



News Happening Around Town

August 2021 Newsletter



City of Ocala
Office of the Mayor

Message from the Mayor



"As an Ocala native, I deeply care about what happens in our city. The people and places that make up this town are an important part of our community. Serving as your mayor for 10 years is both an honor and a privilege and I remain committed to staying connected to our citizens. My hope is that through this monthly newsletter, you will see the continuous progress of our city as we work together to make this city a great place to live, play and prosper."

Calendar | Upcoming Events

3
Sept.

First Friday Art Walk
Downtown Ocala
6 -9 p.m.

4
Sept.

Recovery Walk
Brick City Park
3 - 8 p.m.

11
Sept.

Recovery Fest
Tuscawilla Park
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11
Sept.

9/11 Memorial Program
Veterans Memorial Park | 10 a.m.

14
Sept.

City Council Meeting
City Hall
5 p.m.

28
Sept.

City Council Meeting
City Hall
5 p.m.

Updates from the Police Department

Introducing K-9 Graham!



The Ocala Police Department proudly introduces our newest addition to the K-9 unit, K-9 Graham.

The Belgian Malinois is certified as an apprehension and drug detection canine and gets his name from Ocala's previous, and much beloved, Chief of Police, Greg Graham. Chief Graham joined the Ocala

Police Department in 1983 and served as Ocala's police chief from 2012 to 2020. Tragically, Chief Graham lost his life in an airplane crash on October 25, 2020. "Greg Graham left a huge legacy to the city of Ocala and the police department. He touched so many lives. Having a K-9 that carries his name is just one way that we as an agency can continue to remember a great man," stated current Chief of Police, Mike Balken.

K-9 Graham was donated to the Ocala Police Department by two local business owners: Doug Cone of Cone Distributing and John Duggan of Black Label Marine Group. The two business owners each donated half the cost of the dog. The Ocala Police Department not only appreciates the generosity of these local businesses in covering the purchase of K-9 Graham, but also in supporting his commemorative naming.

Officer Amado Burgos is K-9 Graham's handler. Burgos says, "Police K-9s are incredibly important tools that we use to address crime in Ocala. Dogs like K-9 Graham will help officers get guns and drugs off the streets." The K-9 certification program consists of 480 initial hours before the dog can

start working actively on patrol. Additional training is ongoing throughout the career of all K-9s on active duty with the Department.

COPS



& Cars

Saturday, October 2, 2021

402 S. Pine Ave Ocala, FL 34471

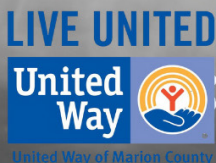
Car & Truck Show 9am - 2pm

Pre-register before 9/18 \$15

Registration after 9/18 & day of \$25

Cash only- Register in person at Ocala PD

All funds collected will benefit United Way of Marion County



The Community “Screams” for Ice Cream

As a way to continue its mission to positively connect with the Ocala community and further develop youth outreach programs, OPD has recently acquired an ice cream truck. The purchase of a new vehicle would have taken a minimum of 14 months; however, Zone Health and Fitness along with several community business leaders collaborated to donate a vehicle to OPD. We are so thankful for their generosity and support of this new venture. We are excited for the opportunities this new way of connecting with our community will bring.

Read, Explore and Discover

On August 5, OPD Community Liaison Tara Woods hosted a great R.E.A.D. (Read Explore And Discover) event at Shady Hollow Apartments with Ocala Housing Authority Resident Services Manager, Davida Randolph. Sergeant Kyle Howie and Officer Christina Calvert read “How to Catch a Unicorn” to the children. Each child was given a copy of the book to keep.



From Around the Community

School is Back in Session

The 2021-2022 school year is underway. I want to wish everyone a safe time back at school. Please remember to drive safely, always pay attention to your surroundings and don't drive distracted. Let's keep our city safe for our students.

Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament

As we mentioned in our last issue, Ocala recently hosted the Cal Ripken Rookie (8-year-old) World Series. The tournament included 10-12 of the best teams from across the U.S., and events took place throughout the first week of August. Thank you to everyone who went out to support these awesome young people. I had the pleasure of speaking at the opening ceremonies parade. Our own Ocala team placed fourth overall, and

we're proud of them. I hope we will get the opportunity to host this great tournament again sometime soon!



OCALA
Recreation and Parks

FIRST FRIDAY
Art Walk
DOWNTOWN OCALA

SEPTEMBER 3 | 6-9 P.M.

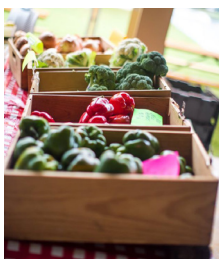
www.ocalafl.org/artwalk | 352-629-8447

Local Artists • Live Music • Free Art Activities

First Friday Art Walk

First Friday Art Walk will soon be back the first Friday of every month, Sept. - May, 6 - 9 p.m. Local artists and musicians line up around the downtown square for an evening of art, live music and free art activities. Make sure to join us Sept. 3 to kick off the new season with 20 artist displays, three musical buskers, open galleries and a live musical performance by Taylor Rich!

Ocala Downtown Market



The Ocala Downtown Market continues to grow! Want to support local growers and creators? The market is open every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. with vegetables, local honey, baked good, food trucks, home decor and more available for purchase. You never know what kind of treasures you might find!

Recovery Walk & Recovery Fest 2021

Join Zero Hour Life Center Sept. 4 at Brick City Park, 3 - 8 p.m. for a recovery walk in honor of September being National Recovery Month. Walk for recovery. Walk to remember those lost to overdose. For more information visit www.zerohourlifecenter.org or call 352-765-4943.

The following weekend, on Sept. 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Community

Council Against Substance Abuse, along with several local partners, is hosting the fourth annual Ocala Recovery Fest at Tuscawilla Park. Join us in celebrating those who are on their recovery journey and remembering those who have been lost to addiction. There will be live music, free food, community resource vendors and a kids zone with face painting, ponies and crafts! All attendees will receive a free meal, free t-shirt and various swag along with information from sponsors and vendors while supplies last. This event is free to the public.

Proclamations



A proclamation is a formal public statement issued by a person of authority, dealing with matters of great importance or offering recognition to a person or organization. If you or your organization is interested in working with the Mayor's office to receive recognition, please contact Fazillete Gonzalez at (352)401-3977.

Opioid and Amnesty Information

The Ocala Police Department (OPD) has multiple protocols in place to help alleviate addiction in our community.

All field officers are equipped with Narcan® to aid during a response to a possible opioid overdose call. Narcan® is an FDA approved nasal spray that counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid emergency or overdose. OPD's Opioid Amnesty Program continues to be a prominent factor in the reduction of overdose deaths and crime throughout Marion County. If someone is struggling with addiction and needs assistance, upon request by the individual, an Ocala Police Officer will transport them to a local health treatment facility, free of charge. The officer will also take and properly destroy any drugs and/or drug paraphernalia surrendered to them by the individual without the fear of arrest for possession of those items. The goal of the Amnesty

OPD Numbers* 2021 Year to Date

Overdoses (OD)	191
OD Deaths	30
Narcan® Saves	81
Amnesty Program	
Total Participants	407
2021 Participants	76

*Numbers are as-of this writing and are subject to change.

Program is to encourage individuals to seek treatment without the barriers of cost or arrest. It is the belief of OPD that together, as a community, we can combat this crisis.

About the Mayor



Kent Guinn assumed the office of Mayor in December 2011 after serving the City of Ocala for 12 years as the Councilman representing District 4. Mayor Guinn is in the financial services business and is a representative of the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America as well as owner of the firm Guinn & Company, LLC.

For the past 29 years he has served on the Board of the Children's Home Society Mid-Florida Division which covers North Central Florida. He served on the CHS State Board of Directors for 26 years. CHS is a 112-year-old not for profit child welfare agency in the State of Florida. Mayor Guinn was adopted through CHS.

Mayor Guinn is a 5th generation Ocalan. His family has been in Ocala since 1850. He and his wife Sandra have been married for 39 years and have two sons.

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