celebrate the efforts and hard work of African Americans to the American society.

And although February is the shortest month of the year, it wasn't by accident that he chose to start the week this month. Instead, it was a deliberate decision by Woodson to do so! He chose the week of February 7, for its symbolism because it included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, who is celebrated for the Emancipation Proclamation that freed many enslaved people and Frederick Douglass on February 14. Douglass is recognized nationally as an abolitionist and former slave.

In 1976, the celebration was extended and is now known as Black History Month, an annual celebration of the accomplishments of African Americans and their role in U.S. History. Although President Gerald Ford encouraged Americans to observe Black History Month, it was officially recognized by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

That's not the only change Woodson wanted to see. He truly hoped that Negro History Week would encourage better relations between black and white people in the United States and motivate young African Americans to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of their ancestors.

Yes, I know, race relations are still an issue in our community and not just between blacks and whites. And, in order to inspire our youth to celebrate their ancestors contributions, we have to teach them the history. They can't celebrate what they don't know!

Until then, like Woodson, I hope we all strive to be the change we want to see in our community. We are stronger together!

Let's Talk!

Monica

Monica T. Bryant, Editor



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

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

THE OLDEST RECREATION CENTER IN MARION COUNTY GETS A NEW LOOK



Nearly 70 years later, the oldest recreation center in Marion County is receiving a “face-lift”. The E.D. Croskey Recreation Center formerly known as the War Memorial Auditorium in West Ocala and AKA as the “AUT” by families in the community was built in the early 1950’s. The construction of the center was initially a joint effort between the City, County and Marion County Public School’s, but over the years, the County and the School System ended the partnership, leaving the full operation and supervision of the center to the City of Ocala.

The name of the center was changed in 2000 to honor Edward D. Croskey, the first Director of Recreation in West Ocala. He served in this capacity for nearly 35 years.

Now, the outside of the building is receiving more than just a fresh coat of paint. Artist Cosby Hayes of Tallahassee is painting a mural on the west and south facing walls of the Center, located at 1510 N.W. 4th St.

The community had several opportunities to share images and provide information towards the mural and written literature. Special thanks to Mrs. Cora Williams for sharing her husband’s (Robert Williams, a former employee) collection of images for the project. If you have additional information about the E. D. Croskey Center, please email Cynthia Wilson Graham at hhp5032c@icloud.com.

~ ABOUT THE ARTIST ~



Prior to earning his Bachelors' of Fine Arts from Florida State University, Cosby Hayes found his passion for art through graffiti. During his time at FSU, he studied the Old Masters, who became strong influences on his work and after moving to Miami in 2015, Cosby began receiving commissions for public works of art and never looked back. Hayes finds inspiration for his work in the social, economic, and political issues that shape our world. His work focuses on unity and the collective strength we have when we come together for a common cause, Solidarity. His work has taken him to Argentina for the Meeting of Styles as well as cities across the South-eastern United States where he has been commissioned by city governments, non-profits and businesses to bring color and energy to walls across his hometown. Cosby Hayes now lives in Tallahassee Florida, as a community organizer and activist he is constantly creating new works with his girlfriend and collaborator Sarah Painter.




Source: <https://ocala.ocell.com/en/157-ocala-public-art-all-hands-on-deck-244121.html>

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.



THINGS TO DO IN OUR COMMUNITY

SIGNUPS FEB 5
10 AM- 2PM



Football - Rodney Thomas - (352) 615-8093
Cheer - LaQuandra Lee - (352) 614-0056
Dance - April McCoy - (352) 547-7122

Football - Cheer - Dance

Location: HOWARD ACADEMY, 306 NW 7TH AVE, #RM 9

Items Needed: Copy of Birth Cert, Consent Form, Sport Physical, Report Card,

Register today Ages 5-14

FACEBOOK: OCALA RAVENS POPWARNER FOOTBALL, CHEER & DANCE



Beyond All Limits: Black Male Enrichment Conference

Feb. 17, 5:30-8 p.m.

Registration and resource fair starts at 5 p.m.
College of Central Florida Ewers Century Center
3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala

The Black Male Enrichment Conference provides Black male students and their parents with an exclusive opportunity to:

- Hear the success stories and guidance of Black males in our community
- Discuss issues relevant to Black males in the community
- Access community programs to assist young men in their growth from now to college.

For 7th-12th grade Black males and parents.

Giveaways and dinner provided.

For more information or to sign up, visit CF.edu/BMC



College of Central Florida does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, pregnancy, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or disability status in its programs, activities and employment. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact Dr. Mary Ann Bagley, Director of Diversity and Inclusion - Title IX Coordinator, Ocala Campus, Building 3, Room 1170, 3001 S.W. College Road, 3001-201-0410, or Eq@cf.edu.

S.W.N. Presents **FAMU**

COLLEGE TOUR 2022

For High School & Community College Students

\$50 Sat. March 26TH

INCL RT Travel and Tour.

Seats limited. Reserve your spot today!!
Email swn2you@gmail.com
call 352-462-0663

<https://www.facebook.com/SWN2YOU>

SAVE THE DATE

2022 International Women's Day Celebration

Tues, March 8, 11:30am-1pm
at CF Webber Center

Honoring women in education

ollinwomen.org
Register on Eventbrite

The scholarship committee is pleased to announce the 2022 AABE Florida Scholarship online application is available. The purpose of the AABE-FL Scholarship is to assist African American, Hispanic and Native American students with the cost of pursuing a bachelor's degree in energy-related fields at an accredited college or university within the state of Florida. If you or your network know of a graduating high school senior that plans to major in business, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics, please encourage them to apply.



All applications must be submitted via the online portal (new online portal for 2022) by the deadline which is **Monday, February 21, 2022 @ 11:59PM EST.**

The online application portal can also be found at <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/AABEScholarship>.

THERE IS NO BLAME IN LEADERSHIP



Over the past decade, I have been brought into organizations to address issues that have challenged their growth. One thing I have always found interesting is the difference between business owners who begin describing the problem by talking about what was wrong and who or what was responsible for the occurrence and those who look at their current position as an opportunity to strengthen their organization for the next disruption.

A business owner that sees an issue as one that is caused by someone or something else, has missed the very essence of leadership. Even when the problem is the result of external factors such as a “pandemic,” leadership is not about laying blame, but understanding the challenge and empowering people to rise above and move forward.

I know it may seem as though I am saying there are not situations that occur that are beyond our control and result in problems outside of our planning, that is not the case. Instead, what I am saying is business is fluid and ever changing. We enjoy the times when unforeseen increase comes our way, but the opposite is also a part of the process.

One of the first things I do in my coaching sessions is have the business owner tell me the vision that caused them to start their business and what they have learned on the journey thus far. As we move forward, I ask how the vision was shared with anyone who has a part in delivering their product or service to their customers and what has changed.

The business owner’s response is a clear indication of whether they understand leadership or if they are simply managing as scenarios occur. Typical answers of a manager revolve around the inability to find “good employees,” changes in consumer behaviors, competition or increases in costs of goods sold.

Conversely, a leader will discuss their strategic plan for the last few quarters, their current trajectory, and how they plan to get back on course. Although the recovery strategy will address the issues that caused them to miss their goals, it is viewed as nothing more than a detour.

This mindset allows me to inspire the leader to a higher level of success because it is focused on strengthening people, products, processes and promotion to deliver the desired outcome. Not to point fingers at who they believe did not perform to expectation, but to understand where the disconnect was between their vision and its execution.

Therefore, there is no “blame” in leadership because the outcomes are a direct reflection of how well you have communicated your vision, empowered your teams to accomplish their goals and the level of transparency you maintain. It’s not that challenges won’t occur, but if you have built a culture of creativity and diversity that will allow you to adjust.

Elgin Carelock is Chairman of Greater Ocala Community Development Corporation. For more information about GOCDG go to www.gocdc.org or e-mail gocdc93@gmail.com.

Business Spotlight



Business Name: Bridges Behavioral Health

No. of Employees: 2

Business Owner: Latesha Lanier-Brown
Janice Wynn

Business Address: 3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, FL 34470

Business Phone: (352) 437-6633

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2018

Hours of Operation: Evenings by Appointment Only

Products and/or Services:
Mental Health Counseling; Individuals, Couples, Family and Group Therapy

Email: bridgesbehavioralhealthllc@gmail.com

Website: bridgesbehavioralhealthllc.com

Are you on Social Media? Yes

Facebook: @bridgesbehavioralhealthllc

Instagram: bridgesbehavioralhealthllc

TikTok: @bridgesbehavioralhealth

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?
We recognized that our community needed more choices in mental health providers. Therapists in private practice can offer specializations and individualized treatment in ways that other options for services may not.

What Makes Your Business Unique or What's Your Specialty? We have nearly 35 years of combined experience working with a variety of specialized and at risk populations. Telehealth services are offered by a Certified Telehealth Provider.

What Advice would you give someone starting a business: Do the research, pray and plan for whatever business you want to start, and then just do it!

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.

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
HOSTS

2022 JOB FAIR

FEBRUARY 22, 2022, 9AM - 4PM
MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
3290 NW 10TH ST
OCALA, FL 34475

30 DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS ON SITE RANGING FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT, RESTAURANTS,
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, AND MORE.

**Looking for a career? These businesses are looking for you!
They will be participating in the Job Fair and will be on-site.**

Cheney Brothers City of Ocala Career Opportunities Coleman Federal Bureau of Prisons Fish & Wildlife Conservation McLane Trucking Ring Power Ocala Army Recruiting Center World Equestrian Center Orlando Police Department Ocala Marine Corp. Recruiting Avante of Ocala Chewy Colen Built Development FL Women's Reception Center Encompass Health Farmer's Insurance Company FL Sheriff's Youth Ranch	Cardinal Glass Auto Zone Distribution E-One Express Employment Pros FM Meat Products Ford of Ocala Pro Poly America Marion County Government St. John County Sheriff's Office Citrus County Sheriff's Office Marion County Schools FedEx Ground Nurse Core Trademark Metals Recycling Department of Transportation National Guard
--	--

Come on out and find your new career!

MCSO VOLUNTEERS AND MCSO FOUNDATION WILL ALSO BE PRESENT FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A LIFE WELL LIVED: CLINTON C. BURNS, SR. ~ ~ ~ A TRUE



Clinton Burns presented with a Quilt of Valor

Lois Delifus was at a local business in Dunnellon with her dad, Clinton Burns, recently to take care of some business when the owner pointed out Burns, who had just turned 100 years old. Joan Lane just happened to be there too and realized Burns was the man in the picture hanging on the wall and when Delifus mentioned that her dad was a veteran, she ran over to meet him.

“She leaped over and said I want to give him a quilt,” Delifus said. “We walked out of there with her telling me to contact her. She was quite adamant that she wanted to give him one of the quilts.”

Lane, a Rainbow Springs Group Leader for the Quilts of Valor Foundation, kept her promise a few days later. Nearly two dozen people, mostly family members, including Delifus husband, Bob Washington and some close friends, gathered at the Dunnellon Public Library on January 14, to see Burns, a World War II veteran receive a quilt from the Foundation.

“You and I were meant to meet. I want to thank you so much for your service,” Lane told Burns at the ceremony. “This is going to keep you warm in front of that TV at night. This is yours for being such a wonderful veteran. It’s a small thank you.”

“This thing is hot,” Burn’s said as they wrapped the quilt around him. “Every night when it’s cold, I’ll think, Oh yeah, they were thinking about me to give me this warm quilt.”

Lane, who has been involved with the Foundation for a little over a year, said their mission is to honor service members and veterans touched by war. Since 2012, when they started keeping track, she said, more than 294,000 quilts have been awarded. Burns is the first in Dunnellon to receive a quilt this year.

“The first time I saw a presentation I stood there and cried and cried and cried,” Lane said. “My girlfriend said you need to do that, and so that’s what I did.”

She said the first time she went to Delaware to teach she slept at a quilters house and slept under a bed quilt and said “Oh, how this just feels so good,” and she started making bed quilts. She currently has about 50 quilts.

Lane said individuals can nominate themselves or someone they know, but they just have to be of a foreign war and a quilt can’t be awarded to someone who has died. She said some quilts can take her a week to make and some can take three to four days.

The first six to eight months, Lane and her husband Jim paid for everything. She said it’s expensive making the quilts, which cost between \$350 to \$400 each to make.

Jim Lane, who served in the Navy from 1969 to 1971, said when he came home from Vietnam, he was spit on, cursed at and had stuff thrown at him. He said it wasn’t fun. You kept your mouth shut and you didn’t tell anyone you did anything and you were never recognized for anything.

“The best part is she gives them away from her heart. She has a heart of gold and the veterans mean so much to her,” he said. “She doesn’t just give quilts away, this is a cause, this is a real cause because World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, Afghanistan ... we’ve got friends in all of them, and they’ve just been ignored.”

Jim Lane received a Quilt of Valor in February 2020. Although his wife didn’t present it to him, she did make it.

“It’s a beauty,” he said. “When they say labor of love, it truly is. This (making the quilts) is truly a labor of love.”

Joan Lane said Burns was part of the Red Ball Express, a special express convoy, started by General George S. Patton because they did not have a way to get supplies. She said 75% of the drivers were African Americans, who were denied some of the benefits that are due veterans.

“Hopefully we’re going to change that,” Joan Lane said. “I’m going to start working on getting Mr. Burns his Purple Heart.”



Source: bing.com/images

COMMUNITY HERO AND A LIVING LEGEND

Delifus is the oldest of Burns eight children. Her siblings include Reginald Burns, Linton Burns, Althea (Burns) Myers, Christine Burns, Clinton Burns Jr., Daryl Burns and the youngest child, Mavis Burns. She said the award is special because the quilts can't be given as a gift, they have to be awarded. The honor is almost overwhelming on some levels, she said.

"It's joyously overwhelming first to have my dad here and then to see my father, who is African American, and in this town ran from white people calling him nigger," said Delifus, who was one of eight black students who integrated Dunnellon High School in 1965. "Just to see him today and get this additional honor, actually it's all the honor I think he should get."

Burns agreed. He said he's had a good life even when he looks back and remembers how it was when he was coming up in Dunnellon as a young boy. Back then, he said, they couldn't brush up against a white boy and they had to move out the way if the white boys were walking by on the sidewalk.

"It was terrible for blacks in Dunnellon. But after all, I made it through. I look back and see how the good Lord brought me through all that stuff," he said. "It has improved and things are different now. I like Dunnellon still."

Rev. Eric Cummings, pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Ocala, said Burns is one of his favorite people in all of Marion County. He presented Burns with a \$100 bill and \$11 for a late fee since he was 11 days late because he had a funeral and couldn't make it to Burns birthday celebration.

Cummings, who used to be the pastor at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Dunnellon for 10 years, said Burns, who wasn't a member, but his sister was, use to come to his church every third Sunday and lead devotion, sing a song and do a poem because he has a great memory.

"It's well deserved and overdue." Cummings said. "We recognized him, and City Council recognized him a couple of years ago for his service to the country and what he stood out for in the military during times of segregation and then coming back home and making a mark for himself."

"Unofficially, he's the Mayor of Dunnellon," Cummings said.



Rev. Eric Cummings presents Clinton Burns with a \$100 bill and \$11 for a late fee for his birthday as Joan Lane looks on.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Business Mixer

DATE & TIME
FEBRUARY 11, 2022
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

DWAN THOMAS
REALTOR

LARRY JOHNSON
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
NORTHWALL GROUP

NICHOLAS JOSEY
REALTOR

2631 SE 58TH AVE, OCALA, FL 34480
CELEBRITY SOUL FOOD

APPLETON
MUSEUM OF ART
COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

DEEPER SOUTH
Merging Art with History


A talk by Charles Eady
on Sunday, February 27
at 2 p.m.

NAACP 2022 JUBLIEE: GUEST SPEAKER: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VAL DEMINGS



Love Isn't Always Sweet

Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workshop



One in three teens experience dating violence. At our Dating Violence Prevention Workshop, parents, guardians, and youth ages 12 and up will learn how to:

- o Spot red flags
- o Set boundaries and priorities
- o Seek help


Event is free and includes dinner and giveaways. To register or get more information, call 352-644-2687.

Guest Speaker
Ashley Bendiksen


Tuesday, February 15, 2022 • 5:30-8 p.m.
College of Central Florida Webber Center
3001 SW College Rd, Ocala, FL 34474

FREE
Event for Adults & Youth 12 yrs and up!

BRAZEN
Be Bold. Be Strong. Be You.





The Marion County Children's Alliance invites you to attend a
Community Conversation
About Foster Care in Marion County



We hope you will join us for a candid, solutions-focused discussion about foster care recruitment.

Monday, February 7, 2022
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Ocala Police Department
Community Room
402 S. Pine Ave.

RSVP required! Call the Children's Alliance office at (352) 438-5990 or Email Beth McCall at executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org.



In business in Ocala for over 15 years, we are dedicated to serving women who have experienced Breast Cancer by providing Post Mastectomy and Breast Form products, in a private and caring atmosphere. We only work with manufacturers

who are as passionate and committed about quality products as we are. We listen to your needs, value your input, and strive to earn the confidence and trust you deserve.

We are in business because we believe we can make a difference by helping you cope with the dramatic changes to your body, by helping you regain your self confidence.

We also provide non-mastectomy bras, custom fitting (size ranges: 28AA - 56N), nursing bras, breast pumps, wigs, camisoles, slips, and special undergarments for bridal and evening attire.

"We cater to the forgotten woman"

Our facility is ABC accredited, and BOC/ABC certified, and we also bill most insurances in and out of network.

Edna Turner - DeGeneste, CEO/ Founder
Sandra Brown, Manager

Please contact us to schedule your fit appointment today!

Walk-ins are welcome!

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday by Appointment

202 SW 17th St. Unit C; Ocala, FL. 34471

Phone: (352) 877-8700

Email: unique lingerie@embarqmail.com
www.TheUniqueLingerie.com

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Humanists of North Central Florida (HNCFL)

WHO ARE WE?

- We are friends and neighbors who enjoy both gathering in homes and restaurants for good food and interesting conversation.
- We support local organizations that help people and animals.
- We attend enlightening lectures, cultural events and just hang out.
- We especially enjoy open minded people who value a respectful exchange of ideas.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Voices of Change Animal League • Humane Society of Marion County
Marion County Children's Alliance • Community with a Heart
RAMAL Educational and Social Services
Boys and Girls Clubs of Marion County • St. Pauls AME Food Pantry

WE ARE HUMANISTS!

We welcome your participation!

www.humanistsncfl.org

HAPPENINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

KEEP MORE OF YOUR MONEY WHEN YOU FILE YOUR TAXES

By Scott Hackmyer

It's tax time, and we are already being bombarded on television with ads for many different tax services. Often they promise to do your returns for free and even give you part or all of your return in advance at no cost. A warning, these ads can be very misleading. Hidden fees, restrictions on only the very simplest returns at no cost and hidden interest charges can all make that "free offer" very expensive. My suggestion if you need help preparing your taxes is to use the VITA service available through our local United Way, or if you are over 50 years old the free tax service offered through AARP. The VITA service has been operating for years in Ocala and not only can do your current taxes but can go back and claim money owed to you from mistakes or things you overlooked during past tax years. To make an appointment call 211 or go online to www.uwmc.org. Taxes are done this year at the Marion County Literacy Council, 120 S.W. 5th St., Ocala; St. Theresa Catholic Church in Belleview; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Marion Oaks and the Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce. If you meet the age requirements for AARP, sites this year include the Marion County Public Library Headquarters on East Silver Springs Blvd.; Silver Springs Shores Community Center; Freedom Library, Sacred Fire Ministries in Belleview; American Legion Post 58 in Dunnellon, Ocala West United Methodist Church and a few more. To make an appointment with AARP you must go to www.aarp.org/taxhelp and click on the link that says tax locator.

For those of you who received the first half of your Expanded Child Tax Credit last year and are due the second half you can receive assistance if you need it at www.childtaxcredit.gov. Monthly payments ended in December, but many families are still owed the second half of their payments and can get that money when filing their tax return. You should receive Letter 6419 from Internal Revenue which will help you claim your money.



A few other suggestions for receiving your return as quickly as possible include: Filing your return electronically this year. If you have been mailing in your return this year with COVID and help shortages it will take a very long time for a paper return to be processed; Request that your refund be direct deposited to your checking or savings account. This will also be much faster than asking for a refund check to be mailed. If you are getting a refund please use the money wisely. Pay off old or past due bills and put some of the money into savings for that future emergency that you know is bound to happen.

Lake Weir High School Class of 1982 40th High School Reunion – Save the Dates: June 10 – 12, 2022, Ocala, Florida

Are you from the Lake Weir High School Class of 1982? Are you a teacher from Lake Weir High School? If so, we are planning the 40th Year Reunion. If you are interested in attending and getting periodic updates, please send your name and contact information to lakeweirclassof1982@gmail.com to stay informed.

You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/95563872241>.

Applications Being Accepted for the Ocala Future Leaders' Academy 2022

The City of Ocala announces the summer youth employment program, Ocala Future Leaders' Academy 2022. The program is designed to create on-the-job training in preparation for future roles within the organization. Open to all City of Ocala residents ages 16-19, and 25 applicants will be chosen to participate in this year's academy.

Training seminars will focus on personal and professional growth, financial literacy and technical job skills and certification. Each student will be assigned a mentor to assist with learning job assignments, improving interpersonal skills and enhancing self-confidence.

This is a paid program. Participants are expected to work 20-25 hours per week. Transportation assistance will be provided to students via a SunTran bus pass valid only during the program.

Program Overview:

- Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. March 31, 2022
- Qualified applicants will be interviewed via Zoom in April 2022
- Selected applicants will be notified in May 2022
- Paid training will be June 6-17, 2022
- Department work assignments will be June 20 to July 29, 2022. The hourly rate is \$12.50.

Applications may be submitted online in the employment section of the City of Ocala's website.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Human Resources department at (352) 629-8359.

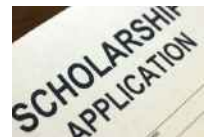
Apply Now for the Men Working to Better the Community Annual Scholarship

Men Working to Better the Community (MWTBTC) is now accepting scholarship applications for the Class of 2022 graduating high school seniors. To obtain an application for the scholarship, please contact Wayne Rush, Scholarship Chairman at Post Office Box 312, Ocala, Florida, 34478.

MWTBTC is a non-profit tax exempt 501c3 community based organization located in Ocala, FL whose mission is to provide graduating seniors with scholarships, help for the elderly and assistance to needy or less fortunate families within the community. Annually MWTBTC awards scholarships to deserving seniors from local high schools. Since 1997 MWTBTC has awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Marion County.

Students must be graduating from an accredited high school, pursuing a post-secondary education and have a demonstrated financial need. By administering the scholarship, MWTBTC enhances their mission of bettering the community through scholarships, help for the elderly and assistance to families within the community.

To make a tax deductible charitable contribution to MWTBTC, please contact Wayne Rush, Scholarship Chairman or Chris Hagins, Scholarship Committee Member at: Men Working to Better the Community, Post Office Box 312, Ocala, Florida, 34478.





African American Read-In

Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
All library locations

Celebrate a rich heritage of literature, film, music and art at the 32nd National African American Read-In. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

Contact any Marion County Public Library if you are interested in participating in this online and in person event.



2022 MARION COUNTY

World's Greatest Baby Shower

DRIVE-THRU & VIRTUAL PRESENTATION



SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 26

Drive-thru to get your goodie bag!
1 - 3pm @ Kingdom Revival Church
(3318 East Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala)

No Cost



Find Us

FRIDAY **MARCH 4**

Educational information included in your goodie bag.
Complete registration and educational quiz online after the drive-thru event for your chance to win during our Virtual Presentation with LIVE prize drawings!!

PROUD SPONSORS:








2022 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH



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

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

ECRWSS

TICKETS NOW ON SALE ~ GET YOURS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!



PSI CHI CHAPTER
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.
P.O. BOX 174, OCALA, FLORIDA, 34478

ΩΨΦ BLACK HISTORY MONTH BANQUET

HONORING
DR. N.H. JONES

February 26, 2022
6pm

The Magnolia Event & Conference Center
108 N. Magnolia Ave., Suite 104
Ocala, FL 34475

FEATURED SPEAKER
Bro. Edmond Fordham

TICKETS
Individual \$40 per person
Corporate sponsorship \$500 per table
Purchase tickets from any brother or via cash app \$Arjae014



A Silent Auction of gift baskets will be held.

DR. NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE JONES
was born in Live Oak, Florida in 1897. Dr. Jones graduated from Florida Memorial College, Morehouse College, and in 1926 he earned his medical Degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Two years after graduating from Meharry Medical College he began practicing medicine in Ocala where he opened his practice on W. Broadway Street. Dr. Jones was the first Black doctor to become a staff physician at Munroe Memorial Hospital now AdventHealth Ocala.

Dr. N. H. Jones was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. He became a member of our beloved fraternity in April of 1920 while at Morehouse College.

BRO. EDMOND FORDHAM is well known as a long-time Principal within the Marion County Public School System. One of the schools which Bro. Fordham was the principal was Dr. N. H. Jones Elementary School. Bro. Fordham joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1961 through Psi Chi Chapter here in Ocala, FL.

CONTACTS
Ronald Jones, Jr. BASILEUS
352-895-1429
2RonnieJones@gmail.com
Eric Cummings VICE BASILEUS
352-804-6871
reverendcummings@aol.com

Find us on 
The Psi Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc 7th District