

MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 24, Issue 2 ~ February 2024

FEBRUARY IS NATIONALTEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



See Page 5 for Details!

MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

3482 N.W. 10th St. Ocala, FL 34475 Phone: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994 www.mcchildrensalliance.org

Board of Directors

Mike Balken Lori Boring John Cooper Craig Curry Pastor John Delcamp Michael Greiner Dr. Diane Gullett Mark Lander Adam Lombardo Rep. Stan McClain Kevin McDonald Jim McCune Pamela Michell Randy Reynolds **Brad Rogers Charles Scherer** Vickie Sullivan **Billy Woods**

For all of Marion County's Children to have a safe, healthy and nurturing environment in which to grow.

Our Vision

Our Mission

"To improve the lives of Marion County Children"

\sim Partners in Excellence \sim

Barrett, Liner & Company; City of Ocala; Community Coalition Alliance; Cox Communication; Dept. of Children and Families; Dept. of Juvenile Justice; Drug Free Communities; Duke Energy; Florida Blue; Florida Department of Health in Marion County; Friends Recycling, LLC; Jenkins Auto Group; Kids Central, Inc.; Marion County Board of County Commissioners; Marion County Hospital District; Marion County Public Schools; Marion County Sheriff's Office; Ocala Police Department; Palmer Family Foundation; Radiology Associates of Ocala; Renasant Bank; Signature Brands; Tri-Eagle Sales; United Way of Marion County

Staff	E-mail: mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org
Executive Director	Beth McCall executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org
Family Violence Prevention Coordin	ator Monica Bryant Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org
Prevention Coordinator	Hilary Jackson Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org
Supporting Kids, Involving Parents	Coordinator (S.K.I.P) Kelley Windham Kelley@mcchildrensalliance.org
Outreach Specialist	Tanya Ousley Tanya@mcchildrensalliance.org

Notice: The Children's Alliance informs readers of current events in the nonprofit and social service fields. Opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the Marion County Children's Alliance. Inclusion or exclusion of any agency does not imply either endorsement or disapproval by the Alliance. MCCA reserves the right to edit ALL submissions. Information should be e-mailed to Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org by the FIRST Friday of each month for the following months publication.

Jenkins Pr oud Supporter of the Acura Marion County Children's Al liance



Saturday, Feb. 24 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free to attend



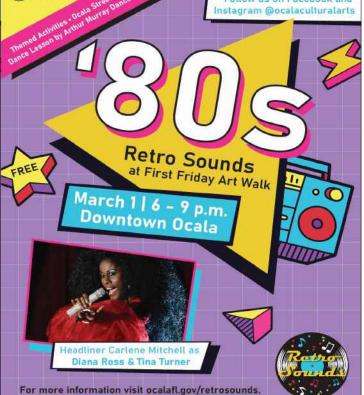
OCALA





Celebrate 10 new sculptures displayed through Tuscawilla Park with self-guided tours, live music, fair games, and more!

Visit ocalafl.gov/artpark for more information or call 352-629-8447.





for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center, 1812 N.W. 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Agency Spotlight:

Timothy Bowman,

Director of Business Development The Vines Hospital Youth Residential Treatment Program

Guest Speaker: Davida Randolph,

Program Coordinator Howard Academy Community Center

2024 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by:

The Marion County Children's Alliance Family Violence Prevention Workgroup

All Marion County students attending a public, private or homeschool in grades 6th through 12th are invited to participate in the Family Violence Prevention Workgroup's essay, poetry or video contest to make teens more aware of teen dating violence, how it impacts our community and ways to prevent it.

February, designated nationally as Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month, is a national effort to raise awareness about dating abuse in teen relationships. Students are encouraged to submit a piece based on the theme:

"It's Not Just About You: Committing Together to Stop Teen Dating Violence."

Students may enter in one of three categories:

Visual Arts: includes drawings, paintings and/or posters

Videos: includes public service announcements, music videos, songs and all social media platforms i.e. Instagram, Reels, Tic Tok, etc. (Maximum length: 3 minutes.)

Written Works: includes poetry and essays (Must not exceed 500 words).

Deadline for submissions is Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Judging Criteria: Visual Arts, Videos and Written Works will be judged based on: Content, Originality, Creativity and Clarity of Message.

Winners will be notified by Friday, March 15, 2024.

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FIRST PRIZE - \$200 Visa Gift Card SECOND PRIZE - \$150 Visa gift Card THIRD PRIZE - \$100 Visa Gift Card

First, Second and Third Place Prizes will be awarded at the middle and high school level.

See Page 12 and 13 for Entry Form and Contest Rules

Marion County Public Library System

African American Read-In: A Celebration of Black History Month

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

Reddick Public Library, 15150 NW Gainesville Road, Reddick ~ Saturday, February 10, at 11:30 a.m.

Forest Public Library, 905 S. Hwy. 314A, Ocklawaha ~ Wednesday, February 14, at 11 a.m.

Dunnellon Public Library, 20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon ~ Monday, February 19, at 2 p.m.

Belleview Public Library, 13145 SE County Hwy 484, Belleview ~ Monday, February 19, at 2 p.m.

Sankofa Public Library, 1821 N.W. 21st Ave., Ocala ~ Monday, February 19, at 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Marion Oaks Public Library, 294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala ~ Wednesday, February 21, at 1 p.m.

Marion Oaks Public Library, 294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala ~ Wednesday, February 21, at 1 p.m.

The PTO & Alumni Associations of Fessenden Elementary Presents:



LEGACY DAY 2024

REMEMBERING THE PAST ~ CELEBRATING THE PRESENT ~ PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

BRIEF HISTORY OF FESSENDEN ELEMENTARY

Fessenden Elementary School has a rich history beginning in 1868. Local freed African American families established a school on the current grounds. Originally called the Union School, it grew in response to the need for black student education in the segregated Deep South. In 1889.
Ferdinand Fessenden supported the school's development, and the school was renamed in his honor upon his death. Joseph L. Wiley, a pivotal figure, expanded the school's reach and secured funding for its development. Fessenden faced challenges but continued to thrive, eventually becoming Fessenden High School in 1953. After 1971, it became Fessenden Elementary School.
Fessenden's Parent Teacher Organization is supported by dedicated members of the alumni as well as community volunteers. In 1994, the school grounds were designated a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024 FESSENDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM 4200 NW 89TH PLACE, OCALA, FLORIDA 34482

8AM — 4PM: CF'S PATHWAYS TO FREEDOM BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT A MINISTRY OF SHAMGAR MINISTRIES, INC.(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC) 11AM — 11:30AM : OPENING CEREMONY (ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)

** FOOD AND FUN ACTIVITIES ON SITE **

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

PRINCIPAL STACIE NEWMONES (352) 671 - 4935 STACIE.NEWMONES@MARION.K12.FL.US LINDA WARD (PTO PRESIDENT) (954) 993- 4249

Howard Academy Community Center

Cordially invites you to celebrate with us

Black History Museum of Ocala

the

Archive Inductees

Past & Present and Meet the members of the

CAfrican American Administrators Council

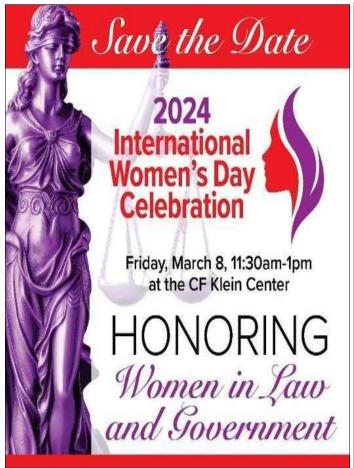
Thursday, February 15, 2024 6:00p.m.

Howard Academy Community Center 306 N.W. 7th Avenue Ocala, FL 34475

For more information,

call (352) 671-4175





OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS



Paint a new Ocala Skate Park panel live during a Levitt AMP concert. Apply online at <u>www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp</u>.



We're looking for artists to live paint double-sided metal panels (8ft x 4ft) during the 2024 Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series. These newly painted panels will eventually replace the current art panels in the **@ocalaskatepark**.

This opportunity is open to artists currently working and residing in Marion County, and the surrounding counties. All designs will be approved before the start of the 2024 Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series to ensure artwork will be family-friendly, non-political and without copy right infringement. Accepted artists or art groups will receive a \$250 honorarium at the conclusion of the concert series.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at **www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp.** Entries can be submitted online, via email to **artinfo@ocalafl.gov** or mailed to City of Ocala Cultural Arts, 201 S.E. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, Ocala, FL 34471. It is FREE to apply.

'Let's Talk"

MAYOR BEN MARCIANO

1119

Town Hall Meeting

OPEN TO ALL

MARY SUE RICH CENTER AT REEDS PLACE 1821 N.W. 21ST AVE. DCALA, FL. 34474

Wednesday March 6, 2024 6 P.M. – 7 P.M. An oppurtunity to meet your newly elected Mayor, and hear him share his vision for Ocala's future.

For More Information:

Tara Woods, Community Liaison 352-369-7182

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

"It's Not Just About You: Committing Together to Stop Teen Dating Violence."

Student Name:		Age:
Name of School:		Grade:
Phone Number:	Alternate Number:	
E-mail Address:	-1	
Select ONE Category only: Visual Arts		
Title:		
Please Note: Contest winners will be not	ified by Friday.	March 15, 2024. All contest

Please Note: Contest winners will be notified by **Friday, March 15, 2024.** All contest winners' entries will be posted on the Alliance Website, Facebook, and/or in the Alliance monthly newsletter. Entries must be postmarked by **Thursday, February 29. 2024.**

The Family Violence Prevention Workgroup Celebrates Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month February 2024

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Parents/Guardians: I, the parent/guardian of _______ hereby give permission to the Marion County Children's Alliance Family Violence Prevention Workgroup to change and publish entries as needed for advertising. I understand that the student's name, grade and name of school may appear with the published version, I do further release and discharge the Marion County Children's Alliance Family Violence Prevention Workgroup and its volunteers and community partners from and against all damages, complaints, cost and fees resulting from said use of such work. I agree to refrain from instituting, pressing or in any way aiding any claim, demand, action or cause of action for damages, cost, compensation or fees against the same in connection with such use,

By signing below, I verify that I understand and agree to the above release. Entries must be signed to be eligible to be submitted in Essay Contest.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian (Required if student is under the age of 18 years old).

For more information, call Valerie at (352) 438-5990 Monica at (352) 438-5993.

Entries must be postmarked on or before Thursday, February 29. 2024 and can be e-mailed to **monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org** or mailed or dropped off to Marion County Children's Alliance, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475.

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST RULES:

- •The Contest is only open to Marion County students in grades 6th through 12th grade attending a public or private school or homeschool.
- Visual Arts and Written Works can be submitted via e-mail to monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org or hard copies can be mailed or dropped off to Marion County Children's Alliance, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475.
- For video and social media entries, students can email the link to view the entry or entries can be mailed or dropped off to the address above. Entries must be postmarked by **February 29, 2024**.
- All entries must be the student's original work. The use of copyrighted material and AI (Artificial Intelligence) is strictly prohibited, including the use of copyrighted cartoon characters, music or other material.
- Winning entries may be changed and used as appropriate for advertising, posters, fliers, T-shirts, etc., in future family violence prevention campaigns.
- First, second and third place winners will be selected from both the middle school and high school level. Winners will be notified by Friday, March 15, 2024.
- Entries will be judged by members of the Family Violence Prevention Workgroup.
- A Media Release form must accompany each entry. If the student is under 18 years of age, a parent must sign the Media Release form.
- Collaboration is encouraged. If winning entry is part of a group, the winning prize will be divided among the students' in the group.
- Entries cannot have already been entered and judged in a previous contest or published prior to the deadline for entries.
- *The decision of the judges is final. Entries will not be returned. All entries become the property of the Marion County Children's Alliance Family Violence Prevention Workgroup.



KIDS CENTRAL CASINO NIGHT

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 • 7PM OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

Dust off your boots for an evening of countrified casino excitement benefiting abused and neglected children in our community! Tickets are regularly priced at \$75, or a fantastic discount rate of two tickets for \$125.

- Featuring Craps, Blackjack Roulette, a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, and Slot-Style Games!
- Use your winnings to bid on fabulous prizes!
- Food and refreshments will be provided.

Please contact Maureen Quinlan at 352.387.3411 to learn more about this event, or to become a sponsor.

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Kids Central, Inc. is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. PSI CHI CHAPTER

SERVING OCALA SINCE 1956

3rd ANNUAL CHARLES R. DREW BLOOD DRIVE

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LEND A HAND, LEND AN ARM.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 / 12:00pm – 4:00pm

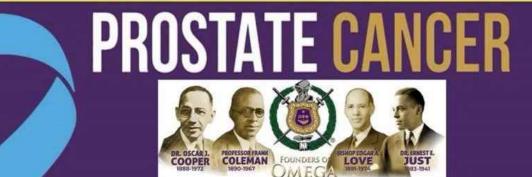
New St John, Missionary Baptist Church 2251 NW 2nd St, Ocala, Fl 34475

EAT AND DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS & MAKE SURE YOU BRING A PHOTO ID!

All donors will receive a gift card & the following free health Screenings: cholesterol, blood pressure, iron & blood type.

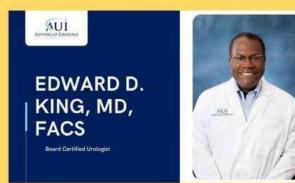
www.psichiques.com

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. PSI CHI CHAPTER SERVING OCALA SINCE 1956



Saturday, February 10, 2024 / 11:00am - 12:00pm

New St John, MBC 2251 NW 2nd St, Ocala, Fl 34475



AWARENESS

Originally from Albany, Georgia, Dr. Edward King received an A.B in biochemistry from Dartmouth College and an M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed a urology residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore and has practiced in Ocala and The Villages, Florida since 1996. Dr. King is a past president of the Marion County Medical Society and a former Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Ocala Regional Medical Center. He has held numerous leadership positions at the Munroe Regional Medical Center (now Advent Health Ocala) including Chief of the hospital's medical staff and vice-chairman of the Munroe Medical Center Board of Directors.

www.psicinques.com

MARION COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR PRESENTS THE 14TH ANNUAL CHARITY CAR SHOW PROCEEDS SUPPORT MARION COUNTY CHARITIES

GEORGE ALBRIGHT

* TOP 25 TROPHIES * PEOPLES CHOICE TROPHY * MUSIC * KIDS BOUNCE HOUSE * FOOD AVAILABLE ON-SITE * AZALEA SALE * CRAFT VENDORS * ANTIQUE VENDORS * CAR PARTS SWAP SPACES

SHOW OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES -PAST & PRESENT-

MCPHERSON GOV. COMPLEX

503 SE 25TH AVE OCALA, FLORIDA 9:00AM-3:00PM FEB 17th 2024

Make checks payable to MCTC Employee Fund \$15.00 Pre-registration by February 15th, 2024 \$20.00 at the gate Mail to: PO BOX 63 Ocala, FL 34478

Name	E-mail	Vehicle Make		
Address	-		Year/Model	
City	State	Zip	Phone	

By execution of this form I hereby release the Marion County Tax Collector's Office from any or all damages during this event.

Signature	Date
For more information conta	t Jacob Wicklein at 352-368-8206 or e-mail at jwicklein@mariontax.com



Founders' Day 2024 "Building Better Together"

February 12th & 13th

7:00 P.M. Nightly

February 12th - Founders' Day Musical February 13th - Founders' Day Program/Director's Address

Reverend Standley Gillings, Sr., Moderator Sister Darion Tyler, Women's Auxillary President Sister Fredna Thornton Wilkerson, Director of Founders' Day

> Second Bethlehem Baptist Association 1205 NW 4th St., Ocala, FL 34475

FAMILY FOCUS VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSIONS

Each month, MCPS will connect, collaborate, and partner with families in learning through a virtual setting. Families can participate in our live online session at 5:30 PM or visit the recorded sessions on our YouTube channel.

February 21, 2024 For the Love of Literacy

March 13, 2024 Preparing Your Child to Thrive Digitally: Cool Kid's Code

<u>April_10, 2024</u> MCPS Summer Learning Opportunities

Register Here!



Flerida KidCare

For more information, email: EngageMCPS@marion.k12.fl.us





"Helping Every Student Succeed" "AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT"



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT EVENT

Howard Academy Community Center 306 NW 7th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475

Saturday, April 27, 2024 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. FREE EVENT

Apply Action Steps to Own a Home, Improve Credit Score,

Connect with Financial Institutions, Leave a Financial

Legacy, Develop Will & Trust

Giveaways Food Prizes & (1) Grand Prize \$250 Value Free And Open To The Public



Contact: Barbara J. Brooks, Ph.D. (352) 875-4237 • www.ramalservices.org SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE





Save The Date

May 4th, 2024 ~ 4:00 - 8:00 pm

A Day at the

Delta Downs

An evening of elegance and excitement at our Derby Gala Fundraiser & Watch Party!

Join us for an unforgettable blend of food, fun, and festivities all in support of a great cause!

Klein Conference Center Ocala, Florida



Marion County Children's Alliance

3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475 Ph: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994





ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- February 12Family Violence Prevention
11 a.m.MondayFirst Responders Campus on MLK
Annual Luncheon
- **February No Meeting** Community Council Against Substance Abuse (CCASA) Noon Zoom
- March 6Safe Streets of Marion CountyWednesday10 a.m.Mary Sue Rich Community Center
- March 13Safe Kids MarionWednesday9 a.m.Florida Dept. of Health
- March 26Substance Exposed NewbornsTuesday9 a.m.OPD Community Room

Connect With Us, log on to

Mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org to view the Calendar to see what's going on in our community; to sign up to receive a free copy of this newsletter or to join a workgroup.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES



March 6 Wednesday Alliance Monthly Meeting 11:30 a.m. Mary Sue Rich Community Ctr.

Agency Spotlights:

Timothy Bowman Director of Business Development

Director of Business Development The Vines Hospital Youth Residential Treatment Program

Guest Speaker: Davida Randolph

Program Coordinator Howard Academy Community Center