



Welaka Gazette

April 2024



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for online Welaka Newsletters

From The Mayor's Desk

This month, I wish to direct our attention solely to our beloved community. Sometimes, amidst the hustle and bustle of life, we need to pause and focus on what truly binds us together: our sense of unity and support for one another.

In recent days, we've been confronted with a heartbreaking loss within our midst. The pain is palpable, yet in the face of such adversity, I've witnessed something remarkable—the unwavering strength of our community. It's a strength born from compassion, kindness, and a deep-rooted connection that defines us as a Town.

Mason, a bright spark in our community, has left an indelible mark on our hearts. His infectious laughter in Downtown Park and his friendly gestures to all who crossed his path are memories we'll cherish dearly. His presence, though brief, was a reminder of the beauty of innocence and the joy of simple pleasures.

In times like these, we're reminded of what truly matters in life. It's not the material possessions or fleeting achievements but the bonds we forge and the love we share. I've been humbled by the outpouring of support – the cookouts, fundraisers, and memorials that have brought us closer together.

I've had the honor of spending time with Mason's family, and their gratitude knows no bounds. Their words of thanks cannot fully capture the depth of their appreciation for this community's kindness and generosity. To all who lent a hand in the search, your selflessness speaks volumes about the strength of our unity.

As we move forward, let us continue to rally around Mason's family. They will need our love and support in the days ahead as they navigate this unimaginable loss. Let us hold them close in our thoughts and prayers, offering solace in the knowledge that they are not alone.

In closing, I'm reminded of the resilience that defines us as a community. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will navigate through any storm that comes our way.

With Gratitude and Solidarity,

Mayor Jamie D. Watts

From The Council President

Welaka has faced grief and a family has faced an unimaginable loss the past week. Little Mason Newstead was an innocent, precious soul who was taken away too soon. As the community came together in a common effort with hopeful hearts and later with heavy hearts and common grief, a sense of unity emerged. A greater appreciation for life and the uncertainty and fragility that surrounds it and us and takes us by surprise when something like this happens.

Of course it is a cliché, but it doesn't make it any less true: Life can change in an instant and none of us are promised tomorrow. So forgive often and love with your whole heart. Cherish the moments with loved ones and make no room for regret. Please keep Mason's family in your prayers.

In Your Service,

Jessica Finch, Welaka Town Council President



Need A Meeting With Your Mayor?

To schedule a meeting with your Mayor, please email
TownClerk@welaka-fl.gov



Do You Have News for the Town of Welaka? Publish it here!

Please email the digital image to TownClerk@welaka-fl.gov



Need To Report An Issue or Make A Town Code Violation Complaint?

Street or Park issue? Report online at www.TellTownHall.com
Code Enforcement Complaint? Email codes@welaka-fl.gov



Eyeglass Recycling

Drop your unused glasses by the Welaka Town for the South Putnam Lion Club to pick up.



Sponsor an Event

The Events Committee is seeking sponsors as they plan new events for the future. If you know anyone who would like to sponsor any of our events, please reach out to our Events Committee at events@welaka-fl.gov.

It's never been so simple to be so significant.

One pint of blood saves three lives.

Visit the **Donor Portal** to find a drive or make an appointment at lifesouth.org

Give local. Save local.

Welaka Woman's Club

Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 9
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
644 CR 309, Welaka

Scan to book your appointment today!



All donors receive a \$20 e-gift card and a Lifesouth umbrella while supplies last.
Additional \$20 e-gift card for platelet and double red donors

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

UF/IFAS Extension Putnam County

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Vivid Daylilies for Your Landscape

Join our "Growing Daylilies at Home" learning workshop to explore the diverse world of daylilies. Uncover vibrant colors and unique shapes while learning essential care practices from a horticulturist. Discover the art of easily expanding your collection through dividing. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or novice, this inspiring experience allows you to connect with fellow enthusiasts, share insights, and create a beautiful daylily-filled space in your home garden. Don't miss this learning opportunity to cultivate beauty at home.

MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC
All Learning Workshops (except Crescent City), will be followed by a plant clinic at 6:00 pm, so bring your plant questions and problems with you. Need help identifying a disease or pest? Bring photos or plant specimens and let one of our Master Gardeners help.

DATES:
ALL EVENTS ARE RAIN OR SHINE
Thursday, April 04 | 5pm-6pm
Interlachen Community Center
135 S County Rd 315 Interlachen, FL 32148
Monday, April 15 | 5pm-6pm
Welaka Woman's Club
644 Co Rd 309, Welaka, FL 32193
Tuesday, April 16 | 5pm-6pm
Bostwick Community Center
1252 Tillman St, Palatka, FL 32177
***Thursday, April 18 | 5pm-6pm**
UF/IFAS Extension Putnam Auditorium
111 Yelvington Rd, East Palatka, FL 32131
Wednesday, April 24
Class: 12pm-1pm | Plant Clinic: 1pm-2pm
Crescent City Commission Chambers
3 N. Summit Street, Crescent City, FL 32112
Tuesday, April 30 | 5pm-6pm
Melrose Public Library
312 Wynnwood Ave, Melrose, FL 32666

For more information:
piulio@ufl.edu or call 386-329-0318

*The presentation on April 18 will be available via Zoom. To attend virtually Zoom registration is required & can be found at https://bit.ly/vivid_daylilies.

An Equal Opportunity Institution.
The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact piulio@ufl.edu at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.
sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/putnam/

Town Of Welaka invites you to



March 1st April 5th May 3rd
June 7th July 5th August 2nd
5:30Pm - 9:00 Pm

Jefferson Smith Park, Welaka



Welaka, FL
River of Lakes

Let data lead
the way!

Please visit our Website for all
your Town needs
www.welaka-fl.gov

EVERY WEDNESDAY

After
School
Tutoring

Reading & Math

FROM
4 - 4:30 PM

FRIENDS OF WELAKA

Please Contact:
Laurie Porath
(561) 267-7466



UF/IFAS EXTENSION PUTNAM COUNTY

PLANT
sale



SPONSORED BY PUTNAM COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES, NATIVES, ORNAMENTALS,
FLOWERS, HERBS, HOUSEPLANTS, SUCCULENTS,
VEGETABLES AND MORE!

20
SATURDAY APRIL 9AM - 1 PM
2024

PUTNAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
118 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
EAST PALATKA, FL 32131

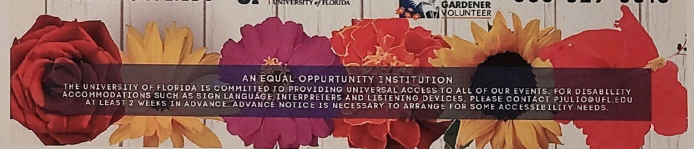
Putnam County Fairgrounds allow Service Animals only.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

PJULIO@UFL.EDU

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



386-329-0318



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ALL OF OUR EVENTS. FOR DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND HEARING DEVICES, PLEASE CONTACT PJULIO@UFL.EDU AT LEAST 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE. ADVANCE NOTICE IS NECESSARY TO ARRANGE FOR SOME ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS.

TOWN OF WELAKA CONTACT LIST

WELAKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Porath - Police Chief

Direct Line: (386) 524-4015

(386) 467-9800 ext. 107

mporath@welaka-fl.gov

AFTER HOURS: (386) 329-0801

EMERGENCY: 911

WELAKA MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Meghan Allmon - Town Clerk

(386) 467-9800 ext. 102

TownClerk@welaka-fl.gov

Kendra Quick - Assistant Town Clerk

(386) 467-9800 ext. 104

kquick@welaka-fl.gov

WELAKA UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Emma Sledge - Utility Clerk

(386) 467-9800 ext. 103

esledge@welaka-fl.gov

WELAKA AFTER HOURS

(386) 467-9800

WELAKA CODE DEPARTMENT

Welaka Police Department

(386) 467-9800 ext. 107

codes@welaka-fl.gov

WELAKA BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Universal Building Inspector

(386) 467-9800 ext. 105 or Option 4

building@welaka-fl.gov

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Jamie Watts

(386) 467-9800 ext. 101

Direct: 386-524-4009

jwatts@welaka-fl.gov

WELAKA TOWN COUNCIL

Council President Jessica Finch

(386)467-9800, ext. 200

jfinch@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Kimberly Dugger

(386) 467-9800, ext. 201

kdugger@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Tonya Long

(386) 467-9800, ext. 202

tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Kathy Washington

(386) 467-9800, ext. 203

kwashington@welaka-fl.gov

Town Attorney, Patrick Kennedy

townattorney@welaka-fl.gov

Events Committee: events@welaka-fl.gov

Waste Pro: (386) 328-5445

Waste Pro: (386) 328-5445

Putnam County Animal Control

(386) 329-0396

It is our pleasure to serve the Town of Welaka!



April



Welaka, FL

River of Lakes



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trash, Recycling & Yard Debris Pickup	2	3 Charter Review Committee Meeting 5 PM - Town Hall	4	5 Food Truck Friday Jefferson Smith Park 5:30 PM - 9 PM Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting 9 AM - Town Hall	6
7	8 Trash & Recycling Pickup	9 Town Council Meeting 6 PM - Town Hall Life South Blood Drive 10 AM - 5 PM - Woman's Club	10 Charter Review Committee Meeting 5 PM - Town Hall	11	12	13
14	15 Trash, Recycling & Yard Debris Pickup Meter Reading Day	16	17 Charter Review Committee Meeting 5 PM - Town Hall	18 Zoning Board Meeting 6 PM - Town Hall	19	20
21	22 Trash & Recycling Pickup	23 Code Board Meeting 6 PM - Town Hall	24	25 Tree Board Meeting 6 PM - Town Hall	26	27
28	29 Trash, Recycling & Yard Debris Pickup	30				

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR FULL ACCOUNT NUMBER IS ON YOUR PAYMENT
PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE OR PLACE WHITE-OUT ON ANY CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS

Thank you!