



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 25, Issue 2 ~ February 2025

Howard Academy Community Center

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Black History Awards Gala

"A Night of Stars"

Recognizing Our African American Principals & Assistant Principals"

2025 Inductees
Elder Daniel Banks
Ti Anna Greene Harris

Unsung Hero: Clint Hart
Beacon of Light: Rosemary Roberts

Special Guest Entertainment: KDC Line Dancers

Friday, February 28, 2025
6:30 in the evening

Venue: College of Central Florida Klein Center

For more information, please call (352) 671-4175



@Howard Academy



www.marionschools.net

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
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Thomas Buss
Matt Clay
John Cooper
Craig Curry
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Matthew Seese
Billy Woods

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

"To improve the lives of Marion County Children"

~ Partners in Excellence ~

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 Coordinator 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.



Inaugural
 **HEART OF FLORIDA**
HEALTH CENTER

BBQ BASH

www.MyHFHC.org/BBQ





April 5th, 2025
Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

Howard Academy Community Center 2025 SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

**Thursday, February 6, 2025
6:00pm to 7:30pm**

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

**Join us and find out about the many
scholarships available to you right
here in your community!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
352-671-4175**

We will have representation from
the following organizations:

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
FAMU Alumni
MLK Commemorative Commission
College of Central Florida
Men Working to Better the Community
Marion County Chapter of the Charmettes
and more!

Father-Daughter Dance tickets on Sale

Don't miss this magical opportunity to share a night your little girl will cherish forever. ❤️

FEB | 7th
& | 2025
8th

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of laughter, dancing, and precious memories! 🌸🌟 Tickets are going fast, so secure your spot today.

marioncountyfatherdaughterdance.my.canva.site



Join Us!
for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Sponsored by Jenkins Auto Group

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place,
1812 N.W. 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Agenda

Agency Spotlight



Guest Speaker

City of Ocala Mayor
Ben Marciano

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County and AdventHealth want to hear from you!

We are working together to get the community's perspective on the most pressing health and wellness needs. Information collected will be used to develop programs and services to improve health in Marion County.

Please take 15 minutes to fill out the survey below. Your voice is important to ensure these organizations have the best understanding of the needs of our community. Thank you!



Scan the QR code or visit
surveymonkey.com/r/All4HealthFL25





High Tea

We are seeking Hosts and Sponsors for our 9th Annual High Tea

Interfaith invites you to raise a cup and make a difference as a Host for our High Tea Benefit! Become a champion for our Homeless Shelter Program, by hosting a table or through sponsorship. There's no fee to host, but tables are limited!

Saturday, May 17, 2025
at the Ocala UF Extension Auditorium

May 16th 5pm - 730pm Hosts set tables during Happy Hour

May 17th 2pm - 5pm High Tea, social time and short program

Becoming a Host:

- > Gather up to 9 of your friends, unleash your inner decorators, and create a beautifully themed table.
- > We provide the tables, chairs, food and dessert, along with a complete 'how to' guide with more details.
- > A VIP Reception will be held April 2nd for all the Hosts to go over the event and ask any questions.
- > Fuel your fundraising spirit! Challenge your table to raise a minimum of \$500, with a goal of \$1,000. The most successful table will be crowned with the prestigious Golden Teapot Award, and there are plenty of other prizes to ignite your competitive spirit.

Let's raise a cup together for hope and community.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Tea Pot Sponsor - 2 opportunities at \$2,500

Includes name on all printed materials, listed on Tea Pot Banner Stand and 2 seats at the Tea Pot Sponsor table

Tea Cup Sponsor - \$1,000

Includes various printed materials, listed on Tea Cup banner stand, and 2 seats at the Tea Cup Sponsor table

****Sponsors are welcome to have their own table to decorate!***

***For more information
or to sign up contact:***

***Sonya at 352-644-9202
or Sonya@IESmarion.org***



GEORGE ALBRIGHT
MARION COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
PRESENTS THE



15TH ANNUAL CHARITY CAR SHOW

IN MEMORY OF JAMES MELTON
PROCEEDS SUPPORT MARION COUNTY CHARITIES



* TOP 25 TROPHIES * PEOPLES CHOICE TROPHY * MUSIC * KIDS BOUNCE HOUSE
* FOOD AVAILABLE ON-SITE * PLANT SALE * CRAFT VENDORS

SHOW OPEN TO ALL
VEHICLES MOTORCYCLES AND BOATS

- PAST & PRESENT -

MCPHERSON GOV. COMPLEX

503 SE 25TH AVE OCALA, FLORIDA

9:00AM-3:00PM FEB 22nd 2025

Make checks payable to MCTC Employee Fund \$15.00 Pre-registration by February 15th, 2025 \$20.00 at the gate
Mail to: PO BOX 63 all vehicle and car part swap spaces same price.
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.

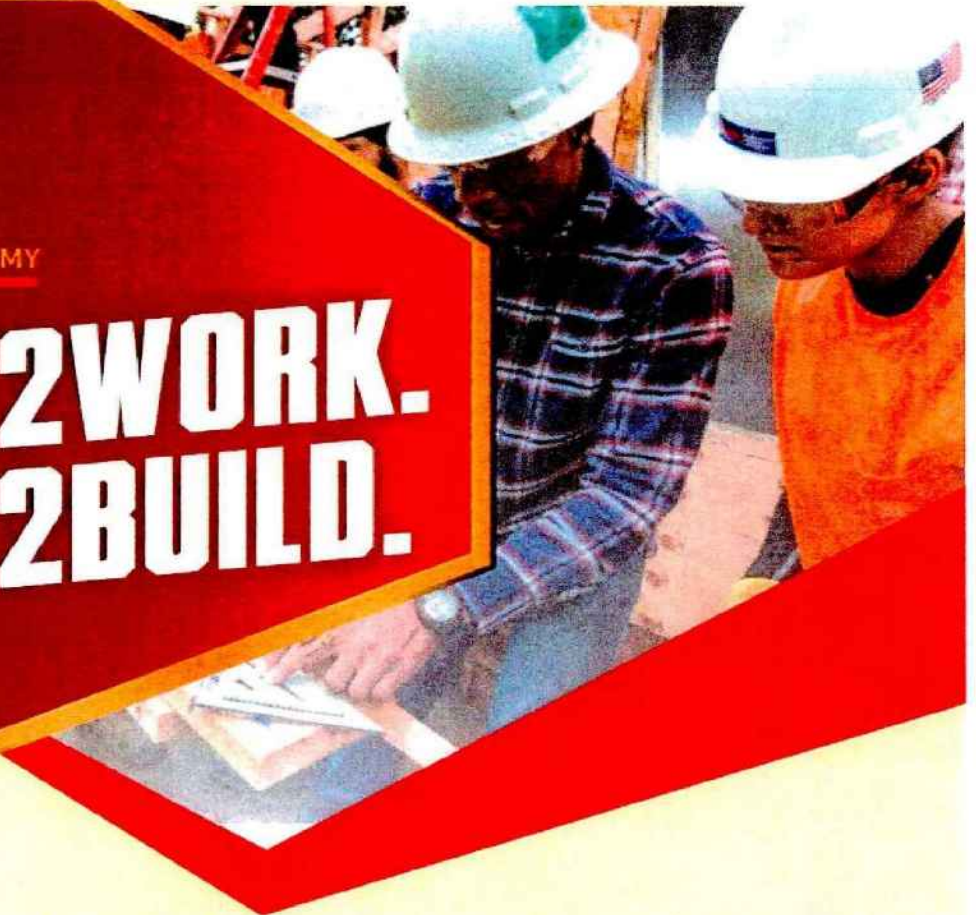
Signature _____ Date _____

For more information contact Jacob Wicklein at 352-368-8206 or e-mail at jwicklein@mariontax.com



CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY
TRAINING INSTITUTE

READY2WORK. READY2BUILD.



The Construction Academy and Training Institute in partnership with the Lennar Foundation, Building Talent Foundation, and Jobs To Build, is excited to announce the launch of our first construction education academy in the Ocala/Marion County area.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Individuals 18 and older Unless turning 18 before the class is complete.
"11 week training Earn Industry-Recognized Credentials"

- OSHA 10 Certification
- NCCER Core Certification
- NCCER Jobsite Safety Certificate

GET READY TO WORK. GET READY TO BUILD.
Contact Us for More Information!



352-283-2185



pleasantstreet@pleasantstcrca.org



LENNAR
FOUNDATION



Is an Arrest Record Keeping You From a Better Job?

Was your Charge Dropped?
Was Adjudication Withheld?

Once a criminal charge is sealed or expunged, you can deny or withhold knowledge of a prior arrest from most prospective employers.



Marion County Sealing & Expungement Clinic

Friday, February 21, 2025 11AM - 2PM

Marion County Courthouse (Jury Assembly Room)
110 NW 1st Ave, Ocala, FL 34471

If the above questions describe you, join our clinic to meet with an attorney who will determine if you are eligible to have your charge sealed or expunged.

If so, the attorney will help you fill out the application.

To participate in the clinic, your criminal case must have occurred in Marion County.

If you qualify for sealing or expungement, you will be responsible for a \$75 application fee.

Pre-registration **RECOMMENDED**.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/WVh0wcZRhx>





2025 FUNDRAISING GALA

Benefitting Arts Programming & Music Education

February 13, 2025

6:00 PM | Reilly Arts Center

Black Tie Optional

***Join us for an elegant evening of
exceptional entertainment at the
Reilly Arts Center!***

Tickets \$150

Includes dinner and drinks

**Visit reillyartscenter.com/gala
for event details and tickets
or call 352-351-1606.**



Sponsorships, Tickets and Ads can be purchased
at the Howard Academy Office or online

Sponsorship Packages

Peace Sponsor - \$1,000

One Peace Table for 10
1 Full Page Ad in Program Booklet
Acknowledgement at Awards Gala
Acknowledgement on all social media platforms

Joy Sponsor - \$800

6 Gala Tickets
1 Half Page Ad in Program Booklet
Acknowledgement at Awards Gala
Acknowledgement on all social media platforms

Love Sponsor - \$500

4 Gala Tickets
1 Half Page Ad in Program Booklet
Acknowledgement at Awards Gala
Acknowledgement on all social media platforms

Individual Tickets: \$60.00

Table of 10: \$700.00

Purchasing a table of 10 guarantees your guest will
sit together at one table up front

Program Booklet Advertising Opportunities

Full Page
\$150.00

Half Page
\$100.00

Inside Covers (2)
\$250.00

Back Covers (1)
\$300.00

All ads MUST be print ready in jpeg or png form. NO PDFS.
Ads can be emailed to Davida.Randolph@marion.k12.fl.us.

ADS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 2/14/2025.

For more information, please call (352) 671-4175



@Howard Academy



www.marionschools.net

SAVE-THE-DATE

Kimberly's Center for Child Protection is gearing up for its 13th Annual Race Against Child Abuse on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the beautiful Calesa Township—and we need your support!

Join us as a sponsor and make a lasting impact!

Last year, we provided critical services to 1,300 children on-site and empowered over 30,000 students through child abuse prevention education. With Marion County growing, so does the demand for these life-saving services. Your sponsorship will help us meet these needs while showcasing your organization's commitment to protecting and advocating for the children in our community.

What's in it for you?

- ✓ Your logo featured on event materials, race-day signage, and social media promotions.
 - ✓ Visibility in front of 1,000+ passionate participants.
 - ✓ A meaningful way to give back and make a difference.
- Together, we can bring help, hope, and healing to children impacted by abuse.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact us today to learn more:
Email **Info@kimberlycenter.org** or call **(352) 873-4739**.





@OfficialMCYFL



@MCYFL70

MCYFL70@gmail.com

Non-travel YOUTH league with all games played at MCYFL Fields, Jervy Gantt Park, 2200 SE 36th Ave., Ocala, FL. 34471

GET REGISTERED ONLINE!

Visit mcyfl.us to create your MCYFL Sports Engine Account.

**Returning Football & Cheer sign-ups: Feb. 01-Feb. 15.
Open/New Football & Cheer can sign-up beginning Feb. 15**

FOOTBALL: \$180



- Register online at www.mcyfl.us and click "FOOTBALL REGISTRATION."
- Ages 7 - 15 (on or before 12/1/2025) can register.
- All coaches are background-checked and USA Football certified.
- Full access to HUDL (which includes all MCYFL season games, playoffs and championships); Riddell jersey and pants included in registration.

CHEER: \$75



- Register online at www.mcyfl.us and click "CHEER REGISTRATION."
- K - 8TH Grade can register.
- All coaches are background checked. Progressive Stunting Program Senior Division coaches are UCA certified
- Professionally recorded competition/exhibition video included in registration.

High school level students (9th-12th grade) are ineligible to participate.

Marion County Youth Football League has been a part of this community since 1970. We believe in providing a safe and positive environment, where kids can learn to play the great game of football – a sport that teaches discipline, mental toughness and team work. MCYFL adopted the "Heads Up" training philosophy and requires ALL coaches to be background screened and certified in the "Heads Up" program. As the game evolves, we are committed to leading the way to make youth football safer and more enjoyable for players, coaches and parents!

Open Call to Artists



Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series Community Art Project Opportunity

Apply to design and paint two MCA awning panels during Levitt AMP concerts with community help. Apply online at www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp

Deadline: February 7, 2025



We're looking for artists to design and oversee a paint-by-numbers style community project for a new awning mural for Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA) at Brick City Center for the Arts during the 2025 Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series.

Five artists will be selected to design and paint two metal awning panels inspired by different genres of music.

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 2025 Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series to ensure artwork will be family-friendly, non-political, and without copy right infringement.

It's FREE to apply. Accepted artists or art groups will receive a \$800 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 SE 3rd St., 2nd Floor, Ocala, FL 34471. Applications due February 7, 2025.

BE A VENDOR!

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR
PRESENTS

Transitions Life Center

HEALTH FAIR

March 21st | 10am-2pm

OPD Community Room
402 South Pine Ave. Ocala, FL 34471

Free
REGISTRATION



Get resources for your loved ones whom have special needs:

- Dental
- Medical
- In home care
- Respite
- Social Activities
- Group Homes
- Day Programs

CONTACT US Tiffany Lake: 352-877-8728



Thursday, February 27th @5:30

Black History Month Program College Park Elementary School



Black History Month is a celebration to commemorate the achievements of African-American blacks in the history of the United States and the contributions of other black people worldwide who have contributed to the diverse culture of black people throughout history.

Food · Music · Dancing · Fun



NJMB C
"THE BALM"
Marriage Ministry

Cherished n' Chosen

Mark 10:9
VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER
*Dinner for two**

Friday, 14th February 2025

Seating: 8:00pm (\$100 per couple) - Deadline February 2nd
Dinner, Dessert, Beverage, Comedian, Photo, Couples' gift
Attire: Formal

Diamondz N Pearlz Event Center
4875 SW 60TH AVE OCALA, FL 34475

For more information:
Call 347.248.2345 or visit our website www.njmbci.org

JDaFunnyMan-Comedian





ATTENTION:

Juniors!

o o o o

2025
**YOUTH
TOUR**
APPLY TODAY!

SECO Energy is seeking student delegates to represent our not-for-profit electric cooperative in Tallahassee!

SECO Energy will cover the costs for the two-day overnight trip, including transportation, meals, and hotel accommodations.

YOUTH TOUR DETAILS

- Join many other students from Florida on a two-day Conference on Feb. 12 and 13, 2025
- Visits to Florida House of Representatives Chambers and the Florida Supreme Court
- Learn about the cooperative business model

To be eligible for the SECO Energy Youth Tour, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Enrollment:** The student must be a current high school junior or home-schooled at the junior level.
- **SECO Membership:** The student must live with a parent or guardian whose home is served by SECO Energy, with an active account at the time of application and during the Youth Tour.

Chance for a 2nd Trip!

From the ten winning delegates, SECO will choose two students to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour in **Washington, D.C. in June 2025.**

Includes visits to famous monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, and many more historic sites, **alongside thousands of other students from around the nation!**

APPLY ONLINE:

secoenergy.com/youth-tour-application



(352) 793-3801

secoenergy.com



Marion County

World's Greatest Baby Shower

Friday, March 14, 2025

**Mary Sue Rich Community Center
1821 NW 21st St., Ocala 34475**

Session 1 2-4 p.m.

Session 2 5-7 p.m.

Choose **ONE** Session.
Preregistration not required.



No cost

Expecting a baby? Come to our community Baby Shower!
Parents of infants up to one year old are also invited.

Exhibitors • Games • Scavenger Hunt • Prizes • Fathers Encouraged

Proud Sponsors:



Early Learning Coalition
Marion County
Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the State of Florida



FREE LUNCH is Provided!

Workshop Location: Mary Sue Rich Community Center @ Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave Ocala, FL 34475
Questions? Email Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM**

21ST CENTURY MARIJUANA: YOUTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND PREDATORY MARKETING

**PRESENTED BY:
AMY RONHAUSEN EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, DRUG FREE AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.
PRESIDENT, WORLD FEDERATION AGAINST DRUGS**

This presentation explores the multifaceted impacts of 21st-century marijuana on youth, with a particular focus on mental health challenges and the rise of predatory marketing targeting young people. Special emphasis will be placed on strategies aimed at engaging female youth, highlighting how modern advertising techniques exploit this demographic. Participants will gain insights into current trends, risks, and practical prevention approaches to mitigate these harms within their communities.

TO REGISTER, VISIT LINK OR SCAN QR CODE:

WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/FEB25THCCASAWORKSHOP



**HOSTED
BY:**



**FUNDED
BY:**



Weekend of
March 29th 10:20AM

EMPOWER HER Brunch

The Level Up Experience

Focal Points

- Finance Basics
- Self-Empowerment
- Self-Care

Register on EventBrite

Girls 10-19
Free

Upgrade your ticket (girls only) PROMO CODE: DG2025

Level Up-VIP Package
General Admission DP2025

Dress Code
Diamonds in Denim

Contact
Amanda Hudson
352-509-6691 or
diamondgordie23@gmail.com

Because when YOU level up, the world takes notice!

SAVE DATE

3 1 2 25

LET'S TALK AND REALLY LISTEN 'CONVERSATIONS WITH TEENS'

5:30PM-8:00PM
CF KLEIN CENTER

BRAZEN

Cost: \$15 or \$35 for all 3 workshops!

Self-care Reset Series

kindness

Affirmation Bracelet Workshop

Smile

Led by Artist Practitioner Becky Hudson

Manifest your Dreams

CREATED FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN

Ages 17 + Sunday, February 23, 2025
2 - 4 PM

Join us for a fun and meaningful workshop where you'll create your own custom affirmation bracelet! Use beads, charms, and words of empowerment to design a piece that inspires positivity and self-love.

What to Expect:

- Guided bracelet-making in a supportive, creative space
- All materials provided
- A chance to reflect, connect, and express yourself

Leave with a beautiful reminder of your inner strength and the power of affirmations. Perfect for all skill levels!

Register: <https://aihocala.networkforgood.com/events/80402-manifest-your-dreams-affirmation-bracelets>

WORKSHOP SERIES: #1 VISION BOARD, #2 AFFIRMATION BRACELETS, & #3 CREATIVE WRITING

Visit aihocala.org for details

Arts in Health Ocala Metro
2330 NE 8th Rd., Ocala, FL
34470

Love SHINE dreamer

ARTS IN HEALTH



FREE
event for
families!

Family Fun Health Fair *Celebrates* Minority Health Month

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 2025
Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Bring the whole family as the Florida Department of Health in Marion County hosts this **free** event to promote health and wellness.

This event will feature many activities and information presented by our community partners that can improve your health and well-being, including:

- Music
- Games and facepainting
- Health screenings
- On-site ultrasound (if suggested following health screen)
- Community resources
- Health education
- Plenty more!

For more information, contact Monica Dasilva at **352-644-2679** or **Monica.Dasilva@FLHealth.gov**.





**Early Learning
Coalition** OF Marion
County

DIAPER ASSISTANCE

Diapers are packaged based on size, not brand (25 per package). Program is subject to funding and while supplies are available.



The ELCMC provides
diaper assistance
every Thursday,
7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
2300 SW 17th Road
Ocala, FL 34471



Eligible families should provide proof of:

- Marion County residency
- Child's age (between birth to five)
- Financial need

Visit elc-marion.org/parents/success-by-6 for additional information.

Diaper Donations Welcome



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 5** Safe Streets of Marion County
No Meeting 10 a.m.
 Mary Sue Rich Community Center
 at Reed Place
- February 10** Family Violence Prevention
Monday 11 a.m.
 Via Zoom
 Call (352) 438-5990 for link
- February 12** Safe Kids Marion
Wednesday 9 a.m.
 Florida Dept. of Health
- February 25** Community Council Against
Tuesday Substance Abuse (CCASA)
 Lunch-n-Learn at Noon
 See page 20 for information or
 to register.

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- February 5 Alliance Monthly Meeting
 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
 Mary Sue Rich Community
 Center at Reed Place.

*Please
 join us!*

Agency Spotlight



Guest Speaker

City of Ocala Mayor
 Ben Marciano

For more information regarding the
 Marion County Children's Alliance,
 Follow us on Facebook, Instagram
 or visit our website at:
<https://mcchildrensalliance.org>.