



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Arbor Day, started in 1872, as a day set aside to encourage the planting, preservation, and appreciation of trees; and

WHEREAS, Florida Arbor Day has been observed on the 3rd Friday in January since 1886; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Garden Club has celebrated Florida Arbor Day for years by planting trees; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Garden Club was formed in 1927 and has been a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) since 1930; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, which the Pioneer Garden Club is associated, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Garden Club will celebrate both Florida Arbor Day and their birthday on January 19th of 2024 by planting a tree at 11:00 a.m., at Tuscawilla Park, in partnership with the City of Ocala; and

WHEREAS, trees provide countless benefits by improving air quality, providing shade, enhancing our parks and public spaces, reducing stormwater runoff, combating climate change, and providing habitat for wildlife while beautifying our community; and

WHEREAS, Florida continues to lose native trees, and this, in turn, has contributed to steep declines in native insect and bird populations and threatens our natural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby declare January 19, 2024, as the:

**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS BIRTHDAY
AND
FLORIDA ARBOR DAY**

in the City of Ocala, Florida, and I urge all citizens to plant native trees to maintain our ecosystem and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 16th day of January 2024.



Ben Marciano, Mayor
City of Ocala

