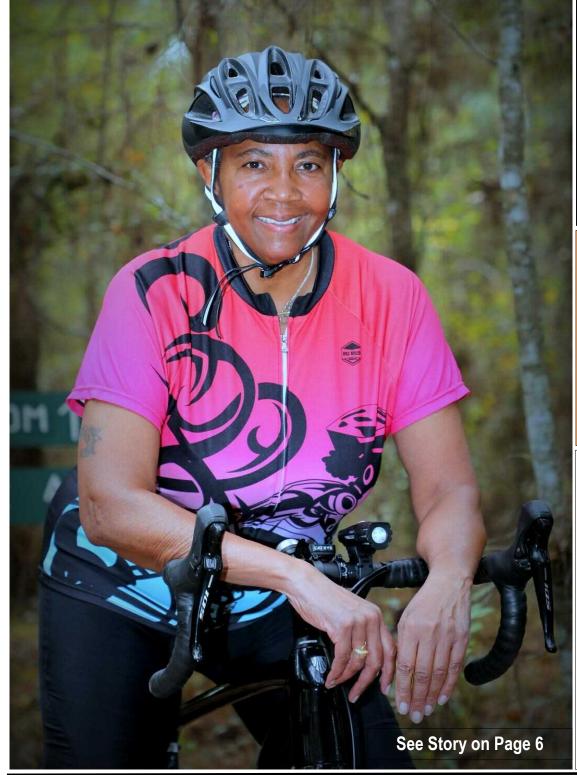
WN. MAGAZINE

Volume 2, Issue 7 ~ November 2022

## **ALTHEA SMITH RIDES TO INSPIRE OTHERS**



In this issue:

Marion County Literacy Council **Changes Lives Daily!** 

Brother's Keeper Accepting Applications for Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance

Black Girls Do Bike!

Your Employees Are Also Your Customers

Just Don't Do It! Gambling Can Be Addictive

## Daylight Saving Time Ends



**DEADLINE TO RSVP NOVEMBER 1** 

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church Dr. Jerry B. Alexander Jr., Pastor, Deacons, Trustees and members cordially invite you to the Groundbreaking Ceremony of their new church

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. 540 S.W. 24th Ave. Ocala, FL 34471 (Property is across the street from 2521 S.W. 5th St.)

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony

**RSVP** to Vickie Turner at dvturner@yahoo.com or call (352) 369-0686 by Nov. 1, 2022.

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.



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**



I absolutely love this time of year. As the holiday season approaches, it's a good time to reflect on things that we all are thankful for especially the small things we often take for granted like having warm clothes to wear, flipping the light switch and the lights come on or just waking up one more time.

This past weekend, I'm so thankful that I got to spend time with some of my classmates at our 40th Class Reunion. Many of them I had not seen since we graduated from high school in 1982. Kudos to Tanjua Mays and Marvin Busby for bringing us back together again. We had an awesome time reminiscing and catching up with each other during the three-day event. The memorial for our fallen classmates was a sad reminder of how short life can be, but we're thankful God allowed us to share the time we had together. What are you thankful for?

Although Thanksgiving is a time set aside to celebrate the harvest and other blessings over the past year, the holidays are not always happy for everyone. Many families are worried about how they're going to pay their rent, keep their lights on and buy toys for their kids for Christmas, which is two months away.

This Thanksgiving, if you're in a good place financially, spiritually, mentally and physically, do something nice to help another family out. The gift of time does not cost anything and is just as important as spending money.

Don't let the holidays become something you fear. Instead, take steps to prevent the stress and depression that can suddenly occur during the holidays. It's helpful if you recognize holiday triggers such as financial pressures or personal demands early so you can prevent them before they ruin your holiday season.

Check out these tips to prevent holiday stress from the staff at the Mayo Clinic:
1. Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones for other reasons, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief.
2. Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events or communities.

3. Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or like last year.

**4. Set aside differences.** Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations.

**5. Stick to a budget.** Before you go shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend and then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts.

**6. Plan ahead.** Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, connecting with friends and other activities.

Let's Talk! *Monica* Monica T. Bryant, Editor **7.Learn to say no.** Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed.



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# **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT** MARION COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

R.J. Jenkins has tutored many people while volunteering at the Marion County Literacy Council, but Manny, who now works as a maintenance professional at Neighborhood Storage, is one student he will never forget. Manny did not enjoy school as a kid, he was the class clown, Jenkins said, but as an adult, he decided he was ready to make a positive change in his life. He came to the Literacy Council committed to earning his GED. He never missed class, never missed a homework assignment and he even asked for extra practice problems.

"Manny graduated from our program in less than a year, and as soon as he did, he received a promotion at work," he said. "Women and men who are trying to build better lives for themselves and their families - that's what this work is all about."

Jenkins, who currently serves as the volunteer executive director, started as a volunteer advanced ESOL and GED math tutor six years ago and still tutors students working to earn their GED. After several years, he was recruited to the Board of Directors and shortly thereafter he served as President of the Board for three years.

The Literacy Council was launched in 1999 by Barbara Woodson who was teaching people how to read out of her garage in Belleview. She got together with some folks and created the organization, which now serves approximately 500 adults each year in Marion County. They are in the process of growing their impact by putting some measures in place to be able to serve an additional 500 people within the next three years. They offer services in Marion Oaks, Dunnellon, Lowell Correctional Facility, Phoenix House Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Center, and virtual support is available for people who may have a hard time physically getting to their campus as long as they have a reliable internet connection. Most of their services are provided through one on one instruction with a volunteer tutor.

"We are a local nonprofit here in Marion County and we have one mission, which is to help folks build better, happier lives for their children one word at a time by building fundamental literacy skills," Jenkins said. "We try really hard to bring these services to places where people are living, working and recovering because we understand the power of people being able to read, write and feeling confident doing those things."

The Literacy Council only has two full-time employees, which allows them to take the money that people give to them to try to create maximum impact for their students. It also ensures that their assessments, books and materials are free so they can get the help that they need. The organization is supported by federal and local funding and from the generosity of donations and support from local businesses, organizations and individuals.

"We are committed to being responsible stewards of our donors' resources and staying administratively lean is key to making sure that the dollars with which we are entrusted create as much direct community impact as possible," he said.

The Literacy Council has three primary programs: Adult Basic Education Classes in Ocala, Marion County (ABE) helps adults learn to read. They provide tutors who work one-on-one with the student. The student/tutor pair meets at a predetermined public location and work at the student's pace. Our tutors make sure all learning levels are accommodated and work toward the student's personal goals. These may include learning to read, obtaining a driver's license, registering to vote or filling out a job application; General Education Development Course (GED), prepares students for the General Equivalency Exam. Students are paired with a tutor who works with them at their pace in a predetermined public location that is convenient to both the student and the tutor. Students are evaluated upon registration and progress is checked periodically. Upon completion of the curriculum, students are evaluated again to ensure success; and the English Classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) offers English classes in Ocala and Marion County to speakers of other languages (ESOL). They serve students from over 20 countries who range in ability from basic literacy to advanced grammar and pronunciation. Furthermore, they are in the process of developing and launching a financial literacy curriculum in the Spring to help people learn how to achieve financial freedom and independence and to learn some basic skills around financial literacy such as budgeting.

"Our services are very affordable. A \$40 registration fee provides unlimited service to students for an entire semester unless there is financial need in which case our services are completely free to anyone who seeks them out," he said. "We would never allow a financial barrier to get in the way of folks taking steps to lift themselves up."

Jenkins said it should be no surprise to hear that there is a lot of stigma around their services... people who are learning to read, write or trying to earn their high school equivalency later in life. He said word-of-mouth and personal referral is primarily how people learn about the organization.

"That's not always a need that you want to shout from the roof tops. It's not always a need that you necessarily want to be fully transparent about even with people who are close to you," he said. "Certainly folks try to shield their employer from this information ..."

Jenkins said the best way the public can help out is through gifts of time, talent and treasure. He said they always appreciate financial support but equally as valuable to them are gifts of time and talent, people who may have 90 minutes a week to volunteer to help a student reach their goals. They also need the community's help in getting people to them, encouraging them to take that step and convince them that they're not going to be ridiculed, mocked, teased or belittled because they walk through their door.

"I wish people understood the incredible courage it takes for people to seek our help. There is a tremendous stigma associated with low literacy, with being unable to read or write, with not having graduated from high school," Jenkins said. "The people who come to us, they have already shown that they have the bravery to seek help. Our students are superheroes."



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**.

# **ONE WEEK LEFT ~ PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

#### **OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION SAMPLE BALLOT • PAPELETA DE MUESTRA OFICIAL ELECCIÓN GENERAL**

#### November 08, 2022 / 8 de noviembre de 2022 Marion County, Florida / Condado de Marion, Florida

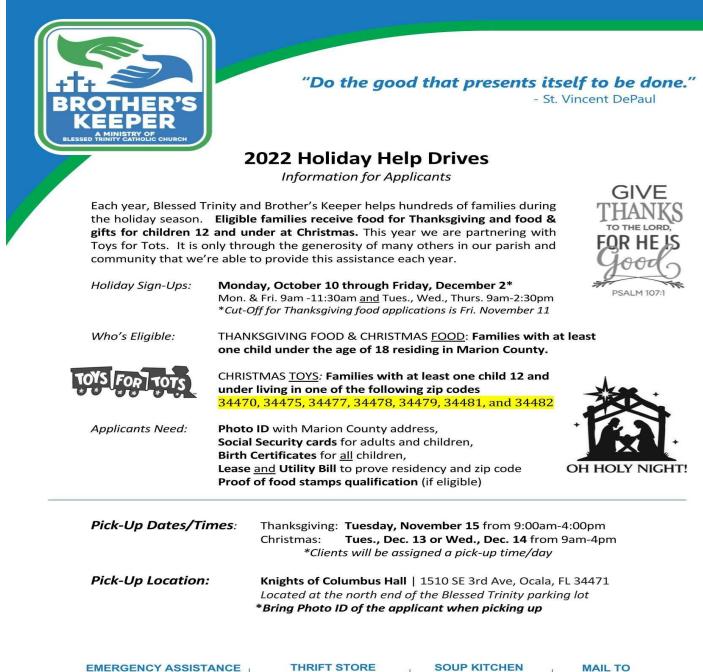


- Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval completely ( ) next to your choice.
  Use a Black or Blue Pen or Marker.
  If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out, or your vote may not count.
  To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print the name clearly on the blank line provided for the write-in candidate.

Instrucciones: Para votar, complete el óvalo completamente (
) al lado de su elección.
Utilice una pluma o marcador negro o azul.
Si comete un error, pida una nueva papeleta. No lo taches, o tu voto puede no contar.
Para votar por un candidato por escrito, complete el óvalo e imprima el nombre claramente en la línea en blanco proporcionada para el candidato por escrito.

United States Senator	Board of County Commissioners District 2	Shall Judge Mary Nardella of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	No. 2 Constitutional Amendment	Approval of continuing one mill ad valorem tax for School District operating expenses
Senador de los Estados Unidos (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Junta de Comisionados del Condado Distrito 2	¿Debe Juez Mary Nardella del Tribunal de Apelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en	Article II, Section 5; Article XI, Sections 2 and 5	Aprobación de la continuidad del impuesto de una milésima sobre el valor para los
<ul> <li>Marco Rubio</li> <li>RE</li> </ul>	(Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	oficina?	N.º 2 Enmienda Constitucional Capítulo II, Artículo 5; Capítulo XI, Artículos 2 y 5	gastos operativos del Distrito Escolar
<ul> <li>Val Demings</li> </ul>	Kathy Bryant REP	⊖ Yes/Sí		Shall the Marion County School District's one mill ad valorem millage be continued, beginning
<ul> <li>Dennis Misigoy</li> <li>LP</li> </ul>	F Write-in / Por Escrito	○ No/No	Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission	mill ad valorem millage be continued, beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2027, for necessary operating expenses including safe
<ul> <li>Steven B. Grant</li> <li>NP</li> </ul>	bound of boundy commissioners	Shall Judge Dan Traver of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision	library/media, and vocational programs;
<ul> <li>Tuan TQ Nguyen</li> <li>NP</li> </ul>	A District 4 Junta de Comisionados del Condado	¿Debe Juez Dan Traver del Tribunal de	Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals	meeting class size requirements; and retaining State Certified teachers and paraprofessionals
Write-in / Por Escrito	Distrito 4	Apelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en oficina?	method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does	with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight
Representative in Congress	(Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	⊖ Yes/Si	not affect the ability to revise or amend the	committee? ¿Debe el Distrito Escolar del Condado de
District 3	Write-in / Por Escrito	○ No/No	State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and	Marion continuar cobrando un impuesto de una milésima sobre el valor, a partir del 1 de julio de
Representante en el Congreso Distrito 3		Shall Judge Carrie Ann Wozniak of the Fifth	Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution.	2023 y hasta el 30 de junio de 2027, para los gastos operativos necesarios, que incluyen
(Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Justice of the Supreme Court	District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	Disolver la Comisión de Revisión Constitucional	arte, música, biblioteca y medios, y programas vocacionales; cumplir con los requisitos sobre
<ul> <li>Kat Cammack</li> <li>RE</li> </ul>	Juez del Tribunal Supremo	de Apelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en oficina?	Proponer una enmienda a la Constitución	el tamaño de los grupos; y contratar a maestros y paraprofesionales certificados por el estado,
<ul> <li>Danielle Hawk</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>	Supreme Court be retained in office?		Estatal para disolver la Comisión de Revisión Constitucional, la cual se reúne cada 20 años y	contando con un comité de vigilancia financiera, formado por ciudadanos independientes que
Linda S. Brooks     NP	A ¿Debe Juez Charles T. Canady del Tribunal Supremo ser retenido en oficina?	<ul> <li>Yes/Sí</li> <li>No/No</li> </ul>	cuya próxima convocación está programada para 2037, como método para presentar	vigile los gastos?
Representative in Congress District 6		County Judge	propuestas de enmiendas o revisiones a la Constitución Estatal para la aprobación de los electores del estado. Esta enmienda no afecta	<ul> <li>Yes/Sí</li> <li>No/No</li> </ul>
Representante en el Congreso	<ul> <li>○ Yes/Sí</li> <li>○ No/No</li> </ul>	Group 1 Juez del Condado	la capacidad de revisar o enmendar la Constitución Estatal por medio de una iniciativa	Town of McIntosh
Distrito 6 (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Shall Justice John D. Couriel of the Supreme	Grupo 1 (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	de los ciudadanos, convención constitucional, Comisión de Reforma Impositiva y	Procedure and Meetings; No Mayoral Veto
<ul> <li>Michael Waltz</li> <li>RE</li> </ul>	Court be retained in office?	LeAnn Mackey-Barnes	Presupuestaria o resolución conjunta legislativa.	Procedimiento y Reuniónes;
<ul> <li>Joseph "Joe" Hannoush</li> </ul>	¿Debe Juez John D. Couriel del Tribunal Supremo ser retenido en oficina?	<ul> <li>Renee Thompson</li> </ul>	⊙ Yes/Sí	Sin Veto del Alcalde
Governor and Lieutenant Governor	⊖ Yes/Sí	Dunnellon City Council Seat 3		Shall the Town Charter be amended to provide that any unfinished business be carried over to
Gobernador y Vicegobernador (Vote for One)/(Vote por Uno)	○ No/No	Consejo de la Ciudad de Dunnellon	No. 3 Constitutional Amendment	the next regular Town Council meeting becoming effective immediately upon passage
. , , , ,	Shall Justice Jamie Grosshans of the Supreme	Escaño 3 (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Article VII, Section 6; Article XII	and does not require approval of the mayor or be subject to a mayoral veto?
<ul> <li>Ron DeSantis RE Jeanette Nuñez</li> </ul>	oodit bo fotalliou ili oliloo.	<ul> <li>Tim Inskeep</li> </ul>	N.º 3 Enmienda Constitucional Capítulo VII, Artículo 6; Capítulo XII	¿Debería enmendarse la Carta Constitucional
<ul> <li>Charlie Crist</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>	¿Debe Juez Jamie Grosshans del Tribunal Supremo ser retenido en oficina?	C. Anita Williams		municipal para disponer que cualquier asunto inconcluso se transfiera a la siguiente reunión
Karla Hernandez	⊖ Yes/Sí	Seat 4 Conseio de la Ciudad de Dunnellon	Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce	ordinaria del Concejo Municipal, entrando en vigor inmediatamente después de su
<ul> <li>Hector Roos</li> </ul>		Escaño 4	Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by	aprobación y sin requerir la aprobación del alcalde ni estar sujeto a veto por parte del
Jerry "Tub" Rorabaugh	Shall Justice Jorge Labarga of the Supreme	Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to	alcalde?
Carmen Jackie Gimenez NP.	Court be retained in office?	<ul> <li>Valerie Porter Hanchar</li> </ul>	\$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law	<ul> <li>Yes, for approval / Sí, para su aprobación</li> <li>No, for rejection / No, para su rechazo</li> </ul>
Kyle "KC" Gibson	Supremo ser retenido en oficina?	McIntosh Town Council	enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services	Shall the Town Charter be amended to provide
Attorney General	○ Yes/Sí	McIntosh Town Council Consejo del Pueblo de McIntosh (Vote for no more than Two)	professionals, active duty members of the	that in the event of a tie between two or more Town Council candidates, shall a run-off
Procurador General (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	O No/No	(Vote por no más de Dos)	United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023.	election be held at a cost to the Town of McIntosh, becoming effective immediately upon
Ashley Moody     RE	Shall Justice Ricky Polston of the Supreme Court be retained in office?	<ul> <li>Eva Jo V. Callahan</li> </ul>	Exención Impositiva Adicional Para Viviendas	passage and does not require approval of the mayor or be subject to a mayoral veto?
<ul> <li>Aramis Ayala</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>		C Frank M. Ciotti	Familiares de Trabajadores de Servicios Públicos Esenciales Determinados	¿Debería enmendarse la Carta Constitucional
Chief Financial Officer	Supremo ser retenido en oficina?	Scott D. Mullikin	Se propone una enmienda a la Constitución Estatal que autorice al Poder Legislativo, de	municipal para disponer que, en caso de empate entre dos o más candidatos al Concejo
Director Financiero	Yes/Sí	No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 4; Article XII, Section 42	conformidad con la ley general, para conceder una exención impositiva adicional respecto a	Municipal, se celebraría una elección de desempate a costo del Pueblo de McIntosh,
(Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	O No/No	N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional	gravámenes no escolares de hasta USD 50,000 de la tasación de viviendas familiares	entrando en vigor inmediatamente después de su aprobación y sin requerir la aprobación del
Jimmy Patronis     RE	Tribunal de Anelesión de Distrite	Capítulo VII, Artículo 4; Capítulo XII, Artículo 42	de maestros de aula, policías, funcionarios penitenciarios, bomberos, técnicos médicos de	alcalde ni estar sujeto a veto por parte del alcalde?
Adam Hattersley     DEI	Shall Judge Jay Cohen of the Fifth District	Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property	emergencia, paramédicos, profesionales de servicios de asistencia social infantil, miembros	<ul> <li>Yes, for approval / Sí, para su aprobación</li> </ul>
Commissioner of Agriculture Comisionado de Agricultura	Court of Appeal be retained in office? ¿Debe Juez Jay Cohen del Tribunal de	Used for Residential Purposes	en servicio activo de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, y miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Elorida, La enmienda entrará en	<ul> <li>No, for rejection / No, para su rechazo</li> </ul>
(Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Apelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en oficina?	Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to	Nacional de Florida. La enmienda entrará en vigencia el 1.° de enero de 2023.	End of Ballot Fin de la Papeleta
<ul> <li>Wilton Simpson</li> <li>RE</li> </ul>		authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or	<ul> <li>Yes/Sí</li> <li>No/No</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Naomi Esther Blemur</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>		improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's		
State Senator District 9	No / No     Shall Judge James A. Edwards of the Fifth	resistance to flood damage in determining the		
Senador Estatal	District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.		
Distrito 9	¿Debe Juez James A. Edwards del Tribunal de Apelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en	Límites Sobre La Tasación de Bienes Raíces Utilizados con Fines Residenciales		
(Vote for One)/(Vote por Uno)	oficina?	Proponer una enmienda a la Constitución		
<ul> <li>Rodney Long</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>	and a second sec	Estatal, con entrada en vigor el 1.º de enero de 2023, que autorice a Legislatura, de acuerdo		
Second Annual Contraction	⊙ No/No	con la ley general, a prohibir la consideración		
State Representative District 21	Shall Judge Brian D. Lambert of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	de cualquier cambio o mejora a los bienes raíces utilizados con fines residenciales que		
Representante Estatal	¿Debe Juez Brian D. Lambert del Tribunal de	aumente la resistencia del bien frente a daños por inundaciones a la hora de determinar el		
Distrito 21 (Vote for One) / (Vote por Uno)	Ăpelación del Quinto Distrito ser retenido en oficina?	valor de dicho bien con el fin de calcular el impuesto ad valorem.		
(vote for One) / (vote por Ono)     Hollye Merton				
<ul> <li>Yvonne Hayes Hinson</li> <li>DEI</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Yes/Sí</li> <li>No/No</li> </ul>		
	- Horne			

# IF YOU NEED HELP, DON'T WAIT! APPLY NOW



320 NW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ocala (352) 622-3846 **THRIFT STORE** 320 NW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ocala (352) 732-7988 **SOUP KITCHEN** 435 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Ocala (352) 789-8139 MAIL TO 5 SE 17<sup>th</sup> St., Ocala, FL 34471

## TICKETS ON SALE FOR OCALA'S BLUEGRASS AND BBQ EVENT

The City of Ocala presents Bluegrass and BBQ at Tuscawilla Art Park, 213 NE. 5th St., January 2023, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event kicks off the Tuscawilla Art Park Series and features live musical performances by International Bluegrass Award winners, Appalachian Road Show with The Wandering Hour. Food will be available from local food truck favorites, Big Lee's Serious About BBQ and Country Boyz. Big Man's Café will sell desserts. Beer and wine, sponsored by TriEagle Sales, will be available for purchase at the event.

Tickets:

- General Admission: \$10 online/\$15 gate. Includes admission to the concert.
- General Admission PLUS: \$15 online/\$20 gate. Includes admission to the concert and seating closer to the stage.
- VIP Pickin' Package: \$75/online only. Includes 4 admissions to the concert, 4 beverages (beer and wine included), an upfront four-person comfy ottoman and a Tuscawilla Art Park special gift bag.

# BLACK GIRLS DON'T JUST ROCK, THEY BIKE TOO!

Althea Smith learned how to ride a bike when she was six years old. In Detroit where she grew up, if you wanted to get around the neighborhood you were expected to learn how to ride a bike so her friends taught her how.

In the 1980s, Smith said she rarely saw any women of color riding when she rode her bike, but saw more black males. When she moved to Marion County a few years ago and went biking at the Santos Trails, she still didn't see any women of color and she rarely saw any men of color.

"Santos is known around the country as a world-class road and mountain biking mecca. I wanted to see more representation of diversity," she said. "I believe it was a stigma that black women didn't bike.

So Smith, an active cyclist, founded the Ocala Chapter of Black Girls Do Bike (BGDB) seven months ago. The national organization was founded in 2013 by Monica Garrison. Currently there are more than 100 chapters across the country, and there is no cost to join. Each chapter has a volunteer leader known as a Shero. For the local chapter, Smith and Penny Fielding are the Shero's/Moderators, according to the group's Facebook page. Although Smith hasn't attended any of the national meetups, she was a former member of the San Antonio Chapter.

"Black Girls Do Bike is a movement to inspire women of color to create a sisterhood to inspire each other, to share self accomplished stories, how to create a self guide for overcoming obstacles and to motivate to bike ride," she said. " Its like .... riding a bike is a form of moving meditation."

Smith, a retired science teacher for more than 40 years is very involved in the community She frequently substitutes in Marion County Public Schools. She is also a writer and often speaks on topics of having the courage to be yourself at Ocala Spoken Word events, and she volunteers with after-school tutoring programs at Howard Academy since she loves children.



My mantra is, enjoy life to its fullest," Smith said.

The Ocala Chapter currently has five active members, but Smith hopes others will see them riding their bikes and want to come out and ride with them. She said they've had beginners' bike rides, Trek bike challenge rides, group rides and on the third Thursday, they do a ride called Women of



Wisdom (W.O.W) at the Santos Trails. Other rides are posted for a scheduled monthly ride or special events i.e. Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Trek Bike Challenge or Meet and Greet rides. In the future, they plan to have a joint representation of black cyclists throughout Florida to ride in our city.

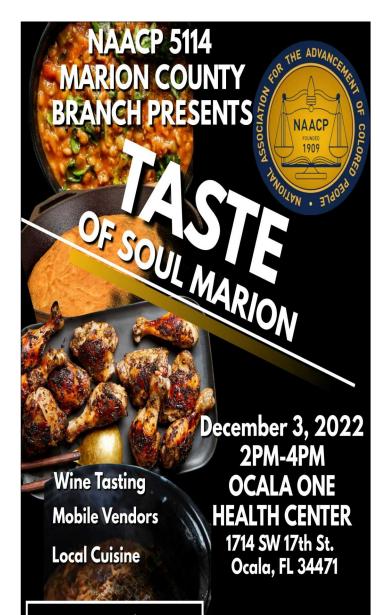
Smith, who has a hybrid mountain bike, a ride bike and an assisted road bike, said two local bike shops support the chapter by offering clinics, discounted bikes and rentals and accessories. Anyone interested in joining the local chapter can go online to **Blackgirlsdobike.com** or Facebook to find information and as the organizer, she will invite you to their page or get your contact information to keep you informed. The only requirements to be part of the group is to actively participate in the chapter and set personal goals. Smith has a loaner bike for anyone who doesn't have a bike, but intends to get one. She has had her mountain bike, which she calls Old Grey, since 1979.



"We are a diverse chapter of women. Our mission is to bring awareness of health and wellness through biking, exercising, proper diet, spirituality and sisterhood," she said. "We want this chapter to grow, represent the Ocala community and show that Black Girls Do Bike."

To join the local chapter of for more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/groups/blackgirlsdobikeocala.





Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission SAVE THE DATE KNOW THE PAST - SHAPE THE FUTURE

# Saturday, January 7, 2023 Food Drive

Saturday, January 14, 20239:00 amPrayer Breakfast12:00 noonWreath Ceremony3:00 pmYouth Day

# Sunday, January 15, 2023 Ecumenical Service

# Monday January 16, 2023 The Historic March and Day in the Park (Activities & Vendors)

For More information, contact the following: Paula Leahmon - 352.426.8028 Dwanette Jackson Dilworth - 352.207.6036 Ire Bethea - 352.208.0819 Tesha Jackson - 352.426.0861

Tickets \$30 Available on Eventbrite

For more information call 352-351-4560

Reserve the date for the Taste of Soul Marion now. Purchase your tickets now at https://www.eventbrite.com/ e/taste-of-soul-marion-tickets -456146956827.

The total cost of the ticket will be \$33.46.

## YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE ALSO YOUR CUSTOMERS



Small business owners are keenly focused on building and selling top-quality products and services to meet their revenue goals. They use sales analysis and customer data to make decisions on which products to keep and which need to be removed or repositioned. But are they missing out on the most critical customers...their employees?

A properly structured business is built around solving problems (needs) for its customers. That need can range from being hungry to a place to board your dog while you're out of town, but there is no doubt every expenditure is in response to a problem that needs solving.

Business owners spend hundreds if not thousands of dollars in marketing and advertising to let potential customers know they have the solution to their needs, but are they overlooking the low hanging fruit of peer-to-peer referrals? Are their employees so excited about the products/services being offered that they use them themselves or better yet, ensures everyone they know uses them?

When you look at companies that have cultures that drive their success (Publix, Chick-fil-a, Google, etc.), one of the things you'll notice is the employees are proud of where they work. They identify with the core values of the company and the company's dedication to its customers and staff. Therefore, they are full-time brand ambassadors and make sure everyone they encounter are familiar with or introduced to their employer's brand.

It should be no different for small businesses. Training employees should encompass more than showing them how to sell products or services. It should view employees as consumers and address how they can use your products to solve their problems. Explain what makes your products different, the process of delivering the product to the end users, and policies for customer service.

A good example of this would be a restaurant where employees train in the front of the house and the back of the house. They get to taste everything on the menu including the bar (if they are old enough to drink). Menu changes are introduced at staff meetings, and everyone gets to taste the new items, understand the reason for the addition and offer their honest opinions.

Two things happen in this scenario. First they will become customers for all of the products they really enjoyed and second they will feel a deeper sense of job satisfaction because they are involved with what happens to bring the products to market.

Once they are customers, ask for feedback from a quality viewpoint and ease of use. Find out what they would change if they had a "blank check" and really listen to their responses. What you will find is a unique perspective from someone who is on both sides of the transaction, which ultimately leads to higher customer engagement.

When your employees have honest conversations about your products because they use them or not, the customers feel they are honest and trustworthy and will not only purchase your products but become loyal as long as they feel they are receiving enough value for their money.

Elgin Carelock is the Chairman of the Greater Ocala Community Development Corporation (GOCDC), which was organized by the Marion County NAACP and Labor and Industry Committee in July of 1994 to provide social and economic solutions to West Ocala residents. He is CEO and Chief Strategist of re-View Business Strategies, Inc. (RBS) a growth focused, strategic planning and business development company with over 25 years of professional experience in the areas of sales, marketing, advertising, brand development and customer service. He is the founder of the Build A Better Business Series. Contact Elgin at ecarelock@re-viewyourbusiness.com or (404) 993-7189 for questions or more information or go to www.rbsknowledge.com.

# **Business Spotlight**



Business Name: L.DUBYA TRUCKING

No. of Employees: 1

Business Owner: Lemuel Q. Walker

Business Address: Located in Ocala, FL

Business Phone: (352) 209-6836

What Year Did You Start Your Business? 2020

Hours of Operation: Open 24 hours

**Products and/or Services:** Hauls construction equipment, transports agricultural equipment and goods and miscellaneous oversize loads.

Email: Ldubyatrucking1986@gmail.com

Website: N/A

Are you on Social Media? No Facebook: N/A Twitter: N/A Instagram: N/A

What or Who Inspired you to start your business? A friend encouraged me to get my CDL License after losing my job, so I did.

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

Locally owned and operated, and I get the job done on time. I can haul large and heavy equipment, construction and landscaping materials, etc., on my 48 x 102 wide flatbed trailer. I have a Class A CDL License and I'm certified to drive throughout the United States.

What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting A Business? Do your research before starting a business.

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.

# SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY AND JOIN IN

In March 1865 with the Civil War nearly over, a 30-man team of mostly Black Union soldiers travel from Jacksonville 100 miles behind enemy lines for a crazy daring raid in remote Marion County. Then they had to return on foot to St. Augustine 80 miles from the target knowing a crack Confederate cavalry unit will be hot on their trail.

The Black raiders planned the operation, employed their own strategy, were led by a Black Sergeant-Major - no White officer and carried out the mission.

Why? They sought to do what White leaders never had — "to succeed where others failed."



"White-washed" by Confederacy apologists, this book reveals a clearer story of this amazing raid by courageous, determined men, a keystone event in the Black soldier's journey to gain acceptance, parity, and respect in the White man's army.

BLACK HISTORY-LOCAL HISTORY-MILITARY HISTORY-CIVIL WAR

#### Available from Amazon

#### CITY OF OCALA RESCHEDULES BUILDING COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE



The City of Ocala's Growth Management Department will host a roundtable for members of the building community Thursday, Nov.17, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Ocala Golf Club, 3130 E Silver Springs Blvd.

This free event is an opportunity for contractors, engineers, architects, and

other building industry professionals to connect with city officials to learn more about processes and resources, share feedback and collaborate on opportunities for refinement. A complimentary breakfast will be served.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the City's e-notification system at https://www.ocalafl.org/our-city/advanced-components/ enotification to receive information about public meetings, posting of agendas, announcements, events and newsletters.

Interested members of the building community should RSVP no later than Thursday, November 10 by calling (352) 629-8287 or emailing gmd@ocalafl.org.

We Wish Each of You a Happy Thanksgiving



A clinical research study for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease

As we age, it helps to assess our risk for Alzheimer's.

A great first step is a memory screening, which may be available in TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 3, a clinical research study for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease. We're seeking adults with normal memory, thinking, mood, and behavior patterns.

#### You may be able to participate if you:

- ✓ Are 55–80 years old
- Have a reliable study partner who knows you well and is familiar with your day-to-day life

Compensation may be available for time and travel. See if you qualify:



Call Renstar Medical Research: 352-629-5800

#### TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 3





# MONEY SMART

By Scott Hackmyer

### JUST DON'T DO IT! GAMBLING CAN BE ADDICTIVE

When I write these articles I am really just sharing my opinions with you. These opinions come from what has worked for me and what I have observed while working with lots and lots of families. I realize I do not know all the answers. Today, I am going to start by sounding like a preacher but if you get through the sermon part I promise some money saving tips at the end.

My sermon starts with one word, DON'T! I watch a lot of sports on television and this year it seems like during every break in the game there is at least one commercial for sports betting. They offer lots of incentives such as free bets but you must understand their strategy is to get you started and then hooked. Gambling can be addictive and even if you win say \$50 the temptation is to put it right back into another bet. Remember the old adage that "the house always wins." They would not be in this business and spending millions of dollars on ads if they didn't think they were going to make a large profit, and off of you.

Reliable research sites have evidence that low income communities have a 100% higher rate of gambling than the general population and a much higher risk of developing a gambling addiction. Please, just don't do it.

As promised, some money saving tips. This doesn't apply if you live in the City of Ocala as most of the readers of Town Talk do, but you may have a relative or friend who lives in the County. Marion County has a program they can apply for that will provide them with a cost savings of up to \$180 if they replace a toilet in a home or business that was built before 1995 and still have their original toilets. County residents can save over 8,000 gallons of water a year by updating just one toilet to today's standards. If they are on a water system this will add up to a nice savings and be good for our local water supply. They must apply for and get approval before installing the new toilet by calling **(352) 671-8686** to check their eligibility and request an application before buying the new toilet.

Many of us know that Central Florida Community Action Agency helps with the electric part of your utility bill if you qualify. What some of you don't know is they will also take applications for water and sewer bills. Apply online at **www.cfcaa.org**. With winter coming there are many ways to save on heating costs but the easiest might be to lower your thermostat a few degrees and put on a sweater or use an extra blanket at night. Even a two degree change in your setting can save you dollars.

My last tip this month is about your prescription medicine. I know someone who has drug insurance with Aetna (formerly called Silverscript). For one prescription they pay \$51 a month with their insurance. By not using their insurance and going to **www.goodrx.com** they got that prescription filled for \$26.95. At that site you type in the name of your medicine, dosage and pick the pharmacy you want to use and it will show you the price and allow you to print a coupon to take to the drug store. Certainly worth trying, I know they were happy to save almost \$25.

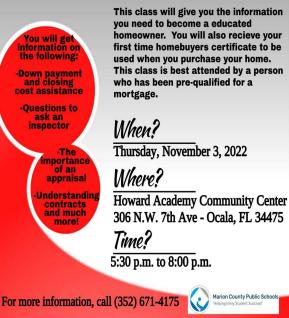
**DON'T MISS THE 10TH ANNUAL PAYCHECKS FOR PATRIOTS JOB FAIR** CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion will hold a "Paychecks for Patriots" job fair on Thursday, Nov. 10 as part of a statewide effort to connect Florida veterans with employment opportunities.

The free job fair runs from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Marion County Public Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., in Ocala. Veterans, active service members and military families get priority access to the hiring event starting at 10 a.m. with open access to all job seekers beginning at 10:30 a.m. To register, go to **tinyurl.com/P4Pjobfair**.

If you can't attend, apply for open positions online **www.employflorida.com**. A special employment portal of information and resource links for Florida veterans is available at **https://veteran.employflorida.com**.

For more information about Paychecks for Patriots or CareerSource CLM's year-round Veterans Services, call (800) 434-JOBS (5627), ext. 2225.





# **A Dickens Christmas**

The Urban Family's Annual Holiday Exhibition

On View November 8-January 8

# Ҟ Community Day 🎁

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Enjoy free admission all day, photos with Santa, holiday crafts and more!

Visit AppletonMuseum.org for details.



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



All Marion County voters are being asked whether to approve a continuation of the one mill ad valorem property tax for an additional four years. This ballot item does impact schools.

Last passed in 2018, the one mill has provided funding for school safety and vocational training programs as well as reading, physical education, art, library/media, to meet class size, retain state certified teachers, and paraprofessionals.

If approved again, the one mill would be used to **continue** to fund essential safety expenses and vocational programs and to preserve reading, physical education, art, library/media, to meet class size, retain state certified teachers, and paraprofessionals.

The official ballot language reads:

Shall the Marion County School District's one mill ad valorem millage be continued, **beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2027,** for necessary operating expenses including safe schools, reading, physical education, art, music, library/ media, and vocational programs; meeting class size requirements; and retaining State Certified teachers and paraprofessionals with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

For more information, please visit, https://www.marionschools.net/ICROC

#### NEW HOURS OF OPERATION FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE LOBBY

COLLEGE of

CENTRAL

FLORIDA

equal opportunity college

The City of Ocala Customer Service Office, 201 S.E. Third St., will implement new hours of operation as of Tuesday, Nov. 1. The first-floor lobby will be open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of the City of Ocala's observed holiday schedule.

The City of Ocala Call Center's hours of operation will remain Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Customers may continue making payments at self-service kiosks, Fidelity Express and MoneyGram locations. Additional payment options and online tools are available at **www.ocalafl.org**. Customers have the option to start and stop services, transfer residential services, request a payment extension, update contact information, view rate and fee information and sign up for autopay and electronic billing online. Customers can make phone payments via the automated phone system at **(844) 286-1785**.

#### ROOF DAMAGED? FREE TARPS AVAILABLE IF YOU QUALIFY

Operation Blue Roof, a program offered through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to eligible homeowners and landlords, is providing temporary covering of blue plastic sheeting to help reduce further damage to property until permanent repairs can be made.



Call (888) 766-3258 to get tarps to cover your roof while you wait for the roofing company to put on your new roof. The tarps are put on for free.

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