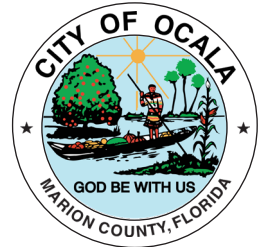




# News Happening Around Town

## August 2020 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 nine 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

**1**  
**Sept.**

**City Council  
Meeting**  
5 p.m.

**15**  
**Sept.**

**City Council  
Meeting**  
5 p.m.

# Updates from the Police Department

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

All officers in the field 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.

The Ocala Police Department's Opioid Amnesty Program initiative is a result of the Mayor's Heroin/Opioid Task Force. The Amnesty Program began in January 2018 and 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 Program is to encourage individuals to seek treatment without the barriers of cost or arrest. It is the belief of the Ocala Police Department and Chief Graham that together, as a community, we can combat this crisis.

OPD Numbers*	
2020 Year to Date	
<b>Overdoses (OD)</b>	223
<b>OD Deaths</b>	28
<b>Narcan® Saves</b>	94
<b>Amnesty Program</b>	
<b>Total Participants</b>	307
<b>2020 Participants</b>	111

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

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## From Around the Community

### Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation

The City of Ocala supports water conservation year round. Through various outreach programs, social media promotion and City projects, protecting our water is an ongoing campaign. We know the importance of water, and the importance of conserving it, especially given the wonderful local water resources we have here in Ocala, and Central Florida. The City of Ocala seeks to take a proactive approach to be cognisant of our water usage while we're water rich. One example is the [Ocala Wetland Recharge Park](#), which will help offset our water usage while providing both a habitat for local flora and fauna and a beautiful park for Ocala residents and visitors.

*My Water Pledge* is a friendly competition between cities across the US to see who can be the most "water-wise." Mayors nationwide have

challenged their residents to conserve water, energy and other natural resources on behalf of their city through a series of informative, easy-to-use pledges online. Cities with the highest percentage of residents who take the challenge in their population category win. Participants in the winning cities are eligible to win hundreds of prizes.

It's not too late to take the pledge:

1. Visit [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) to take the pledge for free.
2. See how much you've pledged to save.
3. Choose to enter the prize drawing or nominate a local charity for a grand prize drawing.

Conserving our precious water resources can be as easy as taking the following proactive steps:

- Fix leaking faucets and toilets
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth
- Use a refillable water bottle instead of buying bottled water
- Avoid watering your lawn on hot days
- Use a broom instead of your hose to clean walkways, driveways, decks or porches
- Plug your sink to hold soapy water while washing dishes and prevent running the faucet the entire time

WYLAND NATIONAL MAYOR'S CHALLENGE  
FOR WATER CONSERVATION

# SAVE WATER AND WIN!

## AUGUST 1-31

TAKE THE  
PLEDGE NOW

[www.mywaterpledge.com](http://www.mywaterpledge.com)

@WYLANDFOUNDATION

WYLAND  
FOUNDATION

# TOYOTA

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. - First Responder Campus**

Construction continues at our new First Responder Campus. The facility is located adjacent to the Croskey Commons special district and is proposed to interconnect with the special district to enhance the area. The campus will feature community rooms, a basketball court and social gathering spaces to promote greater interaction with the community.



**Construction at the MLK First Responder Campus**

## Mary Sue Rich Community Center

As part of the revitalization efforts in West Ocala, plans for the Mary Sue Rich Community Center are moving along. The new 41,750 square foot, two-story center will serve as the hub of the community. The building will include designated indoor space for senior, youth and family programs; a banquet/event space; fitness equipment and indoor walking track; two full basketball courts; a library and multi-purpose studio rooms. Future plans include adding outdoor spaces, an outdoor playground, event lawn and community garden. The expected completion date is spring 2022.



Rendering of the Mary Sue Rich Community Center

## New Restaurant Opens on Maricamp Road

A new Southern Pig & Cattle Restaurant is now open at 4433 SE Maricamp Road. Come check out their new Ocala location and try some of their award-winning barbeque.



Southern Pig & Cattle Restaurant Grand Opening - August 10, 2020

## Dr. Diane Gullett, Superintendent of Schools



I recently had the opportunity to meet the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Diane Gullett. We should expect great things from her.

Please take the time to make her feel welcomed to Ocala!

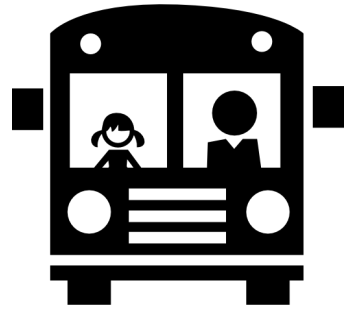
## Ocala Strong

Ocala continues in the fight against COVID-19. The total number of cases for Marion County is 8,456\*, with 179\* deaths attributed to the virus. As of this writing, we are below 10%\* on our rate of positive test results.

\*Statistics are per the state Department of Health reported on August 30, 2020

## School is Back in Session!

The 2020-2021 school year is underway. 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.



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## Proclamations



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

## Recent Proclamations

### Assisted Living Week - August 12

There are currently over 800,000 Americans residing in assisted living, and there are more than 420,000 caregivers taking care of their needs. All citizens should understand the physical and emotional needs of our seniors and appreciate the Assisted Living Health Care Associates for caring for our seniors and providing them with the best care while adding life to their final years. I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, do hereby proclaim September 13 – 19, 2020 as Assisted Living Week throughout Ocala, Florida.

# 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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