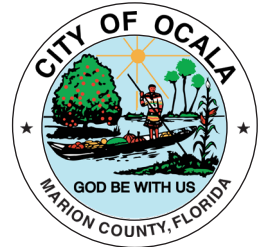




News Happening Around Town

July 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

4
Aug

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

18
Aug

**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.

The guidelines of the program are that 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.

As public servants, members of the Ocala Police Department want to help lift the community in health and quality of life beyond the stereotypical constraints of handcuffs and statutes. As of July 20, the count for treatment through the Amnesty Program is 295 participants. That equates to 295 lives potentially saved by this program.

The Amnesty Program, coupled with ongoing investigative work, contributes to local efforts in combating the opioid crisis. Advocating for funding continues in support of this program by local and state officials. A foundation of strong community partnerships with The Centers, F.R.E.E.D.O.M. Clinic, Marion County Hospital District, Perspectives, and New Directions of Central Florida, continue to nourish the acceptance of addiction as an illness rather than a crime. 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

Overdoses (OD)	190
OD Deaths	26
Narcan® Saves	78
Amnesty Program	
Total Participants	295
2020 Participants	99

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

We always appreciate anyone who takes the time to say thank you to the men and women who serve on the Ocala Police force. Check out this positive post from the OPD Facebook page.



From Around the Community

Kut Different, INC.

Within our community, there are at-risk youth that may not have the same opportunities or role models to support them throughout important life milestones. Kut Different is a male mentorship program started by Jamie Gilmore who has made it a personal mission to be a positive role model for young men in the Ocala community. The organization is built on the belief that if you reach young men at a critical point in their lives, you can help shape them by giving G.A.M.E (Guidance, Attention, Motivation, Education).



Thoughts from the Mayor

After careful consideration by elected officials, a mask mandate has not been adopted for Ocala at this time. Individuals are strongly encouraged to use face coverings and be aware that businesses may have internal policies requiring patrons to wear masks while on their property. The hope is that we can remain respectful of each other during this unprecedented time.

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

Juneteenth - June 2

Word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863) was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the Southwestern United States. Therefore, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans. It is called "Juneteenth" combining the words June and Nineteenth and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years. The annual celebration will be acknowledged in the City of Ocala on or around the weekend of June 19th moving forward. I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 and henceforth as JUNETEENTH in the City of Ocala and I urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African-American History and within the History of the United States of America.

Recreation & Parks Month - July 7

Recreation and Parks facilities and programs are vitally important in establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our community. The City of Ocala recognizes all the benefits derived from recreation and parks resources, such as building an active community, attracting and retaining businesses and contributing to the well-being of our natural resources. I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, do hereby proclaim the month of July 2020 in the City of Ocala as Recreation and Parks Month.

The 125th Anniversary of Ocala Elks Lodge #286 - July 11

The Ocala Elks Lodge is a non-profit corporation which invests in programs that help keep children healthy and drug-free, supports today's veterans and imparts lessons of hard work and dedication to community and faith in God. They have supported both local and state-wide programs through charitable donations, donating supplies and their time. Ocala Elks Lodge has been in existence in the area for 125 years. I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, do hereby proclaim

that July 11, 2020 be known as the 125th Anniversary of Ocala Elks Lodge #286 for its service, support, contributions, commitment and dedication to our community.

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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