

MARION OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
294 MARION OAKS LANE
OCALA, FL 34473
Website: www.Moca1973.org

Gen. M.O. Membership Meeting

Date: December 10, 2024

Establish a Quorum (50) members in Attendance plus 8 Guests,
Call to Order: Florence Charbonneau, President at 7:10 PM
Prayer by Florence Charbonneau, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Silent reading of minutes from last meeting and we will vote at end of the meeting.

Guest Speakers: Paige Parks, West Central Bear Biologist from Florida Fish & Wildlife and Branden Roberts – Marion County Wildlife Officer on Bear Awareness

Black bears are the only species of bear in Florida. Biologists estimate there are over 4,000 bears today, compared to 300 in the 1970s. A bear can pick up scents from over a mile away. An adult bear typically weighs between 150 to 400 pounds. Female bears have 1-3 cubs born every other year. Breeding occurs from June to August and cubs are born around the beginning of February. On average, a female's home range is over 15 square miles and a male's home range is over 60 square miles.

Black bears are generally shy and not aggressive. When frightened, a bear typically runs away or climbs a tree. Keep away and the bear will leave on its own usually after dark. When a bear stands on its hind legs, it tries to get a better view or scent. They may snap their jaws, huff and swat the ground when cornered, threatened or defending food or their cubs. **If this happens, stop, stand your ground and then slowly back away. NEVER feed or attract bears.** A bear's diet normally consists of 73% plants (fruits, nuts, berries, etc) 22% Insects (termites, ants, bees, etc) and 5% meat (opossums, armadillos, carrion, etc).

Carry bear spray and learn how to use it properly, paying attention to wind direction, distance to bear (20-40 ft) and your escape route.

BearWise tips:

- Never approach a bear, keep your distance. If a bear changes its behavior because you're there, you are too close.
- If you encounter a bear at close range, stand with arms raised, back up slowly and speak to the bear in a calm assertive voice.
- Do not turn your back, play dead or run from a black bear.
- Make sure you are in a secure area, such as a car or building, and the bear has a clear escape route, then scare the bear away with loud noises, like yelling, blowing a whistly or using an air or car horn.
- You can install a motion-activated device, such as flood lights, a water sprinkler or an audio alarm to temporarily scare the bear off so you can remove or secure attractants.
- Report any bear threatening the safety of people, pets or livestock, or causing property damage to the Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Walk dogs on a non-retractable leash and be aware of your surroundings. Dogs can trigger defensive behaviors from bears.

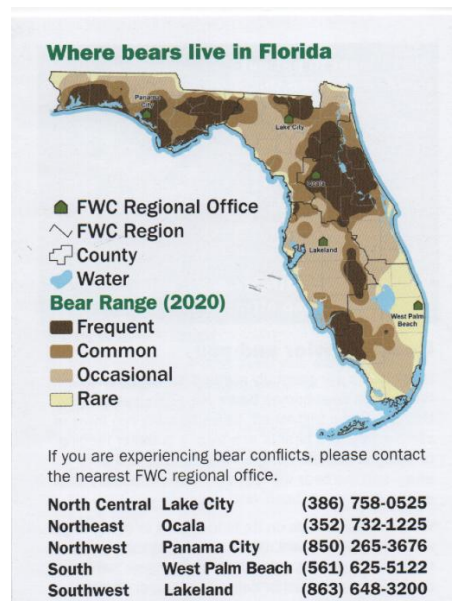
WARNING: It is illegal to take, possess, injure, shoot, collect or sell black bears under Florida state law unless authorized by an FWC issued permit.

AVOID attracting bears:

- Keep garage doors closed when not in use
- Feed pets indoors or bring food and bowls in at night.
- Store pet and livestock feed in bear-resistant containers or inside a secure area.
- Remove or modify bird and wildlife feeders and ensure the ground is free of all feed debris.
- Secure garbage and store in a shed or garage. If you have a sturdy trash can, you can modify it with hardware to be bear-resistant. It is illegal to put out food or garbage that attracts bears and causes conflicts. Remember, anything that attracts dogs, cats or raccoons also attracts bears!
- A screened in porch will not keep bears out.

The FWC addresses human-bear conflicts in a variety of ways, including providing technical assistance over the phone, conducting an in-person visit with the resident, using deterrents, attempting to scare the bear away, or, in rare cases, attempting to trap the bear.

While most conflicts can be avoided by securing attractants, FWC assesses each situation to decide on the most appropriate response.



Safety Report: Lt. Rosa

Deputies assigned to the Marion Oaks district during the month of November arrest 41 people, for 14 felony charges, 31 misdemeanor charges, conducted 107 traffic stops, conducted 50 sex offender checks, worked 23 domestic violence cases, wrote 118 reports, 55 follow up reports, dispatched 1090 calls for service, and worked a total of 1,461-man hours for the month.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Goles

As November 30, 2024:	Balance:	MOCA:	\$10,166.47
		Bingo:	\$ 8,526.06

Bingo Report: Lynn Greene

For the month of November there was one bingo session.

Total bingo deposits for the month:	\$1,066.50
Total concession deposits for the month:	\$ 217.50
Average attendance:	104

2025 Bingo calendars are available.

Deed Report: Florence Charbonneau

During the month of November there were:

Permits:	Opened: 21	Closed: 21
Violations:	Opened: 20	Closed: 18
Estoppels: 62	Violation Letters: 43	

Parks & Rec Report: Dave Pierce – Absent

Buildings “A” and “B” roofs will be done by Big “D”. The costs will run \$269,975 and should start end of January.

The are obtaining bids for the repaving of the walking path.

Over 1,000 people attended the Holiday Extravaganza.

December 18th will be the Christmas Luncheon

December 12th will be the Spaghetti Dinner

Presidents Report: Florence Charbonneau

- Monday December 16th at 10:00 AM will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school. 1350 SW 165 St., Ocala, 34473. Please attend. School is scheduled to open August 2026.
- The county purchased the land next to the Marion Oaks Fire Station and will expand the fire station.
- 2 proposals were brought to the county commissioners:
 - SMA Health Rehabilitation will be opening a women’s center on the Marion Oaks Blvd. We have met with them along with MSTU and Sheriffs Department prior and have been assured that this will be a safe facility.
 - Agric Homeowners – beyond the Marco Polo housing there was a proposal for a sand mine. Let your voice be heard if you are for or against. A resident was in attendance to the meeting and had a petition against the sand mine.
- Postage will be going up again in January
- Florence attended a commissioner meeting and requested a halt to building homes in Marion Oaks. She expressed our residents’ concerns to the commissioners that we have reached our capacity between new homes and road construction. We understand that existing permits will have to be completed but requests they hold approving new home permits. Florence stated that we have 23,000 residents who are counting on her and the board to keep their best interest.

A drawing for a complete holiday ham dinner was given away by raffle ticket.

The winner: Claudette Thompson.

Swearing in new board members: Nora Burch and Michael Center

November minutes were unanimously approved

Meeting to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:20 pm