

VOLUME 13 NO. 7
WINTER 2016
A NEWSLETTER FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF OCOEE



CONNECTION



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MAYOR'S REPORT

This is the first issue of our resident newsletter since I was elected Mayor and I want to take this opportunity to thank Ocoee citizens for your vote of confidence. As we start the new year, the City is undertaking several new projects and I want to let you know what is in store for our community. The City Commission recently approved funding for the Downtown Master Plan that will revitalize the downtown and turn it into a shopping and dining destination for our residents. The first step is to get water and sewer lines into the area. The sewer is especially important if we want to attract restaurants. The second project is the State Road 429 Corridor Master Plan. We are working with the city of Winter Garden on this project which will eventually connect Ocoee to the West Orange Trail and build up the commercial areas along the corridor. These new businesses will provide the City with a broader tax base and also provide jobs for our residents. Last year the Commission passed the preliminary plan for City Center West Orange and the developer is hoping to begin the project in early spring. It is located on Lake Bennett off of Maine Street and will be comprised of retail, dining, office space and a hotel.

So as you can see we are on the brink of many exciting things to happen in our City. I look forward to continuing my service to Ocoee and to working with my fellow members of the City Commission to move Ocoee in the right direction. As always, please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns you might have. My number is 407-383-6755.

Mayor Rusty Johnson
rjohnson@ci.ocoe.fl.us

OCOEE ELECTION > TUESDAY, MARCH 15

An election will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in the City of Ocoee for the purpose of electing the Mayor and a City Commissioner. Absentee ballots and early voting will be available.

MARCH 2016 CITY OF OCOEE GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

Rusty Johnson
Jim Sills

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT #3 COMMISSIONER

Richard Firstner
Ronney Oliveira
Marc A. Price



For polling locations,
visit www.ocoee.org
or call 407-905-3100.



DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS ON THE HORIZON

The city has taken important first steps toward building the infrastructure needed to support a thriving downtown and State Road 429. The City Commission approved funding for the Downtown Master Plan laying the blueprint for the city's future growth. Residents can look forward to a corridor between McKey Street and Silver Star Road that will give an economic boost to surrounding areas and act as a block structure from street to street. The commission also adopted the State Road 429 Master Plan which will create places for opportunity not only in Ocoee, but in the neighboring cities of Winter Garden and Apopka. The city is dedicated to working with its neighboring cities to "develop strategies that will identify, integrate, and leverage local assets to maximize the cities' economic development potential." As part of this initiative, residents can look forward to a Bluford Avenue streetscape project, a Main Street extension and Bluford Avenue to Maguire road and a downtown logo design.



Ocoee is buzzing with optimism. This rendering of the bright future of Oakland Avenue is just one example of many exciting projects in the works.



CHECK OUT YOUR NEWSLETTER'S MAKEOVER

As you're reading this, you've probably noticed this issue of *News to You* has a new look and a new name. Introducing your *Ocoee Connection* newsletter with a fresh image and enhanced content.

What do you think?
Do you have feedback on Ocoee Connection? The Community Relations Division would like to hear from you. Email editor Joy Wright at jwright@ocoee.org.



EVENT CALENDAR

**11th ANNUAL
SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, MARCH 12
10AM – 3PM
BILL BREEZE PARK**



Bike Rodeo 🌸 Balloon Artist 🌸 Face Painting 🌸
Educational Road Obstacle Track 🌸 9/11 Display 🌸
Trees, Plants and Rain Barrels Giveaway for Ocoee
residents only 🌸 Heart Screenings for Youth 5-18
years old 🌸 Food, Music, Lots of Prizes & More!



Heart screenings for youth
ages 5 – 18 years old
Courtesy of Saving Young Hearts



**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY
AND MOVIE IN THE PARK**
3rd Friday of each month
6:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Bill Breeze Park



VOTE OCOEE ELECTION
March 15



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
March 26
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Jim Beech Recreation Center



POOL OPENS FOR SEASON
May 7
Family Aquatic Center
1820 A.D. Mims Roads



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
May 30
11:00 a.m.
Bill Breeze Park



DO YOU WANT TO WALK IN 'THEIR' SHOES?

Ever wonder what it's like to be a police officer or firefighter? The Citizen Public Safety Academy gives residents a rare, inside look at the city's outstanding public safety programs.

The Citizens Public Safety Academy will be held on Thursdays, March 31 - June 9, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Ocoee Police Department and Ocoee Fire Station 25.

Ocoee police officers and firefighters will provide participants with insight on a variety of topics including the following: traffic enforcement; crime scene investigation; station tours; evidence/fingerprints; vehicle accidents/extractions; K-9 demo; firearms demonstration; emergency medical services/CPR live fire drill demo; crime prevention; police equipment; use of force and domestic violence.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must sign a release agreement
- Preference will be given to Ocoee residents
- Have no criminal record

For registration information, please contact Ofc. Patera Scott-Marsh at 407-905-3160 ext. 3024 or patera.scott@occoee.org.



DID YOU KNOW?



You can watch your government in action on [Ocoee TV Channel 493](#) on Bright House Networks and live streaming at [ocoee.org](#).



You can stay connected to your city government via social network pages, subscribe to RSS feeds and sign up for Notify Me to receive text or email updates.
Visit [ocoee.org](#)



The City Commission, Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning and other city meetings and events can be viewed online at Ocoee TV's YouTube site.
www.youtube.com/user/OcoeeTV



MAYOR RUSTY JOHNSON

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN GROGAN, DISTRICT 1

ROSEMARY WILSEN, DISTRICT 2

ANGEL DE LA PORTILLA, DISTRICT 3

JOEL F. KELLER, DISTRICT 4