

YOUR VOTE **IS** YOUR VOICE!



Faye Hopkins: Story on Page 3

READ MORE ABOUT LOCAL CANDIDATES AND THEIR PRIORITIES ON PAGE 6 AND 7

In this issue:

A look at the Candidates running in the City of Ocala General/Special Election

When Others Go Low, We Go High

Remembering Their Legacy: Progressive Union Cemetery

Meet and Greet for Candidates

Ocala Family Resource Center Reopens



ELECTION DEADLINES

**2021 City of Ocala
General/Special Election**

Mail Ballot Request Deadline:

Friday, August 13, by 5 p.m.
Mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. Election Day to be counted.

Voter Registration Deadline:

Monday, August 23, 2021



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

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

Allison Campbell ~ Scott Hackmyer
James David Stockton, III

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



It's time! Parents maybe excited, but some students probably are not because in less than two weeks, our students will be back in the classroom. For some students, it means no more struggling with doing homework online, internet issues or being required to wear a mask, because wearing one will be voluntary. Some may disagree with that decision, especially since Delta variant cases are on the rise, if they've lost a loved one or they have been personally affected by Covid. The decision to get

vaccinated or not is a personal one regardless of if you disagree with the person's decision. After all, it is their decision!

We can debate the issue to the cows come home, but depending on who you're talking to, you won't get anywhere, but here's something you can do, start re-establishing routines **now** to make sure your child is prepared to return to the classroom.

Brook Lane therapist Jenna Garner, LCSW-C shared some proactive recommendations on her blog to help parents prepare their child emotionally for a successful school year. Those tips include:

- Establishing a routine early and posting the routine where it is visible to your child.
- Establishing sleep patterns one to two weeks prior to the start of school.
- Being consistent as much as possible with bedtimes, wake times, activities listed on the daily routine and consistent with expectations and consequences.
- Monitoring emotional wellbeing and watching for signs of stress and anxiety in your child when school begins because a lot of mental health challenges become apparent at the beginning of the school year.
- Monitoring social media and paying attention to social media posts because they may reveal some apprehension or anxiety about the upcoming year or alert you to bullying or social pressures.
- Making consequences clear and making sure to create rules and verbally explain expectations for grades, school behavior and communication about school activities or school matters. Once these are set, be sure you explain consequences for breaking the rules or not meeting the expectations before the school year even begins.
- Don't wait until the last minute or your child's chances of success will be slim.

Let's Talk!

Monica

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

Follow us on:



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



Towntalkmarion



@TowntalkMarion



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** on or before the deadline.

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

IF YOU DON'T VOTE, DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THE OUTCOME!

With the City election only weeks away, Faye Hopkins still hasn't decided who she will vote for, but one thing she is sure about, she WILL vote.

"Voting is both a right and a responsibility. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits discrimination in voting, especially in the south, to give us that right," she said. "It is a responsibility because our ancestors died so we can have that right."



Born and raised in Ocala, Hopkins was 21-years old and living in New York City, N.Y., when she voted for the first time. It was the 1972 Presidential election and Democratic U.S. Senator George McGovern of South Dakota was running against Incumbent Republican President Richard Nixon. She took herself to the polls and was excited because she said the country needed a change from the Republicans. It didn't happen. Nixon defeated McGovern. But she did her part, she voted.

Hopkins normally educates herself about the candidates through reliable news media she trusts, Google, Facebook and discussions with friends, but this time, she's thinking about attending the Meet and Greet for Candidates being hosted by Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council on Monday, September 13, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ed Croskey Center to learn more about the candidates and their priorities because she has some concerns.

She wants to know how candidates plan to address the drug issue in her community and what programs are available for children. She said basketball and sports are not going to do it. They had that growing up.

Hopkins said her parents believed it was important to vote and instilled that belief in their children. She said they used to go to Covenant, back then it was the focus point and where all the meetings were held. Hopkins said children were not allowed to go inside, but had to sit in the car. They couldn't butt into adult conversations or say anything either. They just sat there, listened and watched what was going on, something kids don't do now.

"They taught us and the community knew. We knew who was running at that time if you went to a meeting," she said. "This young generation is too busy trying to survive and they don't teach the kids. They think everything has to be taught in the schools, but we had a community."

Hopkins, a registered Democrat, said she doesn't vote straight party line. She said she looks at the individual and if she don't like what the Democrats are doing, she crosses parties.

"Our people need to remember why we need to vote, to have our voices heard," she said. "Just because you don't like a candidate - vote - make a choice good or bad. If you disagree with a situation in your country, state or community, the only voice you have is to vote or run for office."

Hopkins hopes that everyone that's eligible will go to the polls and vote. "If you want to make a change vote," she said "I'm tired of them complaining that the politicians are not doing anything, but they don't vote!"

City of Ocala Registered Voters
as of June 30, 2021

Total Number of Voters 38,936

Democrats: 14,218

Republicans: 15,891

No Party Affiliation: 8,196

Other: 631

(registered with Minor Parties i.e.

Green and Libertarian, etc.)

-- Inactive Voters --

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

Democrats: 888

Republicans: 794

No Party Affiliation: 724

Other: 36

Source: www.VoteMarion.gov.



Faye Hopkins reviewing candidates running for office

OCALA HOUSING AUTHORITY RE-OPENS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! MUST FOLLOW COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The Ocala Housing Authority will reopen its administrative office to the general public on Monday, August 1, 2021, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

Landlords/property managers are the only visitors allowed as walk-ins without appointments. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. We are closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. daily. If you do not have an appointment and would like to submit documents or pay your rent, documents and rent should be deposited in the identified slots on the east side of the administrative building facing the parking lot.

In order to keep everyone safe, ALL visitors are required to wear masks/face coverings and must adhere to the COVID-19 safety precautions management has established, to include answering COVID-19-related questions, temperature being taken by a hands-free machine and social distancing. Only the individual with an appointment is allowed entry, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

If any of the following circumstances are applicable to you, then you will be given an alternative appointment (virtual, drive-through, U.S. mail, drop off documents, telephone or email):

1. You or anyone in your immediate household has experienced any cold-like or flu-like symptoms.
2. Within the past 14 days, you or anyone in your immediate household have been in contact with anyone who is known to have tested positive to COVID-19 OR who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
3. You are quarantining because you or a household member may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
4. You or anyone in your immediate household are waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test.



When Others Go Low, We Go High

By James David Stockton, III., Sr. Pastor, Greater New Hope Church and President, NAACP Marion County Branch



At the 2016 Democratic National Convention, former first lady Michelle Obama uttered her now-famous catchphrase, "When they go low, we go High" while discussing how to "handle bullies" in support of Hillary Clinton's bid for the White House.

This catchphrase has become my mantra in light of some of the situations focusing on our community. It is no secret that here in the great state of Florida, in the beautiful county of Marion in the growing and expanding city of Ocala, that we have issues of inequality and race.

With that being said, I felt led to share my understanding of the conversation and controversy surrounding our City Manager and Former Ocala Fire Chief. As some will notice, I have purposely excluded the names of these two great individuals that I think very highly of, but would rather focus on the positions they both hold.

So many times in an attempt to politicize and sway actions, smoke and mirrors are invoked to create an atmosphere for personal agendas. The focus of this situation, in my opinion, should be simply one thing, and that is the business of Ocala.

A lot of us understand the workings of managing and operating a business or organization, whether it is for-profit or not. In most cases, you will have a Board of Directors (governors, advisors, stockholders, or even council). This group of people serves the sole purpose of the survival and the betterment of the business or organization. They do not directly handle the day-to-day operations. They will hire someone that is an expert in the area of these matters. This person might be called President, Director, CEO, or even Manager.

Because this expert is hired and given the responsibility to run the operation and the business of the organization, this expert is tasked with developing an upper-level management team to aid them. Sometimes the new expert will inherit employees of the previous administration. Each subordinate employee knows that the expert might have a style different from the previous. The new administration will spend time observing the upper-level team to make sure they not only have the skills to remain part of the management team. The upper-level team should help lead subordinates to willingly follow the style and directives of the new administration.

It is imperative that the expert (New Administration) feels and knows that their upper-level team is not only competent in their skills but also has the direction and directives of the new administration in words and deeds.

We see examples of this all around us. In our nation we elected our Former President and he changed senior management often! Our current President was elected and changed senior management. The same changes happened with non-profit organizations around the city, county, and state. We have seen this process with our Colleges and Universities when a President takes the helm of the institution, head football coaches will hire different assistant coaches, School Superintendents will hire new deputies, etc.

Florida is an at-will state, which means an employer may fire, demote, hire, promote and discipline employees for pretty much any reason, **or no reason at all**. The only way to change that is to urge our state legislators to pass more protections for employees. The city of Ocala and its charter, which has not been updated in several decades, through its City Council which serves as a Board of Governors, Trustee, Stakeholders is responsible for hiring only two EXPERTS: One is the City Manager, secondly, the City Attorney. Their responsibility like any corporation is to hire the best expert/City Manager and City Attorney they can. Then allow them to run the day-to-day business of the Corporation/City.

As a community, I ask that we move on from this and let's focus on the issues that matter to us, like who will serve our community in this upcoming election? Who will look at the potential of the west side and invest in what will make our streets safer, give our children equitable resources and programs, schools that will shape and mold our young minds for greatness, not prison, and will make sure that we are not a dumping ground for feel-good programs that they will not allow in other neighborhoods, and will demand if you build in our community that you hire from our community. These are the real issues we need to focus on. So while others go low, let us go high.



Business Sen\$e

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: A HIDDEN TREASURE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

By Allison B. Campbell APR, CPRC, Director of Strategic Communications for the Community Foundation

In 2011, the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County formed with a goal of bringing financial support from around the county to the greatest community needs. Since that time, the Foundation has raised more than \$6.2M in funds, contributed hundreds of thousands in scholarship dollars, and played a role in more than \$7M in grants distributed in our community.



Allison Campbell

Now 10 years later, with thriving programs for nonprofits, professional advisors and philanthropic fund holders, the Foundation serves as a guide connecting those with resources to where they can make the greatest impact.

The Community Foundation's Nonprofit Resource Center opened January 2019 and is home to the NonProfit Business Council and an array of programs supporting more than 150 nonprofits. From teaching nonprofits how to create dynamic cell phone videos to online academic trainings in partnership with the Rollins College Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership, many west Ocala nonprofits have benefited from the professional development opportunities.

The Nonprofit Resource Center's grant services department was instrumental in securing more than \$2M in grant supported funding for the new Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place and is available for grant services for all member nonprofits.

For the business community, the Community Foundation can assist with creating a corporate giving philosophy, so targeted donations and sponsorships can help the business as well as the nonprofit receiving the gift. Our staff has years of experience working with businesses to strategically manage their philanthropic giving.

The Community Foundation also manages various donor funds in and around west Ocala like the Boys & Girls Club, Community with a Heart, and the Early Learning Coalition. But much more can be done. Do you know a west Ocala nonprofit that needs to be connected to the Community Foundation's Nonprofit Resource Center? Do you know a west Ocala philanthropist looking to establish a legacy for giving in the community? Contact the Community Foundation to see how we can work together to build a stronger community... one passion at a time!

The Community Foundation is located at 324 S.E. 24th Street, Ocala, FL 34471. For information, call **(352) 622-5020**. www.OcalaFoundation.org.

Save the Date for Give4Marion, our community's 24-hour fundraising event hosted by the Community Foundation, raising money for local nonprofits through a single online donation platform.

Coming September 21-22, 10 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Learn more at www.Give4Marion.org



Business Spotlight



Business Name: Scrub Life Collections & More, LLC

No. of Employees: 1

Business Owner: Shawntel A. Thornton

Business Address:
10735 N.W. 110th St., Reddick FL 32686

Business Phone: (352) 219-1368

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2020

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Products and/or Services:
Scrubs, Clogs, Blood pressure kits

Email: Scrublifecm20@gmail.com

Website: www.scrublifecollectionsnmore.com

Are you on Social Media? Yes

If yes, what platforms?

Facebook: Scrub Life Collections & More, LLC

Instagram: @scrublifecollections

What or Who Inspired you to start your business?

After working so hard in the nursing field, I could never find good scrubs at affordable prices.

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

Each color and style scrub has its own unique name. My specialty is making you feel and look good while working hard.

What Advice would you give someone starting a business?

Never Give Up! Starting a business isn't easy.

*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.

2021 City of Ocala General/Special Election

All Candidates running for office were invited to submit information for this publication.

Candidate for Mayor



Name: Dr. Manal Fakhoury
Age: 60
Occupation: CEO
Education: B.S., Pharm.D., MBA
Family: Married to Dr. Riadh Fakhoury; five children

Top 3 priorities:

- Public Safety and Lowering Crime
- Investing in Ocala: Creating Opportunity
- Seeking out and Investing in Long term Solutions to Tackle Homelessness in Ocala

Candidate for District 1



Name: Barry Mansfield
Age: 59
Occupation: General Contractor, President of Cullison Wright Construction
Education: Graduate, Forest High School; Bachelor's in Business Administration, LeTourneau University

Family: Married to Sandy; two children

Top 3 priorities:

- Improve City Services for Residents
- Pursue Smart Growth Opportunities
- Bring Better Paying Jobs to Ocala

Candidates for District 3



Name: Rusty Juergens
Age: N/A
Occupation: Local Business Owner
Education: City of Ocala's Board of Adjustment, President of the Downtown Business Alliance

Family: Married to Ciara; one child; and one grandchild

Top Priority:

- Making our City Strong and Thriving for its Citizens



Name: Jay A, Musleh
Age: 65
Occupation: Banker for 42 years
Education: Bachelor's in Banking and Finance, University of Florida
Family: Married to Sigrid; four children; and seven grandchildren

Top 3 priorities:

- Public Safety
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Cultural Arts and Parks Recreation



Name: Ty Schlichter
Age: 34
Occupation: Vice President of Central Florida Electric
Education: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Florida

Family: Married to Lisa; four children

Top 3 priorities:

- Managed Growth
- Support of Ocala's First Responders
- City Beautification

Candidates for District 5



Name: James P. Hilty, Sr.
Age: 71
Occupation: Financial Advisor
Education: AAS Business Administration; AAS Hotel Administration
Family: Two children; six grandchildren

Top 3 priorities:

- Continuing the progress of the Homeless situation and educating the public on what is being done to solve the problem.
- Working towards smart growth of the community by keeping a good working relationship with the County Commissioners as well as the CEP.
- Continued support of our First Responders in the issues they face, and help in their efforts to keep our community safe.



Name: Greg Steen
Age: 44
Occupation: CEO / Family's Choice Electric Repair; Guardian ad Litem for Fifth Circuit of Florida
Education: Ocala Christian Academy / Homeschooled / School of Hard Knocks

Family: Married to Heather O'Neil

Top 3 priorities:

- Being Available to all the Citizens of Ocala
- Protecting our First Responders
- Helping Ocala Grow Responsibly

RENTAL ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE, BUT HURRY ...

The Florida Department of Children and Families launched OUR Florida last month, a program to distribute more than \$800 million in rental assistance.

Applicants MUST be:

- at or below 80% of their county's median income
- Be at risk of losing their home or live in unstable/unhealthy conditions, **and**
- Qualified for unemployment, lost income or faced financial hardship due to the pandemic

Go to OURFlorida.com and uwmc.org/cap for more information.



REACH (Racial Equity and Cultural Harmony) Poster Contest
Deadline for submission is Friday, September 10, by 5 p.m.

For complete details, go to ocalafl.org/reach.

Learn More About Your Local Candidates

We've included information from the candidates that responded to our request

Candidates for District 4



Name: Kristen M. Dreyer
Age: 43
Occupation: Real Estate Broker Associate at RE/MAX Premier Realty
Education: BA in Sociology, University of Central Florida

Family: Three children

Top 3 priorities:

- Smart Growth
- Support of our First Responder Community
- Restore Public Trust in Local Government through Transparency and Accountability



Name: Alexander R. Everts
Age: 28
Occupation: Small Business Owner
Education: AA in History, College of Central Florida; BA in History, Florida State University; MA in History, Liberty University; Pursuing MBA in Marketing, Capella University

Family: Fiancé Lindsay; one child

Top 3 priorities:

- Public Transportation Overhaul and Bus System
- Get Better Retirement and Benefits to First Responders and Law Enforcement
- Keep Citizens at the top of the Organizational Chart in Practice not just in Theory



Name: Barbara Fitos
Age: 71
Occupation: Retired: Banking Executive; Founding Executive Director/Community Foundation/ Former County Commissioner
Education: BA American Studies, Douglass College/Rutgers University; MA Pastoral Studies, Loyola, New Orleans
Family: One child; and four grandchildren

Top 3 priorities:

- To make Ocala an inclusive Community through needed Connection - Collaboration - Communication so that ALL voices are heard
- To Address Systemic Equity Challenges in Public Safety/Police-Fire Rescue - Affordable Housing/Homelessness -Healthcare Access - Broadband Access - Environmental and Public Health
- 3) To Foster Economic Vitality in terms of Economic Diversity - Job Creation - Sustainable Wages -Sustained Growth



Name: Curtis Jones
Age: 52
Occupation: Full-time Pastor/CEO of The Streets R Talking Outreach Ministries
Education: Graduate, Forest High School,
Family: Married to Christina; six children; 11 grandchildren

Top 3 priorities:

- Mental Health Awareness and Programs to Educate Families of Early Warning Signs of the Undiagnosed
- Address and Make Plans to Immediately Combat the Opioid and Drug Abuse Crisis
- Educate and Actively Help our Homeless and Underprivileged Communities with Life Management Skill Classes and Trade School Experience.



Name: Kevin Lopez
Age: 28
Occupation: Software Engineer
Education: Masters of Science in Health Informatics, University of South Florida - Morsani College of Medicine; Bachelor of Science in Management

Information Systems, University of South Florida - Muma College of Business

Family: Married to Veronica; two children

Top 3 priorities:

- Focus on Expanding Reliable and Affordable Residential Internet Options for the City by Utilizing Ocala Fiber Network
- Putting Families First with Access to Amenities for our Children Such as Requiring Changing Stations in Local Business, Updating Parks and Continuing Funding for Community Recreation and Arts Programs
- Strengthening and Growing Ocala Businesses and Homes while Preserving the Historic Charm of the City



Name: Lori Gregory
Age: 58
Occupation: CEO and Producer for a film company exposing fraud in the pharmaceutical industry
Education: B.A in Journalism; MBA in General Management

Family: One child

Top 3 priorities:

- Metered Growth for Ocala while Maintaining Fiscal Conservatism
- Accountability in Government
- Preservation of Freedom



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

Things You Need to Know:

NEED HELP? NOW ACCEPTING APPOINTMENTS ~ MAKE YOURS TODAY!



Ocala Family Resource Center

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Who We Are

Ocala Family Resource Center
A network of neighborhood-based resource centers were created to engage families in services that promote family well-being, safety, and health. The Ocala Family Resource Center provides resources to strengthen families and build strong neighborhoods.

What We Offer

- GED Resources
- Job Searches and Assistance
- Social Service Referrals
- Training and Workshops
- ACCESS Florida Application Site
- Family Support Services



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.
Ocala Family Resource Center

215 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Ocala,
FL 34475

For more information, please contact Maisha
Morman at 352-732-0457 or
Maisha.Morman@KidsCentralinc.org

Now OPEN for APPOINTMENTS & LIMITED walk-ins
Monday thru Friday 8:00 to 5pm

Kids Central Inc., 901 Industrial Dr., Suite 200, Wildwood, FL 34785
P: 352-873-6332 | FamilyResourceCenter@KidsCentralinc.org

SAVE MONEY! SHOP DURING THE SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Florida's 2021 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday is extended to 10 days this year and will run from Saturday, July 31 through Monday, August 9.

Special savings apply to:

- \$15 or less (per item) on school supplies
- \$60 or less (per item) on Clothing, footwear and backpacks
- The first \$1,000 of the sales tax price on personal computers, or personal computer related accessories.



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
August 3 and August 17 at 9 a.m.
McPherson Governmental Campus
Auditorium, 601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala.

Ocala City Council Meetings
August 3 and August 17 at 5 p.m.
110 S.E. Watula Ave., Ocala

Marion County School Board
August 10 and August 24 at 5:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting Room
512 S.E. 3rd St., Ocala

Marion County Historical Commission
Advisory Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6 p.m.
Growth Services
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Save the DATE!

For the Democratic Women's Club
of Marion County's
5th Annual

Women's Equality Day
August 28, 2021
11:30AM-2PM



MASKS NOT MANDATORY WHEN STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

When teachers (on August 2) and students (on August 10) return to school, face coverings will be optional or can be worn voluntarily.

According to a MCPS press release, face coverings can be worn by any student, staff member or campus visitor or volunteer if they feel it's necessary.

Social distancing will be observed as much as possible, along with regular hand washing, daily disinfecting of high-touch and flat-surface areas and use of water bottle refill stations and other safety precautions.

For more information, call MCPS Public Relations office at (352) 671-7555.



“DISCOVERY” PROGRAM SET TO RESTART AT GREATER HOPEWELL

Discover More About Yourself! Discover How to Handle Today’s problems and Situations!
Discover How to Build Positive Character Traits!
Discover More about Jesus!



The philosophy and purpose of our “Discovery” is to provide a Bible-based Christ-centered ministry designed to create an environment of excitement driven through healthy competition, while learning is taking place; rewards and recognitions are also presented.

Youth of all ages welcome. Event includes games, music, food and prizes.

The program begins with the exciting “Kick-Off,” on Tuesday, August 17, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Greater Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 515 NW 6th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34475.

Transportation is available and dinner will be served. The program runs on the same calendar year as the Marion County Public School System.

For more information, call the Church at (352) 622-3532.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

REMEMBERING THEIR LEGACY: PROGRESSIVE UNION CEMETERY

When JoAnn McCants decided to organize a day to clean up the Progressive Union Cemetery, she started making calls to volunteers. McCants, the cemetery committee chairperson since 2014, said they used to do it twice a year, but it’s been about six years since they’ve come together as a community to clean the cemetery, so she had no ideal how many people would show up.

“Everyone came through and even a few showed up and surprised me that didn’t answer my calls, said McCants who held the clean up day on July 17. “It was more that 40 people arrived from Georgia, St. Petersburg and all parts of Marion County to help clean up the cemetery. They showed up with tractors, water trucks and all types of tools and we received financial donations and food for the clean up day.”

Now McCants is trying to make it an annual event. She said Wendell Dailey regularly cleans the grounds but right now, they rely on family members of the deceased and community volunteers to help them keep it clean.

“We don’t get any help from anyone in the county to assist us in keeping the property cleaned off or to maintain the road that leads to the cemetery, but the county does send someone out to cut the bushes from over the power lines,” she said.

The cemetery is part of the legacy of Progressive Union Baptist Church in Marion County. The five acres of land used as the burial ground for church families and relatives was donated more than a century ago by the Wheeler and Hunter family. The location of the cemetery is marked and while some African American cemeteries throughout the state are neglected, the church wants to make sure this one is not.

Martin Smith, associate pastor of the church, said they are working on documenting the unknown and known graves for historical preservation. He said he hopes family members and friends will support the committee’s efforts in finding and naming the unmarked graves.

“Many of the older members of the church, which are now deceased, designated locations for each family and their relatives,” McCants said. “It’s a memorable experience to visit the old burial ground still in use today. We can view many spots of our pioneers and members of their families.”

She said they get calls from families inquiring about being buried in the cemetery, but the plots are not sold publicly, but they ask for a donation.

Although keeping the cemetery clean is an issue, McCants said, the road to the cemetery is their biggest issue since the original road leading to the cemetery was sold years ago to make way for I-75. The narrow, private dirt road, Northwest 49th Avenue, is the main access road used to get to the cemetery. For the last 15 years, it has gotten worse, especially when it rains, it can take about 10 minutes to travel nearly a mile. She said the road has always had some “bumps and lumps,” but the families that live back there do patch it up like they did during their clean up day.



JoAnn McCants

Supporting Kids Involving Parents August 21, 2021 3pm

Barbershop Talk

Decisions of a teen!

Sports Cuts
Barbershop
150 SW 20th Ave
Ocala, FL 34475

REAL MEN. REAL TALK
Your advice could save this youth!

A judgement free zone for teenage boys in our community to voice their concerns, experiences, and resources to become better men!

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
SKIP Supporting Kids Involving Parents

See cemetery on Page 11

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.



A Breeze Through Fertile Gardens: Paintings and Drawings by Andrew M. Grant

On view through November 7

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



**MONEY SMART
COMPARISON SHOPPING COULD SAVE \$\$\$**

By Scott Hackmyer

This month let's chat about the importance of comparison shopping. I was recently helping a woman who needed to replace her hot water heater. I called five different plumbing companies and was quoted the following prices: \$785, \$810, \$1,050, \$1,445 and \$1,535. These prices were all for the same comparable quality 40 gallon hot water heater that gets installed in your garage. I was shocked at the difference in prices and so glad I didn't just purchase from the first company I called.



Interestingly, I chose the water heater for \$810. Spending \$25 more than the lowest price I found seemed like a good decision as I knew the company, had been their customer before and know they do good work. Keep in mind the lowest price isn't always the best price.

On major purchases it is always smart to comparison shop. Another area where you should use this technique is when shopping for any type of insurance; home, auto or health. When comparing, make sure you get quotes for the exact same coverage or as they say, "apples to apples." I remember one year I saved over \$1,000 changing my auto coverage from a company I had for a number of years to one whose reputation was equally as good and the coverage turned out to be even better.

It is so easy to let a policy just renew, but I have learned that when you do this those annual increases start to add up. It often makes sense to take just an hour or two, get at least three quotes and make the change if you will save more than just a few dollars. I have also learned from shopping around that the companies that advertise the most on television often do not have the best prices.

I guess someone has to pay for all those TV ads and that someone could end up being you!

Ocala Housing Authority
in partnership with the Ocala/Marion County Continuum of Care
Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV)

Must be referred through the Coordinated Entry Process with the City's Office of Homelessness Prevention. To apply, please contact Robin Ford at (352) 629-8280 or Rford@ocalafl.org

Maximum Income Guidelines:	
1 person: \$19,500	5 persons: \$30,050
2 persons: \$22,250	6 persons: \$32,250
3 persons: \$25,050	7 persons: \$34,500
4 persons: \$27,800	8 persons: \$36,700

Eligibility Criteria:
*Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking
*Homeless Individuals & Families
*At risk of becoming homeless
*Recently homeless
Must also meet Section 8 Program Qualifications

Landlord Incentives are available through the Ocala Housing Authority

For more information on the EHV Program, contact Susan Grigler at Ocala Housing Authority, (352) 620-3411 or SGrigler@ocalahousing.org

Cemetery from page 9

"We've got to find a way to get funds to do a fix of a hard top or rock surface," McCants said. "The dirt repair only lasts until the next heavy rain comes."

McCants said they don't know how much it would cost to fix the road, but there's only about four or five families that still live on the road and they would have to split the cost to get it fixed.

For more information, to volunteer, make a donation or if you can help identify families in the cemetery, please contact McCants via e-mail at imsome4400@aol.com or call the church office at (352) 622-8320 and leave a message.



Cemetery Clean up Day July 17, 2021

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.



RETURNING CITIZENS RESTORE YOUR VOTING RIGHTS.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF MID-FLORIDA CAN HELP YOU RESTORE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.

- Meet one on one with a pro bono lawyer
- Determine your eligibility to vote
- Get your questions answered in real time
- Understand your next steps

To see if you qualify, please complete our intake form here: <http://bit.ly/rightsrestore>

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF MID-FLORIDA



School Starts
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Are You Ready?

Orientation dates and times should be available the first week of August.

Be sure to check www.marion.k12.fl.us for the latest information.

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

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

ECRWSS



**You're
Invited!**
**MEET & GREET
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

