



January 2022

Hello, friends,

I want to thank everyone for attending the meeting on Friday, and welcome so many new faces. It was a lively group, and I'm glad to see so much participation. I hope this is a place we can feel free to share our thoughts and feelings, and know we're understood.

First things first, so much to be thankful for:

- A heartfelt thank you and a big shout out to Linda Quagliaroli for her generosity to those who came to the luncheon after the December meeting. Not only did she pick up the tab she went out of her way to purchase tablecloths, and Christmas ornaments for everyone and made it a very festive and friendly event. Thanks, Linda, you're the best!
- Thanks to Dianne Church for sharing at the December meeting all the wonderful things her group does for so many Ocala charities. I hope some of you will take an interest in her group, *Give Back to the Community*, and join her in her efforts. If you want to help, please contact Diane Church, 352-873-3471. The club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Island Club from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- A huge thanks to those who went to distribute wreaths at Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell. It was a deeply rewarding experience, and interesting to see the ages and groups who participated. Kids in scout groups, bikers, a Jeep club, families who brought young children. The program also provided wreaths for local cemeteries in Ocala. I plan to make this an annual event, so think about participating next year. Oh, did I mention that we managed to fit in beer (for the non-driver!) and burgers before we came home? Maybe that will entice you...
- Thanks to those who provided rides to see the holiday lights at both the World Equestrian Center and the Ocala United Methodist Church. These were two enjoyable evenings that sprung up on short notice. Maybe next year we'll plan a little further out and be able to take more people.
- And a big thank you to all of you who continue to support this group and make it work!

At the lunch in December, Linda mentioned that she sometimes models for a shop in the Villages and asked if our group would like to go. **The fashion show will be January 27<sup>th</sup> at Patchington in Spanish Springs at the Villages. The show will begin at 1:00 pm, and we'll have lunch nearby afterwards.** If you'd like to go, please let Shelley know as soon as possible so we can arrange transportation. Since it will be a late lunch, you may want to have a late breakfast or have a snack before we go. When you RSVP, please indicate if you need a ride so we can coordinate and take as few cars as possible. We'll leave about noon. Details will follow to those who sign up. Riders, please share the cost of gas and any tolls with your driver.

Several people have asked that we consider meeting twice a month. The group discussed possibilities and we have a plan we're going to try out. It was mentioned that there is music every Thursday at the Royal Oaks restaurant. We will try to set up dinner on one Thursday a month to enjoy music and each other's company. **We will meet this Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** and enjoy the music under the pavilion or inside, depending on the weather. We will work to find one Thursday a month that works for most of us. **If you are interested in going this Thursday, please let me know, or call Ann Roberts at 352-237-3381** so we can get an accurate count.

In addition to meetings and Thursday dinners, we will continue to look for fun things to do each month. If you have any ideas or would like to pick a month and set something up, please let me know. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for meeting topics or guest speakers, please share them. Some possibilities for meetings or outings are:

- Speaker from Hospice of Marion County to discuss pet bereavement.
- Demonstration of how the Suddenly One website works and how to access information from previous meetings.

- Field trip to the Butterfly Exhibit in Gainesville.
- Visits to the World Equestrian Center. Their February calendar is here [Events - World Equestrian Center](#).
- Florida Horse Park always has events, and there are polo matches held there. You can check out their February calendar here [Calendar of Events \(wpcomstaging.com\)](#).
- Meeting and/or walk in Sholom Park.
- Folk music every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 2-5 pm at the Train Station in Dunellon. Tickets are sold at the door for \$10. Bring your own snacks.
- Tour of Grandview Clydesdale Farm (Dunellon)

Some upcoming events you might be interested in:

- February 2: Oak Run will have an open house at the Palm Grove club to showcase their various clubs. This is a great opportunity to see what the groups have to offer all under one roof. I will have a table for Suddenly One, so anyone who would like to stop by, please do. The event is from 9:00 to 1:00 on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- February 4-6: Grandview Invitational at the Florida Horse Park. This is a spectacular showcase of Clydesdale horses pulling wagons (think Budweiser commercials). It's a competition for the best of the best. The horses and hitches are magnificent. I already have tickets for Sunday, February 6 to go with a small group. We can add you into this group, or I'd be willing to go another day also if you want only Suddenly Oners. Or you are welcome to set up your own plans here: [Grandview Invitational | Florida's Draft Horse Show - Feb 4 - 6, 2022](#).

Now for the icky stuff: we discussed the topic of tax time and how it might affect you this year. If you lost your spouse in 2021, you may have a different way of filing your taxes this year. Attached is a partial list of places that offer free tax filing. The two with asterisks are in-person filing, but they don't have their schedules established yet. For both, you will likely need an appointment, so keep this in mind if you contact them. The others are online. None of these are specifically being endorsed, but are provided to give you a starting place to look for guidance in getting your taxes done, if you don't have a CPA already lined up. Please be careful when you do anything like this online.

SCAM ALERT: People have reported getting calls from someone stating they are from the IRS or the Social Security office. The IRS will never contact you by phone or ask you for personal information over the phone. Neither will the Social Security office. If you get a call like this, JUST HANG UP. Never give personal information to anyone that you did not call.

Also attached is a sheet with information about claiming exemptions you may be eligible for. Many of you probably have the Homestead exemption and maybe the VA exemption already, but did you know you can also qualify for a widow(er)'s exemption? If you call the tax office listed in red at the top of the form, you can get more information, and request that they mail you the forms. You may also be able to do this online. It will take \$500 off the value of your home (*not the total taxes*). That may not seem like much, but if you're on a tight budget, everything helps. Call them to discuss if you haven't already filed any of these exemptions.

The latest membership roster is attached. For those of you who don't have email addresses, Ingrid Crane will deliver this message and any attachments to your home. *If you don't plan to return to the group, or don't want to receive this information, please let me know, and I'll remove you from the list.*

The next meeting will be **Friday, February 11th at 10:30, in the Card Room of the Orchid Club.**

Thank you, and I hope to see you next month.

Shelley  
210-410-0090



## State of Florida

DR 501S  
R. 12/08

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

**Marion County Property Appraiser: 501 SE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL 34471, 352-368-8300**

**When to file:** Application for all exemptions must be made between January 1 and March 1 of the tax year. However, at the option of the property appraiser, original homestead exemption applications may be accepted after March 1, but will apply to the succeeding year. Application should be made to the property appraiser's office. Subsequent yearly renewal of exemption status may be made by mail. Failure to make application by March 1 of the tax year shall constitute a waiver of the exemption privilege for that year.

**Homestead Exemption:** Every person who has legal or equitable title to real property in the State of Florida and who resides thereon and in good faith makes it his or her permanent home is eligible to receive a homestead exemption of up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes. The additional \$25,000 applies to any assessed value over \$50,000 and only to non-school taxes. First time applicants are required to furnish their social security number, and should have available evidence of ownership i.e., deed, contract, etc. If title is held by the husband alone, a wife may file for him, with his consent, and vice versa. If filing for the first time, be prepared to answer these and other questions:

1. In whose name or names was the title to the dwelling recorded as of January 1?
2. What is the street address of the property?
3. Are you a legal resident of the State of Florida? (A Certificate of Domicile or Voter's Registration will be proof if dated prior to January 1.)
4. Do you have a Florida license plate on your car and a Florida driver's license?
5. Were you living in the dwelling which is being claimed for homestead exemption on January 1?

**Additional \$50,000 Homestead Exemption for persons 65 and older:** Every person who is eligible for the homestead exemption described above is eligible for an additional homestead exemption up to \$50,000 under the following circumstances: (1) the county or municipality adopts an ordinance that allows the additional homestead exemption which applies only to the taxes levied by the unit of government granting the exemption; (2) the taxpayer is 65 years of age or older on January 1 of the year for which the exemption is claimed; (3) the annual household income of the taxpayer (defined as the adjusted gross income as defined in s. 62, United States Internal Revenue Code, of all members of a household) for the prior year does not exceed \$20,000 (beginning January 1, 2001, this income threshold is adjusted annually by the percentage change in the average cost-of-living index); and, (4) the taxpayer annually submits a sworn statement of household income to the property appraiser not later than March 1.

**Disabled Veterans Homestead Property Tax Discount:** Any veteran age 65 and older may qualify for a homestead property tax discount if the veteran has an honorable discharge from military service, is partially disabled with a permanent service-connected disability that is combat-related, and was a Florida resident at the time of entering military service. The discount is equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Consult your appraiser for details.

#### THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTIONS APPLY TO ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY THE ELIGIBLE PERSON:

**\$500 Widow's Exemption:** Any widow who is a permanent Florida resident may claim this exemption. If the widow remarries, she is no longer eligible. If the husband and wife were divorced before his death, the woman is not considered a widow. **You may be asked to produce a death certificate when filing for the first time.**

**\$500 Widower's Exemption:** Any widower who is a permanent Florida resident may claim this exemption. If the widower remarries, he is no longer eligible. If the husband and wife were divorced before her death, the man is not considered a widower. **You may be asked to produce a death certificate when filing for the first time.**

**\$500 Disability Exemption:** Every Florida resident who is totally and permanently disabled qualifies for this exemption. If filing for the first time, please present at least one of the following as proof of your disability: A certificate from a licensed Florida physician, or a certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or documentation from the Social Security Administration.



# *Free Tax Preparation Options*

## **United Way of Central Florida**

Dial 211 to find free tax prep in the Ocala area, or file online at <https://uwcf.org> or [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com). Online chat available on the website.

## **IRS**

[www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free](https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free).

## **AARP**

<https://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/online-self-and-assisted-prep>

Their online locator will be up and running soon to find a location for tax prep.

## **Efile.com**

<https://www.efile.com> Free filing or filing with professional assistance at additional cost.

## **H&R Block** (also an office in Friendship Center)

<https://www.hrblock.com/filing-options-and-products/>

## **TaxSlayer**

[www.taxslayer.com](http://www.taxslayer.com)

## **Turbo Tax**

<https://turbotax.intuit.com> Free filing or filing with professional assistance at additional cost.

## **NOTES:**

- This is a partial list of the most commonly-used tax prep sites.
- Many local tax accountants/CPAs will offer free estimates, fees based on the complexity of the return.
- All online sites will require you to create an account and will ask for personal information in order to prepare the return. Be cautious about the site you decide to use.
- ALWAYS look for this before entering any personal information: <https://> or a padlock symbol in the address bar (the s indicates this is a secure website).
- IF you think you'll file online, it's worth the investment for a security program for your computer such as Norton or McAfee. They will scan the site and indicate if it's safe to use.
- NEVER use one of these sites on a public computer such as the library, or on a public wi-fi system such as Starbucks.
- BEWARE of SCAMS. The IRS will never call you to ask for your personal information. They will never call you, period. They always correspond via mail.