



New street signs point the way to Ocoee

Residents and visitors alike are noticing new street signs leading the way throughout the city. The city's Public Works team has been busily installing 1,800 new street identification signs. The signs display the city's new logo on a blue background with white lettering. The blue color and design creates a distinctive visual image, making it easier for visitors to know they are in Ocoee. The new signs replace the green signs that featured the old city logo. For years, the green signs competed with

Orange County's green street signs, which created some confusion for drivers. Now, the blue street signs clearly identify the city's boundaries. In addition to adhering to federal standards for improved reflectivity at night, the new signs also have address block numbers rounded to the nearest 100, where the old signs did not. All signs should be in place by the end of July. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 407-905-3170.

A Word from the Mayor

For the past 23 years, I've had the honor to serve as your Mayor of Ocoee. Our great city is my hometown, a place I cherish, a place I'll always call 'home'. As you read this, you may have heard that on July 7, I announced my retirement due to my ongoing health issues.

I will tentatively retire as your Mayor, effective July 31, contingent on a special election to be held. It wasn't an easy decision. However, I'm 75 years old and it's time for me to slow down a little, go fishing and enjoy my family. As I reflect on my 27

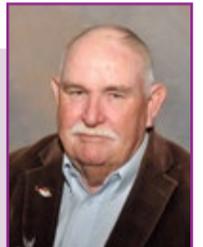
years in public office, it's been a wonderful journey. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a City Commissioner and as Mayor. During my time in office, we have grown from a small town of several thousand people to an international community of nearly 40,000, making Ocoee the third largest city in Orange County.

I'd like to thank my fellow City Commission members and dedicated staff of the City of Ocoee. Through the years, we've worked together to make Ocoee "The Center of Good Living." I'm confident the person who will be elected as Mayor, will continue to treasure and

preserve our city's great legacy, and lead us down the path to an even brighter future.

Thank you for your trust and confidence for the past two decades. Thank you for the memories that I will always hold dear to my heart. Keep in touch. God Bless.

*Thanks for caring,
Mayor Scott
Vandergrift...
(Mayorscott)
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mayorscott@cfl.rr.com*



URGENT! Don't be a "bad apple" - Help us make your recycling count!



So far this year, 20 tons of recycling materials have been sent to the landfill because of contamination. Please remember, do not put 'hazardous' waste items like paint, oil and electronic devices into your recycling

cart. Bill Simmons, Public Works Operations Manager, (pictured left) stands next to 8 tons of recycling materials contaminated by electronic devices and a full container of oil. It only takes "one" bad apple to spoil the barrel. This pile of newspapers, plastics and aluminum cans could NOT be recycled. The items pictured had to be reloaded into city trucks and taken to the landfill for disposal.

Since the city switched to bigger 96-gallon recycling carts last August, Ocoee residents have done a tremendous job recycling. As a result, the city's recycling rate has tripled. However, the saying "One bad apple spoils the whole barrel" holds true for recycling as well. With the increased participation, residents are also putting hazardous items inside the blue carts. It only takes a single discarded can of paint, electronic device or container of oil, to contaminate tons of

recycled materials causing them to be rejected, and sent to the landfill.

Please make everyone's recycling count by only placing the following items in your blue recycle cart: Pasteboard (i.e., cereal boxes, empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls, and shoe boxes), newspapers, magazines, brown paper grocery bags, corrugated cardboard (flattened and cut down to fit in cart.), catalogs, telephone books, junk mail, office paper, empty aerosol cans, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, all drink boxes and milk/juice cartons and plastic containers Nos. 1 - 7.

Some common items that cannot be recycled are: plastic bags, aluminum foil and styrofoam. If you have any questions, need clarification or need a blue cart to participate, please visit Ocoee.org or call your Public Works Team at 407-905-3170.

Film festival celebrates 10 years

September 4-6, 2015 • West Orange Cinema, Maguire Road

Residents get your film festival VIP tickets • \$50 (regular price \$75)

Ocoee residents are cordially invited to celebrate with city officials, international filmmakers and Hollywood VIPs including Dan Haggerty (Grizzly Adams); Diane Goldner (Feast); Clu Gulager (Tall Man) and Feast Director John Gulager. VIP

package includes buffet style dinner, Stella Artois, Wine, Pepsi products and entertainment.



For more information, visit www.CentralFloridaFilmFestival.com or call 407-370-3703.

Photo contest: Enter to win!



Enter photos that showcase the beauty and uniqueness of Ocoee. Winning photographs will be published in the city's 2016 Community Calendar. Photographers will be given photo credit in the calendar. Deadline for submissions: September 10. Photo entry forms: www.ocoe.org or call 407-905-3100.

News from Rep. Bracy

Note: At press time (the time this publication was printed), the Florida Legislature had returned to its special session and passed the state budget.

The regular session of the House of Representatives ended April 28, three days before its scheduled conclusion. The Florida Supreme Court ruled the early adjournment was unconstitutional but declined, for practical reasons, to order the House to reconvene.

A state budget was not passed during regular session as leadership in the House and Senate could not agree on major issues, chiefly health care.

Florida's constitution requires a balanced

budget before the state's fiscal year begins July 1. Presiding officers have announced a special session June 1-20 to negotiate and finalize a spending plan. The biggest difference in the budgets of the House and the Senate is how to address health care in the state and, specifically, how to deal with changes in a federal program providing matching funds for uncompensated care. More than a year ago, federal officials notified Florida it would end funding for the Low Income Pool after this year's \$2.16 billion in payments. Federal officials asked the state to conduct a study on how the money was used and ways to achieve the same goals in different ways.

House budget leaders did not include the Low Income Pool in their spending plan but

said they hoped the federal government would grant an extension of the money as sought by the Governor. The Senate proposed a broad plan to expand Medicaid in the state with a private insurance model. That plan depends on billions of dollars in federal money the state does not now get as well as continuation of a new, reduced version of the Low Income Pool.

**Representative
Randolph Bracy**
*State Representative,
District 45*
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Ocoee, FL 34761
407-656-6716



News from District 1

School is out and family vacations begin. You may have noticed the construction along State Road 50 in Ocoee. This is FDOT's final phase of the widening project and will be going on all summer long. Please drive carefully through the construction zone and remember that all businesses will be accessible for the duration of the project.

Parks and Recreation is offering many exciting programs this summer from swimming lessons to summer camp. The aquatic center and many of our recreational facilities are open 7 days a week for summer enjoyment. For more detailed information all program offerings and facility hours, inquire at the Jim Beech Center or by calling 407 905-3180.

The Police Department continues to offer Women's Self-Defense and Firearm Safety Classes, along with the popular "Coffee with

a Cop" and Teen Police Academy programs. The Fire Department will continue to offer CPR classes. For a complete list of classes and times, go to the City's web site www.Ocoee.org.

Public Works has the following Capital Projects update in District 1: Ingram Road striping with reflective pavement markers to be completed this June, and asphalt street resurfacing scheduled for July and August to include Little Aspen Ct., New Meadows Ct., Fort Collins Ct., and Meadows Sweet Ct. Upcoming projects in the near future include Peach Lake Manor drainage improvements - phases 6 & 7, and asphalt resurfacing on Leslie Ann Ln., Wurst Rd., and North Lady Ave. Duke Energy has their Engineers looking into adding additional lighting on South Ingram Rd. and West Rewis St.

Utilities has the following Capital Projects in Planning and/or under design update for District 1: Western Transmission Sewer Main

(this project will connect the City's downtown area's existing sanitary sewer collection system and redirect wastewater flow up Blueford, Lakewood and Wurst roads to eventually connect to the Ocoee Wastewater Plant). The annual Water Main Upgrades includes the Kimball, Sabrina and Jamela Water Main Project which replaces existing 2" water lines located along the rear property lines with 4" and 8" lines in the rights-of-way in front of the homes. The project will consist of 3150 feet of pipe.

It's important you contact me with your ideas and/or concerns so I may better serve you. I hope you all are having an enjoyable and safe summer!

John Grogan
*Commissioner, District 1
Mayor Pro Tem*
407-383-8252
jgrogan@ocoee.org



News from District 2

It has been my pleasure to visit some of our neighbors at their Homeowners' Association meetings over the past few months. Please let me know your meeting dates as I would like to visit all the neighborhoods in District 2.

There are several new additions to our city including the new Kids Community College Charter School. Scheduled to open this coming school year, the new charter school is

located on Silver Star Road near the intersection of Clarke Road. Also, the construction on State Road 50 has begun and we are looking forward to the benefits this roadwork will bring.

As the temperature continues to rise, please remember the restrictions for watering your lawn are in effect. Water conservation is very important to Ocoee.

One of my goals is to keep you informed. I'm always available to meet with you to

answer any questions or concerns. Please email me at rwilsen@ci.ocoee.fl.us or call 407-948-2155.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

Rosemary Wilsen
Commissioner, District 2
407-948-2155
rwilsen@ci.ocoee.fl.us



News from District 3

Among the goals of the Ocoee City Commission are the following: preserve and enhance our sense of community; use City resources efficiently to ensure long-term financial stability; continue to plan for, improve and maintain the City's infrastructure; provide responsive, cost effective service to the community; assure a safe and healthy community; and manage

growth and respond to change consistent with maintaining a livable, full-service city.

In order for myself and the rest of the Commission to achieve these goals and successfully represent our citizens, it is important that we are made aware of any issues or concerns you may have. When possible I attend Homeowners' Association meetings or other informal gatherings in order to hear from our citizens. Please keep the City Clerk updated with any changes to

HOA's board members and meeting dates and times. I can be contacted by e-mail at rjohnson@ci.ocoee.fl.us, but the best way to reach me is by calling directly at 407-383-6755.

Rusty Johnson
Commissioner, District 3
407-383-6755
rjohnson@ci.ocoee.fl.us



News from District 4

As I write this, it is getting about the time to think about the budget for this coming year. Please try to come out to the budget hearings and workshops to have your voice heard on what we should spend your tax dollars on.

Also, as this is being written, it looks like we will be seeing the beginning of activity at the corners of Blueford and SR 50 with some good development projects in the Community

Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Hopefully, more news to come in the next News to You as to what will be going in there in the way of stores.

Hopefully, you're enjoying Ocoee's activities this summer that our Parks and Recreation sponsored. Between the pool, the food trucks and the movies in the park we hope you had a very enjoyable time. And don't forget Founders' Day is coming in November.

And lastly, we wish all our students a great school year ahead. May students, teachers,

and parents all have a wonderful year. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns at jkeller@ocoee.org. Also, you can follow me on Twitter @joelfkeller and Facebook Hon Joel Keller.

Joel F. Keller
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