

Ocala

A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

# DownTown

**BUY LOCAL!**

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**FREE**

Volume 2 Issue 6  
June, 2011

## Parks and Recreation Open House



Pictured is City Parks and Recreation having an open house for the Ocala businesses and some college students. They displayed some of the games available for people attending the summer program.

## Main Street Chamber Kick Off



Pictured are some 50 vendors just before the doors opened to let hundreds of people come through to check out their services and products. The event was to experience the kick off of the Main Street Chamber

### Main Street Chamber

A new networking group has come to town. As I understand they are national and are racing across the country. It's called the Main Street Chamber. The main goal of the Main Street Chamber is networking for businesses. The meeting and the organization is all free. They have worked out some

discount perks among their members. They are new to the area and are headed by Donna Miller and Ivette Fermain. The kick off for the event attracted some 300 people. Last report the vendors did well. I have joined the Main Street Chamber because it makes good sense to put my business in front of a lot of businesses, we sell advertising.

### Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Now don't let the word Chamber get confused with the Ocala /Marion County Chamber of Commerce. The Marion County Chamber has several hundred years of

(Continued on Page 14)

## School Board

Porter's Opposition to Outsourcing Student Transportation

In my continuing stance to promote open government, I would like to share with the public excerpts from the initial bid package on Outsourcing Student Transportation put together by the Marion County School District Administration. A copy of the original RFP (Request for Proposal) #3350JL, Student Transportation Services can be reviewed at [www.jackieporter.com](http://www.jackieporter.com). Here are some key items of concern I have with the 267 page proposal request are:

- The RFP states: "RFPs are received and publicly opened. Only names of respondents are read at this time" (Page 30, Item 11.4).

My Concern: I believe the quoted dollar

(Continued on Page 9)

## Where Is Our Country Headed?

The letter to the editor last month was one person's opinion. The letter read before you can decide where the country is headed, you must first know who and what the leader is. It went on to say negative things about Obama and raised questions about him. While the newspaper was being printed Obama issued a kill order on Osama Bin Ladin. It was a good call! A lot more people think he is doing a good job after that call.

I received two negative emails and one positive email and a nasty phone message. It is interesting that the phone message said it was un-American to run a story without saying who wrote it. He went on to say he was going to call my customers and tell them what a bad guy I am and not do business with them. Any of my customer or associates that know me will tell you that I'm a patriot. I have fought to keep the American flag on my front page and I have fought to keep the word GOD on my front page. The interesting thing is that the complainer

(Continued on Page 11)

## Tom's Picks

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**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS  
IN GOD WE TRUST**



Ellen B. Wilcox

## MONEY MATTERS

Most folks don't plan to fail; they just fail to PLAN!

What makes for financial success? It's a question I'm often asked. A recent study of 5000 Americans discovered a few of the characteristics involved in producing what many of us have come to regard as financial success.

In the thirty years that I have been involved with the financial services industry, I have counseled thousands of folks of all ages and from all walks of life. Many have been my clients for all or most of those thirty years. I can say without hesitation that some have been enormously successful financially

and others have not only not enjoyed similar success, but have, in fact, actually been financially UNsuccessful!

From my own personal experience, here are a few of the traits that separate the two extremes.

First and foremost, there is RISK. Ultra-conservatives who are absolutely and totally risk averse are highly unlikely to enjoy financial success. Risk is inherent in all things. Life is, indeed, risky. Sitting on large-dollar Money Market accounts, long-term CDs and other highly risk-free entities, does not produce enough return to cover inflation, much less produce a return suitable for en-

joying life's pleasures (and I'm not talking about luxuries!) The wealthy take risks; measured risks and informed risks!

Second is a personal attitude of optimism toward all things. Seeing the glass half-full instead of half-empty gives way to a sense of confidence. Recognizing opportunity, and the ability to bounce back from a setback, are all part of optimism. These are areas where past success fosters future success. Each success builds upon itself, and the 'can do' attitude will begin to prevail. The wealthy are optimistic!

Doing what you love and loving what you do is another key factor. No one does well going to a hated job or office every day. Enthusiasm for the daily task is paramount not only for good mental health, but to keep the positive and enthusiastic energy flowing.

The wealthy are doing what they love and continue to do it even when they are wealthy enough to quit!

The unusually successful are well connected. Their Data Base is enormous. They meet people easily and almost immediately begin to connect to the new person in ways that may enhance each one's efforts and goals. They ask about the other person without telling endlessly about themselves. The wealthy look for ways to connect!

The financially successful never put all their eggs into one basket. Diversification is ever so important. Owning an apartment building, an industrial building and an office building is NOT being diversified. It's all real estate! (You get the point!) The wealthy diversify across all aspects of the financial terrain!

High quality stocks, both foreign and domestic, are an important part of the financial success of most people. There is no single investment, over time and without leverage, which has produced better long term results. Investing in stocks is not a simple process, and your neighbor probably doesn't know any more about it than you do, so don't be tempted to latch on to 'hot tips!' A qualified professional with strong ties to an unbiased research team is your best bet for advice. (Your own level of risk tolerance, your time horizon and your investment personality must also be carefully considered.) The wealthiest moguls invest in stocks regardless of overall economic conditions.

The truly wealthy never spend more than they can earn. Only a fool lives beyond his means. Frugality is not the answer, but moderation is. The wealthy always have the financial means to cover emergencies and unforeseen events!

Giving to get is part of the make up of most wealthy individuals. Financial success produces a level of comfort beyond which greed has no place. Philanthropy is how the wealthy express appreciation for the many blessings they enjoy. It's well documented that giving is a major part of getting. The wealthy give!

Take a hard look at your own present financial situation. How many of the issues and traits mentioned here are part of your financial picture? Is it time to re-focus and snap a new photo?

Ellen B Wilcox is a Registered Principal with, and offers securities through, LPL

(Continued on Page 12)

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Pictured are some of the attendees of the networking event held by Ocala Parks and Recreation and Ocala Business Leaders. Dianne Leaf hosted the event. The food was good, the company was good and everyone found out about each other's businesses.



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Tom Loury

# PUBLISHER'S NOTES

I had a pleasant phone call from a widow. Her first words were a little guarded and so were mine. It turns out that she was curious about me and how I pick businesses to refer with my Tom's Picks. She explained after the loss of her husband that she had relied on for years to make decisions about what business to use for repairs of things. She was not sure how to weed out the people she should not do business with. Her question to me was, how do you tell who is a good, honest, reliable business person?

My answer was simple. I belong to three

Chamber of Commerces and am currently president of the Ocala Business Leaders, which has over 100 local business owners and managers as members. I believe anyone who is highly visible in the community in these groups will be a good business person. They can't stay in business with people saying they did a bad job.

This lady had had a bad experience recently and thought about the other widows in the area and how many of them had been taken advantage of.

I assured her that Tom's Picks came about

because of that very reason. I have a senior widow 84 years young that got ripped off for \$21,000 recently. If she had called someone or even just bought local that might not have happened. A local business has to build a good reputation because they have to face you every day and they want people to know they are a good honest person.

If a quote is too high get a second, ask them where they are located, ask them if they have any referral letters maybe from people you know, then make a decision, but don't be pressured into saying yes the first visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Below is one person's opinion that was sent to me. Emails come to me all the time expressing different opinions. I read them and in many cases answer them. Everyone has the right to their own opinion.

The email says:

Please keep your comments about Obama to yourself!

He is doing better than most presidents ever did, faced with the catastrophe left by Bush.

AND, he's keeping hands off our Social Security and Medicare, more than your ilk are doing. Try to get a health care insurance policy after the age of 65, Buster.

You're SOL, left to die without care. That's what Medicare fixed in 1965 – thank God.

Too expensive you say? We just have to curtail sending our troops all over the world for awhile.

So cut the BS about Obama!

.....

Publisher note: In most cases I am print-

ing other readers' opinions as you have your opinion above. I can't suppress people's opinion. My job is to put it print and let people read it and comment about it! My opinion is on page 4 as in this column, even then I will print other people's opinion like now. I won't cut anything good or bad..... That is my job.

\*\*\*\*\*

Publishers note: This is one persons opinion!

Email says:

I read the article "Where is our Country Headed" and I couldn't believe such an obvious hate letter would be published by any responsible journalistic outlet. It's obvious a right wing hatchet job on the President of the United States. This is something I would expect from the Citizen's White Council from the racists good old days in the South. Apparently your paper has no standards as to what gets published as long as it's right wing hate propaganda. Please don't throw this garbage on driveway anymore.

Publishers answer: I don't know if this person belongs to a group or an organization but this does not fit my description of hate mail. Hate mail statements are directed to a person and accusations are made. This is one person's opinion which is much different.

\*\*\*\*\*

Publishers note: This is one persons opinion!

Email says: Thanks for printing opinions even if they are different than yours. Most papers won't do that, they print opinions that they agreed with. You are a refreshing read.

GF \*\*\*\*\*

We have the Government telling companys they can't move to right to work states. Recently Boeing, one of the huge companies that employ large numbers of people, have been told they can't move to a right to work state to get rid of the union, actually the government has to prove that is the intent. It is interesting that the federal government can control where a business can move to within the US but can't say anything about them moving to another country.

During the hearing with the large oil companies one said, if you regulate and tax us to where we can't make a profit we will be forced to move out of the country. The profits they are making are considered gouging.

Gas, as I wrote last month, was being sold in other countries for \$0.45 per gallon, which was revealed in a documentary. We are their cash cow and I, for one, am sick of it. We need to drill and end the destruction to our economy that foriegn oil suppliers are causing. We need to take it off the stock market so that investors can't speculate and buy up reverses. Anything that can effect the national security of this country should not be allowed to be manipulated.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good call were the words from GW when Obama called to let Bush know that Osama bin Laden was dead.

\*\*\*\*?/?/?

CNN gave a video tour of Osama bin Laden's mansion garden in

Pakistan. It was full of cabbages, potatoes and marijuana plants?

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## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for July*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**12am, June 15th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, June 22nd**

## Ocala DownTown

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COLUMNS are the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the SENIORS VOICE, and are chosen to represent a diversity of views on local issues. The editorial on page 4 is the opinion of the Publisher only.

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Charlotte Poss

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- Ø A loving heart.

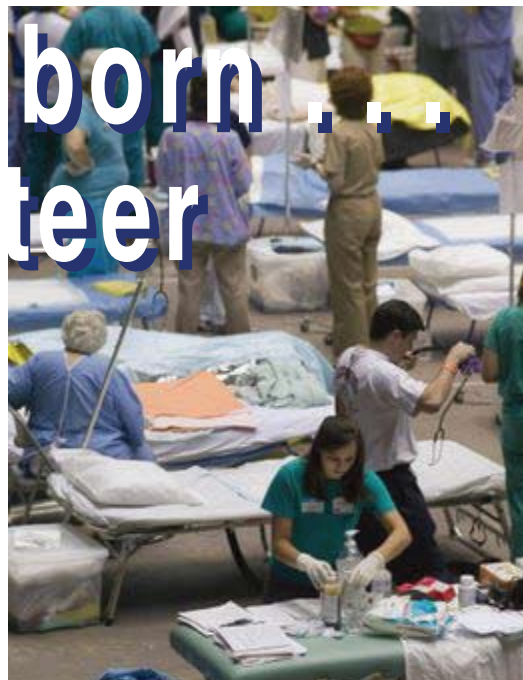
- Ø At least 20 hours a month of your time.

- Ø Understanding.
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- Ø The ability to listen.
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## Genealogical Society

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 16th at the Marion County Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala. This last meeting before summer break will feature Raff Ellis speaking on "Why We Came Here."

The public is cordially invited and there is no cost involved. For further information, please contact Patti Hunt at (352) 207-0082, MarionGenealogy@gmail.com, or http://MarionGenealogy.tripod.com

## Ocala Farm Market

The Downtown Business Alliance is pleased to call the new Ocala Farm Market on the Downtown Square an initial success since its launch on Easter weekend. The DBA has plans to continue this weekly event each Saturday morning from 8:00am - 1:00 pm through the end of the year.

The Ocala Farm Market vendors either

grow or make the products they offer for sale. Visitors have the chance to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, organic items, breads, flowers, jewelry, baked goods, art and antiques as they stroll from booth to booth under the shady oak trees that line the Square.

The response has been very positive as the products are well presented, the tents are attractive and the atmosphere is welcoming and cheerful. Many vendors have completely sold out of their merchandise! For more information or to apply as a vendor, please call (352) 426-8244.

## Award Winning Newspaper

YAAH! TomL Publishing LLC won some awards in the statewide Community Papers of Florida 2011 Annual Awards for Excellence. Any award is good when your talking about competing against the competition housing some of the big boys. The pictures of us receiving the awards were blurry, so I choose not to run them. We have the awards and that's what counts. The awards were for the picture of the last night shuttle launch and best website created by Ocala4sale.com I presented them with the award.

## Rainbow Springs Activities

Wednesday through Saturday-May 2011-August 2011:

- o Special Wednesday Tours: including guided snorkel tours and canoe tours-RSVP is necessary.

- o Thursdays Meet with Management at 10am-No RSVP necessary.

- o Friday's Fun for Kids; Time with a Ranger-this will include different activities like story time, craft, and walks at 10am-No RSVP necessary

Saturday night Campfire Program-Campers Only with a Ranger.

Please go online at Floridastateparks.org or call 352-465-8555 for more information. The mission of the Florida Park Service is to provide resourced based recreation while preserving, restoring, and interpreting Florida's natural and cultural resource. Don't forget to check out our camping, tubing, and canoeing available along with other activities like hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. Visit the Real Florida...

Nicky Aiken

**Remember  
 Dad on  
 June 19th**



ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Constitutional Correctness! C. C.

Antidote for: Political Correctness! P.C.

Constitutionalists may be late to the table, but the meal is not finished, yet. When the dessert comes to the table, Constitutionalists should be ready to "Take the whole cake."

Our founding fathers may have been the wisest men to have ever lived on this earth. Of course they had personal experience {that pesky King} to guide them. Perhaps, that is the problem today. No personal experience.

Is personal experience the only way mankind can learn? Must this apathetic generation experience its own holocaust, before

they learn? How foolish. Today, there are survivors of past holocausts, telling us what to expect, and they go unheeded. Why?

Are humans gluttons for barbarism? Must it go on again, and again, and again? Will we ever wise up, and see one of these impending holocausts coming, and forestall it? It does not seem so. One is about to engulf us, and most seem oblivious.

Is our own small personal world, all, most humans can perceive? The Big Picture is not conceivable to them? All that matters in this world is a SS or welfare check, a round of golf, a movie, a cruise, a Medicare or Medicaid payment? Why do these little things

matter so greatly, when someone is clamoring to cut off your head? Socially, and financially enslave you? It is time to wake up, and smell the political brew.

There is a cadre with bigger fish to fry: US. They mean to control every aspect of this world. Can you even imagine anyone that smart? Or, does arrogant more correctly apply in the instance? Why can't we just say: NO???? NOT THIS TIME!

Why do we refuse to learn? Guess Plato was right, we are nothing but cattle. Moo, Moo, Moo, Moooo.

D.I. L.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Yesterday, today, tomorrow !!!!!

Global warming keeps coming back like a bad penny. No matter how many times it is disproved. The current claims that it is man-made keep yo-yoing back again and again.

Yesterday! There is a great deal of geological proof that the earth has experienced global warming, and cooling in the past. There were no humans around to blame then.

Today! There may be some changes occurring again in the cycle of climate change. Some are using this change as a tool to blame mankind. We puny beings can influence the temperature of the universe? I do not think so.

Our ice caps have melted before. Research has uncovered fossilized tree stumps, leaves 1 inch long, grass 4 foot long, fossilized bones, tusks of mastodons, and a much warmer climate 50K years ago. No humans

to blame then.

Tomorrow! Change will undoubtedly occur again, after humans have taken their leave of this planet. Who will be blamed then? Who will care?

Prudence is always a good policy, but scare tactics are never good policy. Scaring people for enrichment is despicable.

Who is powerful enough to affect global climate: God or Man?

You be the judge.

GLC

Ocala, FL

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor

Made in China: INDEED.

This is akin to the phrase popular in my childhood: "Made in Japan". Translated, this meant JUNK. Now, that phrase applies to Chinese goods. More each day. The quality keeps going down, while the prices keep going up. Surely, America can make a decent set of sheets for \$199, a recently advertised price.

Example: Is it too much to ask for a sheet that stays on a mattress as you sleep? After trying many brands, I have yet to find one that does not flip off the mattress, while in use. American made, meant quality made. Does anyone remember those days?

Cheaper is another issue. When the tag on a simple cotton night gown says \$48, do not even try to tell me we cannot produce a night gown of an even better quality at that price. The "powers that be" do not want it that way. We must spread the wealth, and

(Continued on Page 7)



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Pictured are the Main Street Chamber Ambassadors. This picture was taken at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Main Street Chamber kick off event. They are charged with making sure the events run smooth and everything is organized. They did their job!

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

(Continued from Page 6)

Americans must pay, and suffer. Those dratted "selfish" Americans.

America is being shafted by her own corporations. We must find a new Business Model to do an end run around those huge global {the way they now view themselves, American corporations no longer exist} corporations.

Hugh corporations lose touch with reality, their employees, and their customers. Corporate leaders are out there in some rarified global atmosphere, far removed from real people.

Making "things" has to be brought back closer to the makers, sellers, and consumers of goods, and to America. May I be so bold as to suggest a return to the small community business model, with the town's people as the owners, workers, stock holders, and profiteers of business. What greater incentive to succeed? Of course this requires an honest competitive playing field, and this is the sticking point. Can we compete honestly?

Do we have the "RIGHT STUFF" to take this bull by the horns, and tame him, or do we slide onward into oblivion. CREAM PUFFS to the very end?

Come on America: "Made in America." Make the phrase meaningful once more. SOOB, {texting} Save Our Own Butts. GBA: God Bless America.

D.I. L.  
Ocala, FL

## *Happy Father's Day*





# SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## JUNE, 2011 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

### MOVIE TIME

When: Tues. & Wed., June 14th and 15th at 8th Ave. Adult Activity Center "THE KING'S SPEECH" Starring: Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall, Guy Pearce, Derek Jacobi, Claire Bloom and others. Emmy Award winning director Tom Hooper tells the story of King George VI.

When his older brother abdicates the throne, nervous-mannered successor George "Bertie" VI (Firth) reluctantly dons the crown. Though his stutter soon raises concerns about his leadership skills, King George VI eventually comes into his own with the help of unconventional speech therapist Lionel Logue (Rush). Before long the king and Lionel have forged an unlikely bond, a bond that proves to have real strength when the

United Kingdom is forced to flex its international might. **RATED R**

When: Tues. & Wed., June 28th and 29th at 8th Ave. Adult Activity Center

### "THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU"

Starring: Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Anthony Mackie, Michael Kelly, John Slattery, Terence Stamp, Lisa Thoreson and more. David Norris (Damon) is a rising New York congressman. One night after suffering a political defeat, David is rehearsing his concession speech in a hotel when out of the blue in wanders Elise (Blunt), who was hiding out from security guards after crashing a wedding. The chemistry between David and Elise is instant and electric. But as fast as she appeared, Elise has vanished. A few days later, David is boarding a bus for work when he spots Elise in a window seat. Though he manages to get her number, David is terrified when he arrives at his new job to discover a mysterious group of men performing an unusual procedure on his co-workers. Informed that he has just seen behind a curtain that few will ever know exists. David agrees never to tell anyone or talk to Elise again lest his memory be completely erased. Unfortunately for the two young lovers, the mysterious agents at the Adjustment Bureau are determined to keep them apart. **RATED PG13**

Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. at 8th Avenue Senior Center - Telephone: 629-8545

What: Enjoy a free movie in a comfortable setting. Please call the center to reserve your seat.

COMING IN JULY 2011:

"BLACK SWAN"

## "JUST GO WITH IT" COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

When: Thursdays

Time: 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. for class, 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. for lab sessions and 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. for advanced classes.

Where: BGW Senior Activity Center, 210 NW 12th Avenue, Ocala Tel. 629-8357

Cost: \$75.00 for singles and \$110.00 for couples, and \$38.00 for singles in advanced classes payable in advance of class starting time.

What: We have easy classes for the beginner student. Learn what a personal computer can do for you. We offer an introductory class in word processing. Beginner classes are for 6 consecutive weeks on Thursdays, 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. and workshops (lab classes) are 12:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Advanced classes are offered for Database, Spreadsheet, the Internet and more. The lab instructor will be available during labs on Thursdays.

### BINGO PARTY

When: Monday, June 6th and June 13th  
Time: 12:30 PM

Where: BGW Senior Activity Center, 210 NW 12th Avenue

Cost: Free

What: WellCare invites you and your guests to our exciting bingo party! There will be prizes for giveaways. Come one and all for a great time.

### BOWLING LEAGUE

When: Tuesdays, May 10th thru June

(Continued on Page 10)



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# School Board

(Continued from Page 1)

figure should be read publicly as submitted.

- The RFP states: “Document files may be examined, during normal working hours; ten days after proposals have been opened. Once the process has entered the negotiation phase documents are not public for a period of twenty days” (Page 4, Item 1.6).

My Concern: This is not open government.

- The RFP states: “The term of the contract is for five (5) consecutive years, beginning August 15, 2011 with the option to renew the contract annually for up to five (5) additional years with the written consent of both parties” (Page 6, Item 5.1).

My Concern: The 5 year contract with the option to renew would be conducive for the staff to issue a “happy with your performance letter” and not put future contract renewals out for bid, as we have recently seen with insurance items not going out to bid.

- The RFP states: “The vendor will purchase the school district buses of age 17 and less” (Page 8, Item 8 of the General Requirements) and goes on to state “The contractor shall purchase the entire district owned school bus fleet within 10 days of signing the contract. All vehicles included are listed in Attachment #12. The total price to be paid by the contractor for the fleet shall be clearly identified on the pricing proposal” (Page 9, Purchase of Board Owned School Buses).

- The RFP states: “District will reserve

the right to purchase any or all contractor’s buses used for the purpose of transporting students of the District at a verifiable fair market value” (Page 32, Item 14.2).

My concern: With regard to the vendor purchasing the district owned buses it doesn’t state they would be sold to the vendor at fair market value; however requires the district buy them back at fair market value.

- The RFP states: “District owned transportation garages, parking lots and satellite facilities will be made available to contractor(s) at an annual lease cost of \$1.00” (Page 17, Item 23A).

My concern: Taxpayers have built and renovated these depots, garages and satellite locations and now the for-profit vendor will be handed these locations for \$ 1.00 per year. There should be an appraisal required to determine fair market value for leasing. No other developer or business would lease their property and buildings out to someone for \$ 1.00 per year!

- The RFP states: “Based on the district’s ability to acquire lower cost fuel, the district may purchase fuel for vehicles used in the transporting of pupils or other school personnel...” It goes on to state: “Vendor will provide reports demonstrating fuel use outside of contracted service for Marion County School Board” (Page 24, Item DD).

My concern: If the school district buys the fuel for the vendor, then the vendor can in turn use that reduced fuel cost providing services to others and increase their profits! I’m sure there are a lot of companies out there that would love this deal. The RFP

only requires the vendor to disclose it and pay taxes on it. Disclose it when? Policing the fuel consumed by the vendor will pose an administrative nightmare for the district, not to mention would be a completely unethical use of taxpayer dollars.

- The RFP states: “The District is exempt from Federal and state taxes for tangible personal property” and “...the proposer doing business with the District will not be exempted from paying sales tax to their suppliers for materials to fulfill contractual obligations with the District...” (Page 32, Item 16.1).

My concern: Why should our taxpayer money go to a company who has to pay Federal and State taxes on the goods they buy to service the school district? That’s like double taxation!

- The RFP provides a list of service failures resulting in assessments of liquidated damages including items such as “A driver operating a school bus without a current valid CDL” (Page 26, Item 3).

My concern: Yes there are provisions to assess fines based on the company’s inadequacies, like a fine of \$5,000 for a driver not having a valid CDL, or a \$250 fine if the bus is a “no-show.” Why even risk it? Where does accountability enter into the contract? Current school district employees would be pink-slipped for this. If the drivers are not school employees, then the school district has no control over disciplinary and safety actions! We need to continue and maintain our top safety records because we have re-

(Continued on Page 10)

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[itsallabouthealthandfitness@gmail.com](mailto:itsallabouthealthandfitness@gmail.com)

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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 8)

21st

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Where: AMF Galaxy West, 1818 SW 17th St, Ocala

Cost: \$6.00 for three games  
**INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!**

**AGELESS AQUA CLASS**  
When: Fridays, June 3rd thru July 22nd  
Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Where: Hampton Aquatic Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Cost: \$27.00 per person Limited to twenty seniors

What: A water fitness class for active seniors that focuses on enhancing movement, strengthening muscles, increasing range of motion and improving balance. Music provides the backdrop for an enjoyable class that is designed to get everyone moving. Call Grace at 629-8357 for details.

**AQUABILITY (AGES 6 PLUS)**  
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June, July and August  
Time: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM  
Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Cost: \$22.00 per person  
What: An adaptive aquatics program

for individuals of all ages with disabilities. Limited to 7 people per session. For more information, please call Diane at 401-3916.

**AQUASIZE (AGES 18 PLUS)**  
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June, July, August, and September Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30PM Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd. Cost: \$27.00 per person What: This class provides a workout that incorporates the use of buoyancy equipment (noodles, belts/cuffs, hand buoys). Class activities include stretching, cardiac, toning, strength training, and abdominal workouts. Music is used to make it lively and fun. Modifications will be demonstrated for all fitness levels. This class is limited to 20 people. Please call Diane at 401-3916 for details.

**FAMILY NIGHT AT JERVEY GANTT POOL**  
When: Thursdays, June 23, July 7 & 21, and August 4 & 13

Time: 7:15PM to 9:00 PM  
Where: Jervey Gantt Aquatic Fun Center, 2390 SE 36th Avenue  
Cost: \$4.50 per adult and \$3.50 per child  
What: The entire family is invited to enjoy a SPLASHTASTIC night out! Includes music, games, a hot dog, chips and a soda.  
For more information, please call Carla at 401-3918.

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If you are interested in participating in one of these activities, give us a call at 629-8545. Sign-up for one-hour time slots to play with a partner or alone. Available time is Mondays from 10am-3pm. For the months of June, July and August, time slots will also be available on Tuesday mornings from 9am-12:00pm.

Check out all of our other activities at <http://Recreation andParks.ocalafl.org>

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## School Board

(Continued from Page 9)

tained experienced, safe drivers.

In summary, there is no reason a FOR-PROFIT company can do this job cheaper and better than our own school district when they are using the exact same resources we currently use with the exception of its management and labor. We need to continue to cut expenses and if the decision to outsource transportation is because of employee or management problems, then administration needs to admit this is the reason to outsource.

This RFP, is not in the best interest of the citizens of Marion County. We do not need to be the guinea pig for Outsourcing Student Transportation in the State of Florida. Too many problems, unknowns, and liability are at stake. As a Marion County School Board Member I want to make the best decisions I can for the children and the taxpayers. As always, I encourage you to send me an e-mail to [Jackie@jackieporter.com](mailto:Jackie@jackieporter.com) and give me your insight on this month's hot topic!

Jackie Porter - Marion County School Board Member - District 2

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# Where Is Our Country Headed?

(Continued from Page 1)

talked about me not putting an author on the story, but when he called and left the message after hours, he had a phone block on his number and left no name, Hmmmmm. When he calls one of my customers and I get a contact number, the attorneys will take care of it as they have several times in the past. The reason I did not put the person's name in the paper was this very reason. It was an elderly person that wrote the letter. He is threatening and thinks he is slick. I will stand between guys like this and the elderly any day, so they can let their opinion be heard. That is their Constitutional right, but what does this guy know about rights.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is a person that wants their name on the letter...

\*\*\*\*\*

Good afternoon, A friend of mine sent me your article entitled "Where is our country headed?" and I couldn't agree more. The people are hurting and the government is not listening. Although our Government was founded on something called the "will of the people," politicians always seem to know what they want, without bothering to ask them. And this is wrong. We are facing the most serious issues in America's history; crushing debt, healthcare that only the rich can afford, millions of unemployed and losing their homes. Just putting gas in your car now takes a huge chunk out of an American's heavily taxed income And then foreign

countries like China and the oil countries in the Middle East makes billions off of struggling Americans. America will never return to prosperity unless the people set aside partisan differences and unite as one large voice. The people have to have a say in what Congress is doing.

I thought you might be interested in this Press Release plans on July 4th to give the people the voice and power they deserve. We were so proud when just last week, the state of Missouri said "You have the voters tool of the future!" Our Local Economic Impact is approximately \$750 million over the next three years, but sadly it appears we will be forced to take that out of Florida and give it to either Missouri or Virginia.

If you have an interest in talking more about this, please feel free to call me.

Chuck Kirkpatrick

\*\*\*\*\*

Chuck Kirkpatrick

Tel: (407) 601-1597

Cell: (561) 246-1680

Email: [chuck@americavotes.biz](mailto:chuck@americavotes.biz)

America's First Non Partisan "Online" Voting System Launches on July 4th, 2011  
Orlando, Florida – May 14, 2011

After nearly a year of research and development, America's first non partisan "online" Federal, State and Local Referendum Voting System will be launching on Independence Day, July 4th 2011. In addition to Referendum and Candidate Voting, this online system provides a multitude of valu-

able voter services not found anywhere else. It is designed to be advisory, and would assist our elected officials in understanding the exact will of the people.

Surveys show that State and Federal Referendums would be popular with the American public in order to "jump-start" consideration of public policy issues. The AmericaVotes.biz System will provide added legitimacy to those decisions, and could sometimes allow politicians to avoid getting into difficulties on controversial issues.

"Democracy was founded on our faith in something called „the will of the people.“ And without asking the voters, life changing decisions are made and that angers the people. That's why eighty percent of voters believe our government operates without the consent of the people." states AmericaVotes Founder and President, Chuck Kirkpatrick. "However, on July 4th 2011 that will change. Voters will have another reason to celebrate Independence Day, and that is the first non partisan online mechanism that allows them to participate in the governance of America .It will then be hard to argue with what is the will of the people when it is expressed through a clean vote." He adds.

The AmericaVotes system is well researched, and has received great reviews from Google Ventures, the Florida Institute of Technology Marketing Department, StateNet, S.C.O.R.E. and is supported by the Economic Development Departments in six states. The long term goal of AmericaVotes

is to enable "online" voting in actual State and Federal Elections, which would provide permanent voting records, greatly increase voter participation, and save the states and localities millions of dollars.

According to Karen Wilson, Vice President of Marketing, "Our "Personal Political Management System" is designed to make politics easy for the average citizen. We also have special features for our lawmakers and their parties, including detailed Voter Trend reports and Instant Messaging capabilities to all their constituents."

AmericaVotes will provide a free membership option and has an estimated market of 279 million registered and eligible to vote citizens including youth ages 13 and up, and 35 million businesses. Their Marketing Plan is led by Capitol Media Solutions, an award winning national marketing firm, with an initial focus on the 15 key battleground states.

The AmericaVotes.biz System will be released in both English and Spanish, with an iphone application under development. Future global marketing will include twenty eight other Democratic countries.

For more information visit [www.americavotes.biz](http://www.americavotes.biz) <<http://www.americavotes.biz>>



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## County Commission Seeking Apps

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (May 20, 2011) – Residents who want to get more engaged with their local government have some fresh opportunities to act. The Marion County Board of County Commissioners is currently accepting applications for slots on the following volunteer advisory boards.

\* The Industrial Development Authority is looking for one full member to serve an unexpired term. Authority members consider industrial and manufacturing projects and determine the appropriateness of industrial development bond issuance. Applicants must be residents and electors of Marion

County.

\* The Marion County Hospital District Board of Trustees is seeking one full member to serve a four-year term. Trustees oversee the Marion County Hospital District and the operation of Munroe Regional Medical Center. Applicants must be qualified electors and reside in Marion County for more than one year prior to appointment.

\* The Value Adjustment Board is searching for one full member. Board members hear appeals regarding assessed property values. Applicants must own a homestead property within Marion County. Applicants

may not be a member or employee of a taxing authority or a representative of property owners in administrative or judicial review of property taxes.

\*\*\*\*\*

To obtain an application, contact the Marion County Commission Office (601

SE 25th Ave., Ocala; 352-438-2323) or visit [www.marioncountyfl.org/Commissioners/Forms/CO\\_AdvisoryBoardAppl.pdf](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Commissioners/Forms/CO_AdvisoryBoardAppl.pdf) <[http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Commissioners/Forms/CO\\_AdvisoryBoardAppl.pdf](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Commissioners/Forms/CO_AdvisoryBoardAppl.pdf)>. The deadline to apply is June 8, 2011, at 5 p.m.

■ Ellen B. Wilcox ■

## MONEY MATTERS

(Continued from Page 2)

Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Ms Wilcox is President and CEO of Wilcox Wealth Management, which is not affiliated with

LPL. She may be reached at HYPERLINK "mailto:Ellen@ellenwilcox.com" Ellen@ellenwilcox.com or HYPERLINK "http://www.ellenwilcox.com" www.ellenwilcox.com.

The opinions expressed in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which investment(s) may be appropriate for you, consult your Financial Advisor prior to investing. All performance data reference is historical and is no guarantee of future results. All indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

## Postal Service to Raise Rates

The Postal Service has had open discussions with the mailing industry about its plans for the annual, CPI price increase for 2012.

The Postal Service has announced it wants to increase prices on January 22, 2012. To accomplish this, the Postal Service will likely announce its proposed CPI adjustment some time in October 2011.

As always, for planning any price changes you plan to make with your customers, keep January 22, 2012 in mind as the date when postal rates will change.

## What are Fathers made of?

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth, without an anesthetic.

A father is a thing that growls when it feels good—and laughs loud when it's scared half to death.

A father never feels entirely worthy of worship in his child's eyes. He never is quite the hero his daughter thinks, never quite the man his son believes him to be. This worries him, sometimes, so he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him.

A father is a thing that gets very angry when school grades aren't as good as he thinks they should be. He scolds his son although he knows it's the teacher's fault.

Fathers grow old faster than other people.

And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers stand there and beam outside—and die inside. Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what is inside. Fathers give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough so they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. Fathers fight dragons almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table, off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop...where they tackle the dragon with three heads: Weariness, Work and Monotony.

Knights in shining armor.

Fathers make bets with insurance companies about who will live the longest. Though they know the odds, they keep right on betting. Even as the odds get higher and higher, they keep right on betting more and more.

And one day they lose.

But fathers enjoy an earthly immortality and the bet is paid off to the part of him he leaves behind.

I don't know where fathers go when they die. But I have an idea that after a good rest, he won't be happy unless there is work to do. He won't just sit on a cloud and wait for the girl he's loved and the children she bore. He'll be busy there, too...oiling the gates, smoothing the way.

- Paul Harvey



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## A Good Reason to Buy Local

Dear Editor

I am writing to inform you about a company that has taken advantage of my neighbor in the purchase of windows. The company is out of Lakeland, Florida and is called XXXXXX XXXXXXXX. She was charged over \$20,000 for 8 windows and one sliding glass door. We have dealt with a reputable window company in the area which charges \$189.00 per window and we know that her charge was extremely overpriced. They obtained a permit from the city of Lady Lake and we were surprised that no red flag went up when they saw the cost of those windows. I would like to inform others about these scam artists which are in the Villages

feeding off elderly people.

Thank You for providing this information to people and alerting them .

A Villages Resident  
\*\*\*\*

Publishers Note: This incident and information is being investigated and was supplied by a Villages resident who is looking out for a neighbor. If you have heard of a similar incident please report to the police department. They could advise you on who to call. This is a good reason to buy local.

# BUY LOCAL



Ocala Business Leaders Scholarship Award recipients. Every year OBL awards scholarships to students going on to college. Pictured are 4 scholarship winners: From left to right - Kristen Miller, Victoria Windham, Courtney Dolfi, and Kristina Hill. The \$500 scholarships were presented by TJ Moon.

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## Main Street Chamber Kick Off

(Continued from Page 1)

building a reputation that is impeccable. The Chamber has a reputation for working toward making the business environment better, they go to Tallahassee and seek out legislators who can help improve the business environment. Also they seek new industry which brings jobs to the area, so there is a difference. They have been accused of making things happen and I agree. I am honored to be a member of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

and support the Marion County Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Chamber. Both will be good for your business. Buy local even if you have to pay a little more. Your community will thank you by being a success and supporting you.

Your **Opinion** matters to us!

Let us know what you think about the *Seniors Voice* and *DownTown*. 804-1223



In closing, I think you should belong to



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