

## SHONDA "PRECIOUS" SWAIN-PEAKS YOU DON'T KNOW MY STORY: TURNING THE PAGE ~ A NEW BEGINNING



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*National Recovery Month  
21st Anniversary of 9/11  
Suicide Prevention  
Awareness Month  
Labor Day*

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Helping Those in Recovery!*

*Sellers Funeral Home, Inc:  
Keeping It All in the Family*

*Shonda "Precious"  
Swain-Peaks:  
"You Don't Know My Story!"*



### **2022 General Election\***

**Voter Registration Deadline:**  
October 11, 2022

**Early Voting**  
October 27 - November 5, 2022,  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Mail Ballot Request Deadline:**  
October 29, 2022 by 5 p.m.

*Mail ballots must be received by the  
Supervisor of Elections office by  
7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.*

**Election Day:**  
November 8, 2022 - 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

Scott Hackmyer

### Let's Talk

#### We want to hear from you:

Email your submissions, events, comments or questions to [Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto: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:

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or [Towntalkmagazine.org](http://Towntalkmagazine.org)

## EDITOR'S DESK



There's a lot happening in the month of September!

It's hard to believe that this year marks the 21st Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Those attacks had a significant economic impact on the United States, world markets including the stock exchange and the destruction of thousands of small businesses. Although we continue to move forward, nothing will ever be the same and one thing is for sure, **We Will Never Forget!** On **Sunday, September 11, 2022** at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park, 2601 East Fort King Street, Ocala make plans to attend the 9/11 Memorial Service being held in the Park at 8:30 a.m. followed by a Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. and concludes with a Retrieval of Colors/ Patriot Days at 2 p.m.

September is also National Recovery Month, a national observance held to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders and celebrate the people who recover. Ocala has a huge recovery community. Come out and support those in recovery at the 5th Annual Ocala Recovery Fest on **Saturday, September 10, 2022**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tusawilla Park, 300 N.E. Sanchez Ave. The event, which is open to the public, includes tasting local food, great music, opportunities to share your story, community resources available to help recovery and the winner of the Chief Greg Graham Recovery Champion Award will be announced.

September also brings awareness to Suicides. The month is designated as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Did you know that in 2020, 45,979 people died by suicide in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention? Adults are encouraged to attend **It's OK to Ask: Helping Your Teen with Mental Wellness**.

And finally, as we make plans with our family and friends to celebrate Labor Day on **Monday, September 5, 2022**, remember the day is set aside to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers!

Keep up with what's happening in YOUR community, Like us on Facebook and stay in the know!

Let's Talk!

*Monica*

Monica T. Bryant, Editor

**It's Ok to Ask: Helping Your Teen with Mental Wellness**

Suicide is now the 3rd-leading cause of death for 15- to 19-year-olds.\* We encourage concerned adults to join us for an honest, potentially life-saving conversation about youth mental health that will help build durable, more resilient relationships.

**5:30-7:30 P.M.**  
**THURSDAY, SEPT 22**  
**ONE HEALTH CENTER**  
**714 SW 17TH ST**  
**OCALA, FL 34471**

Event is free and includes dinner and giveaway! Preregistration recommended but not required. For more information call 352-644-2687.

Guest Speaker  
**Joshua Wayne**

**BRAZEN** Florida HEALTH  
Be Bold. Be Strong. Be You. Marion County

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# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## ZERO HOUR LIFE CENTER HELPS PEOPLE WITH RECOVERY

Robert Cooper and Mary Jensen both know first hand what it's like to live with a substance use disorder. As they worked on their individual recovery, they quickly realized that there were so many others like them that needed help, support and guidance without judgement so together they formed Zero Hour Life Center (ZHLC), a recovery community organization, in November 2017 in Citrus County. A year later, the organization was incorporated as a tax exempt, not for profit, 501©(3). In February 2021, they opened a location in Ocala.

Zero Hour is a military term which pays homage to Cooper's 10 years of service as a United States Marine. It's defined as a time when a planned operation begins, a crucial moment of truth and the point of decision making. Life Center was added because recovery must take place in all aspects of life.

"The idea was when someone decides to seek recovery from substance use, Zero Hour Life Center can help during that crucial moment of truth and provide support to start a new life in recovery," Cooper said.

The organization, which has 19 employees, provides peer recovery supports and services to individuals in or seeking recovery from substance use disorders. They offer a peer recovery coaching program, peer recovery support meetings, Criminal Offender Re-Entry Initiative (CORI), a Substance Exposed Newborn Program, SOAR Works (SSI/SSDI benefits application program, and they assist people applying for Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps) as an Access Florida Community Partner. Additionally, ZHLC provides a Recovery Coach Academy where peers receive training to become recovery coaches. Services are provided in person and virtually which helps to break down the barrier of accessing services to their participants. Peer recovery support meetings are provided for free, but other services have a Pay It Forward rate based on a sliding income scale.

Cooper said he never thought this is what he would be doing with his life, but now he can't imagine doing anything else. He said being able to help others find their way to recovery is a privilege. But, there are a lot of challenges too.

"The most challenging part of the job is not being able to help individuals who are not ready to begin their recovery journey. It's hard knowing that they are still in active addiction, especially with the potent and pervasive drugs on the streets now like fentanyl and ISO," he said. However, we do not give up hope on anyone. We like to tell people that while they may not be ready now, we will leave the porch light on for them."

The biggest misconception, Cooper said, is the negative feelings, stigma and derogatory language that still exists about people with substance use disorder and those who are in recovery. He said they are often viewed as "less than," but nothing could be further from the truth since substance use disorder knows no bounds and does not only affect people with no job or housing, but lawyers, doctors, judges, teachers or managers.

"Substance use disorder does not care how much money you make, if you come from a good family or how educated you are. It can happen to anyone," Cooper said. "People in recovery are human and deserve to be treated as such. The struggle they face daily with this disorder should not be considered any differently than someone with any other mental health disorder."

Steve Geohegan, Chief Strategic Officer for ZHLC, said what has helped him the most is the same thing from the beginning. COMMUNITY! He said if one person was not exactly where they were at the precise moment, at the precise place, saying the right words, he would not be sober today.

"Without this community, I would have continued to destroy my life, said Geohegan, who has been in recovery for 15 years. "I continue to pour into this community and attempt to mirror what continuously is given to me."

But like most organizations, funding and growth are constant concerns and challenges for ZHLC too. The demand for their services has increased significantly over the last few years and the need for funding to be able to hire the level of staff required to serve program participants has also increased. Current funding comes from contracts they have with local agencies to provide one or more services to their clients or participants, and they frequently host fundraising events throughout the year.

"The two most important actions the public can take to help our organization is first, learn about the recovery community organization; learn the language of recovery; and spread the word to others about people in recovery. All of this helps to break the stigma of substance use disorder," Cooper said. "Second, donations are greatly appreciated and always used to fund our services to help people in recovery."

ZHLC receives referrals from multiple treatment providers in and outside of the Marion County community, and referrals also come from law enforcement, fire rescue department, jails, problem solving courts, homeless coalitions and many others.

"We want Zero Hour Life Center to be the "Hub" for anyone seeking recovery to find help no matter how that looks. We want to work with all community providers and prevent the stigma of addiction as well as the stigma within the provider community," Geohegan said. "The community has suffered enough and the OD (overdose) deaths have continued to rise. We foster an environment that change is possible for ALL seeking recovery."

For more information about ZHLC go to <https://www.zerohourlifecenter.org> or if you or someone you know needs peer recovery support, please call (352) 765-4943.



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](mailto:Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com).

# THE NEXT GENERATION: KEEPING IT ALL IN THE FAMILY

Wayne C. Sellers always knew he wanted to go to a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), major in business administration, enter the Navy and retire as an officer just like his father. But things changed when his curiosity was sparked after meeting Albert Cunningham at a career day event when he was in middle school. After talking to his grandfather about funeral homes when he was in high school, his grandfather took him to see Arnold D. Dorsey of Dorsey's Funeral Home in Gainesville, FL. Dorsey gave him a part-time job.



"To me, he was the man. He was what we referred to as an old school funeral director. He believed in service and hard work," Sellers said. "He instilled that philosophy in me and I in turn instilled that in my daughters."

Now Sellers owns and operates his own funeral home with his two daughters Brittany and Sywania. Earlier this year, the Independent Funeral Directors of Florida awarded Sellers Funeral Home Inc., the Generations Award for continuing the legacy and having two generations of licensed morticians.

Sellers said the personal touch they provide families they serve is one thing that sets them apart from other funeral homes.

"We offer a very robust preneed funeral program, which allows them to be able to educate communities," he said. "We are able to perform numerous funeral ceremonies at one time in house due to myself and my daughters all being licensed funeral directors and embalmers."

Sellers opened his first location in 1992 in Ocala, FL., and later moved the business to its current location where he's been for more than 20 years. In 2018, he purchased Cason Funeral Homes and Cremation Services in Brooksville, FL. In the early days, his wife, Opal helped with the business and served as the secretary, but now his daughters have taken on a more active role since they grew up in the business and was around to help with the day to day operations. On several occasions, he told them that they did not have to enter this field, but whatever they decided to do, they had to have a love for it.

Brittany and Sywania both decided to follow in his footsteps.

"When both arrived in the 11th grade, that's when they acknowledged that they wanted to attend the same mortuary school that I attended. I was very elated," Sellers said. "It gives me great joy that we are able to work together on a daily basis whether it's arranging funerals, embalming or dressing bodies to be casketed. In life, this is the top of the mountain for me."



**Pictured L to R: Brittany Sellers, Wayne C. Sellers and Sywania Sellers**

Brittany, 30, said she grew up in the industry and this is the life she's always known. After graduating from North Marion High School in 2009, she enrolled in Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services, Decatur, Ga., to become a licensed funeral director and embalmer. She received her Associates in Mortuary Science in 2011, passed her national boards and returned to Ocala to do her internship with her father, which she completed in 2012. She took the state boards and at age 20, was the youngest black female licensed funeral director and Embalmer in the state of Florida at that time. She is the Licensed Funeral Director in charge at their Brooksville location, now known as Sellers-Cason Funeral Homes and Cremation Services serving Hernando, Pasco and Citrus counties and she's the licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer in Ocala too. In 2020, she was voted Professional of the Year by New Generation Funeral Service practitioners.

"I've always been comfortable being in the presence of death, but my actual first experience handling a dead body from beginning of prep to end was absolutely amazing," Brittany said. "I fell in love with the art of embalming and preparing the deceased. My father has been there from the very beginning teaching me all I know to this day. I'm thankful for his teachings and guidance."

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# A SELLERS SERVICE DEFINES QUALITY AND SATISFACTION

(Continued from page 4)



Sywanía, 24, initially wanted to be a cosmetologist when she was a little girl, but growing up and working in the office, she said she grew a passion for helping others. Before she was 10, she would hold the door for families, greet families, and meet different people coming in to drop off caskets, but said her absolute favorite thing to do was playing hide and seek. At age 14, she said she started driving the limousines and serving families.

“I realized the empire that was being built and my dad’s vision.

I couldn’t miss such a great opportunity,” she said.

When she expressed her interest in working in the family business, Sywanía said her dad’s best advice to her was to make sure that this was really what she wanted to do. She said he told her every day wasn’t going to be easy and she must prepare herself for that, and if she was in it for the money then she was doing it for the wrong thing.

“Always do the right thing and have pride about what you do,” she said. “So until this day, I take pride in providing a dignified, honored and well deserved service for loved ones all over the city.”

A graduate of North Marion High School, Sywanía also enrolled in Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services. She graduated in 2018 and obtained her certification to be a crematory arranger and operator. She completed the national boards, took her state board exams and obtained her license. She is one of three licensed funeral directors and embalmers at Sellers Funeral Home, Inc.

Being a young woman in the industry, Sywanía said a lot of people ask her why she chose to be a funeral director and if she is scared to deal with the deceased. Her answer is simply: “You truly have to love what you do when you wake up in the morning.”

Since it’s a family owned and operated business, Brittany said she gets to work with her father and sister everyday so it’s nice to be there with one another and continue to build together. She said although she deals with grieving families each and every day, not just from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., her true motivation is her 6-year-old son, Uriah. As soon as she leaves the office, she spends quality time with him and cherishes each moment which motivates her to do better and be the best she can be.

Brittany’s advice to other young women who may want to pursue a career as a funeral director .. Go for it!

“It may be a male dominant industry, but over the last few years women have really come up in the funeral industry,” Brittany said. “I believe women funeral directors are absolutely brilliant because we possess certain characteristics that are needed in this field and would help you excel in this career such as a level of compassion and paying attention to details.”

## Our Mission

To provide support and guidance in recognizing a life well-lived and to assist our community (Families) in celebrating the memories of their loved ones. In doing this, a Sellers service defines quality and satisfaction in which we will care for your family as if they were our own.

## Service Options:

- Burial Services** include Immediate, Visitation, Funeral or Memorial Services or Graveside, Chapel or Committal
- Cremation Services** include Interment, Graveside, Scattering or placing Cremated Remains in multiple urns.
- Green Burial Services:** For those who want to be more environmentally friendly with their end-of-life decisions.



Sellers Funeral Home, Inc. is located at 440 S.W. Broadway St., Ocala, FL 34475  
Phone: (352) 620-8881 ~ Fax: (352) 620-8834  
For more information, go to <https://sellersfuneralhomes.com>



# SHONDA “PRECIOUS” SWAIN PEAKS

When you haven't walked in someone else's shoes, it's difficult to understand what drives so many individuals to attempt to take their own lives. But sometimes, a suicidal person is in so much pain that they can see no other option.

It's a place Shonda "Precious" Swain-Peaks is all too familiar with.

The first time she attempted suicide, she said she was tired. During that time in her life, she was in college and had recently gotten married. On the outside, she said, it looked like she had it all together, but she didn't.

"I was 17 years old, married and tired of the mental and emotional weight I was carrying. I did not want to be married, but I also did not want to go back to carrying the weight alone," she said. "I was tired. I felt like I never slept. I had horrible nightmares or at least at the time I thought they were nightmares."

Precious, as family and friends call her, said she's survived and overcame things some true adults can't even imagine. Mentally and physically she felt like she was much older than she really was. She said everything she'd been taught about death told her that it was eternal sleep, no pain and no responsibility. So she waited until she was home alone and took a full bottle of Tylenol. Although she's not sure what happened next, she woke up in the ambulance vomiting profusely. Her husband at the time had poured so much coffee into her while waiting for the ambulance it was all she could smell.

Precious said the counselors tried to convince her that her subconscious mind wanted to die because of her mother, but that wasn't it. She said she was fully aware of her emotions and feelings about that situation.

"My desire to hurt others directly stemmed from the situation with my mother. Never did I want to hurt myself or I would have used a gun, knife, walked in front of a car or something painful," she said. "I was simply tired and didn't want to do anything that I currently had going on anymore."

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the issue, change public perception and provide hope to people affected by suicide. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately one million people die each year from suicide, which is a desperate attempt to escape suffering that has become unbearable. Most suicidal individuals give warning signs or signals of their intentions.

Precious said she was often asked what could she have possibly been so tired of at such a young age. Her response was that she is the child of a heroin addicted mother, who has since passed away, and she was the oldest child. She had learned how to cook, wash dishes and baby sit by the time she was six or seven years old, and she suffered an identity crisis based on the double life she lived.

"I left home at 15 years old to escape a pre-arranged relationship that was abusive, surviving on my own until getting married," she said. "I walked away from the situation with a rejuvenated mindset, determined to be great and make a difference in the lives of everyone I came in contact with."

It wouldn't last. Eighteen years after the first attempt. She tried to end her life again. She was 35 years old.

## The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



Effective as of July 2022, 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Precious said fibroids, which had been a part of her life for so long and excessively heavy menstrual cycles that sometimes lasted for 30 days, negatively impacted her health, and she was extremely anemic. In 2004, her OB/GYN suggested she try a ring device. The first month she said she loved it and since she hadn't had a normal cycle in a long time, she wasn't paying attention to the fact that she was moodier than normal.

"It (ring device) may work for some, but it was the worst mistake I could have made in my life," she said. "By the end of month two, my moods were on a pendulum that seemed to never stop swinging. I was cursing. I was crying. I was laughing, sometimes all at the same time."

(Continued on page 7)

# I DON'T LOOK LIKE WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH!

(Continued from page 6)

The beginning of the third month, Precious said she began to feel like people were always plotting against her. She said there were times when she wanted to hurt her ex-husband really bad. Out of fear that she would inadvertently hurt her kids, she started locking herself in her room away from the world. She didn't have any idea what was happening to her, so she called the EAP line and was told she needed to talk to a doctor and get some medication. She refused to believe she needed pills, so she didn't comply.

One night she said she heard a voice tell her that her ex-husband was evil and was plotting to kill her so she tried to hammer him. The next night, while he was out of town picking up an artist they were promoting, she said she came to the conclusion that something really was wrong with her. Since she didn't know what was going on, only that she felt like Jekyll and Hyde, she decided to stop herself to make sure she didn't hurt her children.

"I had a bottle of Darvocet in the drawer. I figured that if I took them, I would fall asleep and never wake up," she said. "No noise, no mess and no drama."

The last thing she remembered before passing out is being on the phone crying and then waking up to her ex-husband, a puddle of puke and the horrid smell of coffee. It took a few days for her to become functional again. Her mother-in-law asked what was going on, and after telling her, she told Precious to have the Ring taken out as soon as possible. She did and it took almost a month for her hormones to balance out.

Precious said some people may think her second attempt was a result of mental illness, but it wasn't. She said the Ring's ingredients could have been too strong, but they definitely were not compatible with her hormonal balance. She said it wasn't the manufacturer's or even the doctor's fault, it just didn't work for her.

"The saddest part is that without the attempt the effects of the Ring could have killed me in other ways,' she said. "The Most High sustained me not because of anything great I did, but because of His greatness and for that I am thankful."

Precious said no one in her family was aware of what she was going through and she didn't seek help from anyone, but she encourages anyone who may be thinking of taking their own life, to get help, don't carry it alone, pray and talk to someone.

"Please pay attention to those around you. If they are acting differently get involved," she said. "It doesn't matter if it's mental, emotional or chemical, suicide is suicide and we need to make every effort to bring awareness and STOP suicide."

Precious said she doesn't have those thoughts anymore and despite the attempts, she's still alive and it makes her appreciate the life she has.

"To look at me now, you wouldn't believe it, but I'm a survivor of a suicide attempt," she said. "My belief is that I am here today by the grace of the Most High. He was not done with me. It was not my time to die according to His time clock, so He sustained my life."

Follow Swain-Peaks on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/swaingirlmedia/>



## Warning Signs of Suicide

- **Talking about suicide** – Any talk about suicide, dying, or self-harm, such as "I wish I hadn't been born," "If I see you again..." and "I'd be better off dead."
- **Seeking out lethal means** – Seeking access to guns, pills, knives, or other objects that could be used in a suicide attempt.
- **Preoccupation with death** – Unusual focus on death, dying, or violence. Writing poems or stories about death.
- **No hope for the future** – Feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and being trapped ("There's no way out"). Belief that things will never get better or change.
- **Self-loathing, self-hatred** – Feelings of worthlessness, guilt, shame, and self-hatred. Feeling like a burden ("Everyone would be better off without me").
- **Getting affairs in order** – Making out a will. Giving away prized possessions. Making arrangements for family members.
- **Saying goodbye** – Unusual or unexpected visits or calls to family and friends. Saying goodbye to people as if they won't be seen again.
- **Withdrawing from others** – Withdrawing from friends and family. Increasing social isolation. Desire to be left alone.
- **Self-destructive behavior** – Increased alcohol or drug use, reckless driving, unsafe sex. Taking unnecessary risks as if they have a "death wish."
- **Sudden sense of calm** – A sudden sense of calm and happiness after being extremely depressed can mean that the person has made a decision to attempt suicide.

Source:  
<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention.htm>

## SPECIAL WASTE AMNESTY DAY COMING SOON

The City of Ocala, in partnership with Green For Life (GFL), will hold a special waste amnesty day Saturday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at N.E. 14th Street and N.E. 8th Avenue.

Special waste consists of household hazardous waste and electronics. Neither of these types of waste is permitted to be picked up with the regularly scheduled residential waste collection. Special waste from businesses will not be collected.

This annual collection day allows residents to safely dispose of items from their homes. Previous collection days for the city have resulted in approximately 30,000 pounds of materials remaining out of landfills and city water systems. GFL and the City are committed to protecting the environment through special waste amnesty days throughout the year.

### Examples of hazardous waste items accepted:

- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Paint, paint thinners and gasoline
- Cleaning fluids
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Used oil and filters
- Auto batteries
- Pool chemicals
- Aerosol cans

### Examples of electronic items accepted:

- Answering machines
- Battery chargers
- Computers, keyboards and monitors
- Small copiers, printers and fax machines
- CD/DVD/Blu-ray players
- Stereos and televisions
- Cell phones, PDAs and scanners

For more information, call the City of Ocala Residential Sanitation Department at (352) 351-6697.



## The Salvation Army THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS APPLICATIONS 2022 (352)732-8326

**THE SALVATION ARMY** is accepting applications beginning **September 6, 2022**, for Thanksgiving food & Christmas food and toy assistance this year (**ONLINE ONLY**.) You will need a code to apply. Please contact The Salvation Army for information. If you do not have the capability or need assistance in applying, please contact The Salvation Army at 352-629-2004 and we can assist you with the process.

**PLEASE NOTE : APPLICATION  
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>  
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**To apply you will need to upload the following documents to the website :**

<http://www.saangeltree.org>

1. Current Photo ID or driver's license
2. Proof of Income: Food Stamp and AFDC award letters, check stubs, Social Security, SSI award letter, pension, child support, unemployment, workman's compensation, retirement, alimony, Section 8 Public Housing letter etc.
3. Children 12 and under only: Birth Certificates, Court documents or school letter showing guardianship on each child. We **cannot** accept Social Security cards or health cards on children. Children **MUST** live with you.

## Business Spotlight



**Business Name:** The Bubble Bar

**No. of Employees:** 6

**Business Owner:** Amber Zabor

**Business Address:** 304 S.W. Broadway St., Ocala, FL

**Business Phone:** (352) 509-3006

**What Year Did You Start Your Business?** 2017

**Hours of Operation:**

Tuesday - Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.

**Products and/or Services:**

Boba Teas (Flavored Teas, Milk Tea, Slushes, "Snows" Milkshakes/Smoothies and Popcorn

**Email:** abubblebar@gmail.com

**Website:** the-bubble-bar-boba-tea.business.site

**Are you on Social Media?** Yes

Facebook: The Bubble Bar

Instagram: @Bubblebar Ocala

**What or Who Inspired you to start your business?**

I saw the need for a new, unique experience in the area.

**What Makes Your Business Unique or What's Your Specialty?** We are the only Boba tea shop in the area offering 1000's of different drink combinations all served in a relaxing, fun setting.

**What Advice Would You Give Someone Starting A Business?** Do your homework first! A Business Plan, ask for help, involve the community in the planning process and don't be afraid to change and adapt to new developments. Treat your staff well and over deliver to your customers.



*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](mailto:Towntalkmagazine@yahoo.com). Completed forms can be returned via email or mailed to P.O. Box 6212, Ocala, FL 34478.*



**FREE ADMISSION**  
**on the first Saturday of each month.**



**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](http://AppletonMuseum.org)



**WWOP CONFERENCE 2022**

**LIVING MY BEST Life**



**SHARON MILLER**  
 PRAYERCLOSET MINISTRIES UK  
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST



**LISA COOK**  
 4HISBELOVED MINISTRIES  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2022 7PM-9PM**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2022 9AM-3PM**

**KINGDOM REVIVAL CHURCH**  
 3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470  
**Registration: On-site at Kingdom Revival Church and at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)**  
**Contact information: [valerie@krctoday.org](mailto:valerie@krctoday.org)**

**5th Annual - Save The Date!**

**Ocala Recovery Fest**  
 IT'S TIME TO  
 CELEBRATE DISCOVERY! RECONNECT THOSE WHO TAKE ACTION!

**September 10, 2022**  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Join us at Tuscowilla Park**

To celebrate recovery and increase awareness for those struggling with mental or substance use disorders.

Listen to great music, taste local food share your story and learn about services available to help recovery.

**Open to the Public**

*Now accepting nominations for the Chief Greg Graham Recovery Champion Award*

Sponsorship, exhibitor, volunteer and donation opportunities are available. Please email [ccasa@mchildrensalliance.org](mailto:ccasa@mchildrensalliance.org) for more information.



# MONEY SMART TIPS

By Scott Hackmyer

## KNOWING WHEN TO BUY CAN SAVE YOU A LOT OF MONEY!

When making long term plans it is great to know the best time of year to make certain purchases. A number of national organizations, such as NerdWallet and Kiplinger put out lists of the best months to make certain purchases. A theme you will find is it is smart to buy a product just before the next year's models are coming out as the stores want to clear their inventory of brand new and perfectly good merchandise to make room for the new styles coming. Below are items highlighted by the various publications that keep track of these sale dates. Here is the continuation of the list we started in last month's issue. You can also search online asking "What is on sale during different months of the year?"



**January:** This is the month for "white sales," sheets and towels go on sale, particularly at department stores. After all that holiday eating fitness equipment and fitness clothing is offered at sale prices as many of us make New Year's Resolutions to get in shape. Large screen televisions are discounted prior to big football championship games and you will also see sale prices on digital cameras, wedding gowns and furniture from the previous year.

**February:** This is one of the best months to buy a new TV. Every holiday seems to be an excuse to try to sell you something and President's Day is known for sales on clothing and home goods. With spring coming winter clothing will be marked down and often in February you can get a good deal on a new car. The days after Valentine's Day is a terrific time to buy candy. National Frozen Yogurt day is February 6, you should be able to find a free cup somewhere.

**March:** If you didn't buy one when summer ended this is the month to purchase that new barbeque grill before prices start to go up for summer. If you use a computer program for your income taxes March is a good time to buy the new tax year's program, prices will go up in April. Winter coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and winter boots all will be going on sale.

**April:** It is spring cleaning time so look for discounts on vacuum cleaners. After Easter, candy and some stuffed animals are marked down and to celebrate Earth Day a lot of sustainable items like totes for the grocery store, water bottles and anything made out of reusable products tend to go on sale. This is also a good month to purchase a used car.

**May:** The clothing that arrived in stores for spring back in March will now start to get marked down. May is a great month to find small kitchen appliances like blenders, toasters and coffee makers on sale. You will see a lot of ads right around Memorial Day. Furniture is another item that traditionally goes on sale for Memorial Day. With new models coming, washers/dryers and mattresses also have their prices reduced.

**June:** This is Father's Day month so lots of "guy" things go on sale; power tools, barbeque grills, and men's clothing. Gyms offer have promotions as summer is starting, treadmills go on sale and lingerie is highlighted in a number of stores. National Donut Day is June 3, be on the lookout for that free donut.

**July:** Lots of Christmas in July sales. Look for sofas, living room sets and dining rooms to go on sale to make room for new fall styles. Anything red, white and blue tends to go on sale for July 4th along with barbeque and sporting good items. Laptops and other computer items are often marked down this month as are swimsuits, sandals and beach towels as the end of summer is in sight. National Ice Cream day is July 17, go find that free cone!

## DOES YOUR CHILD NEED EXTRA HELP?

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4:30 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M.  
GRADES 1ST THRU 5TH**

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306 N.W. 7TH AVENUE  
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## CITY OF OCALA HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - LABOR DAY

City of Ocala business offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day. There will be no residential collection for sanitation, yard waste or recycling routes Monday, Sept. 5.

Residential sanitation collection regularly scheduled for Monday, Sept. 5 through Thursday, Sept. 8 will experience a one-day delay and will be collected Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Friday, Sept. 9.

Waste Pro recycling collection for City of Ocala residents regularly scheduled for Monday, Sept. 5 through Thursday, Sept. 8 will take place Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Friday, Sept. 9.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Residential Sanitation Division at (352) 351-6697.

# GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

## OCALA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT IS HOSTING A COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING

The City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department will host a **Community Town Hall** on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the E.D. Croskey Recreation Center, 1510 N.W. 4th St., 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Town hall meetings are open to the public to attend and to learn more about the recreation, parks and cultural arts divisions within the department.

Community members are encouraged to attend to ask questions and provide feedback on programs and events offered by the recreation and parks department.

For more information about Ocala Recreation and Parks, go to [www.ocalafl.org/recpark](http://www.ocalafl.org/recpark) or call (352) 368-5517.

The City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department will host its **"After Dark in the Park"** movie series with the classic "The Karate Kid" movie on Sept. 9, at Tusawilla Park Oak Grove 500 N.E. 9th St. The film, which starts at 8 p.m., is free and open to the public.

## SPLASH PAD CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

Lillian Bryant Park and Splash Pad, 2200 N.W. 17th Place, will be closed through Friday, September 2, due to a gas line repair.

The park will reopen to the public on Saturday, September 3. Lillian F. Bryant Community Center will operate as normal. Park hours are from sunrise to sunset daily.

For more information, please call the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department at (352) 368-5517.

The **First Friday Art Walk** returns to Downtown Ocala on September 2, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Downtown Square.

The event, held every first Friday through May, includes hands-on art activities and demonstrations from local arts and cultural organizations, local artists and artwork, live music and extended business hours.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit [www.ocalafl.org/artwalk](http://www.ocalafl.org/artwalk) or contact The City of Ocala Arts Division at (352) 629-8447 and [artinfo@ocalafl.org](mailto:artinfo@ocalafl.org).

## ANGELIA VERNON MENCHAN - AUTHOR - PUBLISHER - SPEAKER

Angelia Vernon Menchan is an author, publisher and public speaker who owns two publishing companies, Honorable Menchan Media L.L.C and MAMM Productions, Menchan has over 400 books in print. Menchan is a retired Budget Analyst and former Job Corps Counselor. You can access her bibliography on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) search words: Angelia Vernon Menchan



Menchan has also published the work of twenty other authors to date.

She is a sought after speaker for young women audiences because she speaks honestly, straight and open to the issues that plague them such as teen pregnancy, the importance of education and making life impacting choices. Menchan is the founder of

#JustLOVEMinistry a mentoring and giving ministry.

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# NIGHT OF HOPE

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
 Dinner ~ Music ~ Giveaways ~ Survivor Testimonies ~ Vendors

**Keynote Speaker: Tahiera Monique Brown**  
 Thursday, September 29, 2022  
 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
 College of Central Florida,  
 3001 S.W. College Rd.  
 Ocala, FL 34474

**Tickets: \$35 per person**

To purchase tickets, sponsor a survivor or make a donation, go to <https://2022noh.eventbrite.com> or at the Alliance office, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475.

**FREE** childcare available for children 2 years old or older. Call (352) 438-5993 to reserve a space.

For information or sponsorship opportunities, call Monica at (352) 438-5993 or go to <https://2022noh.eventbrite.com>



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**TIME**  
 7:00 - 08:00 PM

**DATE**  
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JOIN US FOR THE WEAR YOUR WINGS  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WALK**  
 FROM THE OCALA POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CF

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7 AM WALK STARTS AT 8 AM

Transportation will be provided for walkers by SunTran from CF to OPD starting at 6:45 a.m. Walkers should park at CF and use the S.W. 20th Street side entrance and park in the parking area in front of the Dassance Fine Arts Center (Bldg. 4).

Get Family and Friends to Sponsor You

Individual Walkers  
 Donate your Shoe Size Ex. Shoe Size 8 = \$8  
 \*Minimum donation of \$10 to receive free T-Shirt

Prizes awarded for Most Pledges collected and the Team with the Most Walkers present at the event

Guarantee to get a T-Shirt by registering on or before Friday, September 16, 2022

T-Shirts can be picked up early on Friday, Sept. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ocala Police Department (Community Room) 402 S Pine Ave.

Register online at <https://2022dvwalk.eventbrite.com>

Email [Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org](mailto:Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org) for a Pledge Form or call (352) 438-5993 for a form or more information.

All proceeds benefit victims and survivors of Domestic Violence in our community

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