



# Welaka Gazette

*November 2021*

## **From The Mayor's Desk**

It is already November, yet it feels like we just started the new year. In the past few months, we have seen some changes in the Town as the Council, and I work to better your Town Government. One change I regret to see is the leaving our Town Clerk, Jennifer McDaniel. Jennifer has served the Town of Welaka for over thirteen years, and she will be missed. The Welaka Town Council is working diligently to hire a new Town Clerk. I ask you to please be patient with us as we make that transition; my goal is to do it as smoothly as possible, but as with anything, there is a learning curve.

We are also very excited about the Christmas Festival; the Events Committee has been working so hard to plan for the past few months. On Saturday, December 11th at noon, there will be a Town Christmas Parade, then we will move to DownTown Park where Santa will be taking pictures with the children and where we will be having an arts and crafts festival and food trucks. We will end the day with a Christmas Tree Lighting and a Boat Parade. For more information or to register for one of our events, visit [welakachristmas.com](http://welakachristmas.com) or give us a call at (386) 467-9800.

As we close out the year in Welaka, we continue to update our Town Ordinances and codes. We are very close to having our municipal codes online to give you better access to your government, and I expect that to be finalized in the next thirty days. I am also excited to say that the Charter Committee had their first meeting and will be working diligently to update the Charter, which will then go on to the voters of the Town of Welaka to be approved. The Town Charter is a very important document, so the Charter Committee's position is to move very slowly but deliberately in its update. At this moment, they have set a goal of having it on the ballot in March of 2023 for the Town to consider for approval. I will keep you updated as we move through this critical process. In closing, I hope you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you at the Town Christmas Festivals in December.

Best Regards,  
Mayor Watts

## **From Our Council President**

As Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, I am excited to report that we held our first official meeting on Friday, October 8th. Committee members include Michael Anthony, John Karichkowsky, Isaiah Mills, Pam Olson, Scott Turnbull, and myself.

Our initial goal is to create a grading system to address an issue on many people's minds: our roads. We, as a group, will evaluate the condition of the road, any urgent repairs needed, and

our perception of the level of traffic on each road. We will then be able to make recommendations to the Town Council based on the summarization of this data.

We also discussed creating a vision, i.e a Master Plan in government-speak, for the Town. This will allow us to direct the future of our beloved Welaka, rather than let our future development be dictated by happenstance.

Because these are issues that concern each and every one of you, I would encourage you to attend one (or all) of these meetings to express your concerns and opinions. We meet every month on the second Friday. Meetings are scheduled at 9 am in the Town Council Room. If attendance is not possible, we plan to have these meetings posted on Facebook so that you can view live or at a later time. Finally, you can always contact a committee member with questions or suggestions.

To me, this is a fundamental commitment of which I am proud to be a part. As a citizen of Welaka, I think that I speak not only for myself but for you as well, when I say that it is important that every citizen have a voice in their government. We look forward to your participation!

In Your Service,

Jessica Finch  
Council President

## **Monthly Town Meetings**

**All meetings are at Welaka Town Hall**

**Located at 400 4th Ave. Welaka, Fl. 32193**

**November 9, 2021**

Zoning Board Meeting 5:30 PM

Code Enforcement Meeting 5:45 PM

Town Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Town of Welaka Charter Committee November 2nd and the 16th at 5:00 PM

Citizens Advisory Board Meeting November 12th at 9:00 AM

All meetings will be live-streamed on our Town of Welaka Facebook Page and on our YouTube Channel

## **November Meter Reading**

Will be reading water meters on November 15th. If you have any issues with your water or sewer remember the Town Utility Department is available 24 hours a day at (386) 467-8677 or TDD (800) 955-8771. We ask you to please do your part in conserving water.

## **Garbage Pickup**

Garbage and Recycling pick up will be November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Yard debris pick-up will be on November 1st, 15th, and 29th. Please remember to call Waste Pro at (386) 328-5445 if you have any issues with your garbage, yard debris or recycling pick up.

## Pay Your Water Bill Online

You can now pay your water bill online using our Online Utility Bill pay system. To get started go to [www.welakawater.com](http://www.welakawater.com) and create your account. In your account, you can track your monthly water usage and even set up your account for auto-pay so you never have to worry about a late charge again. If you need assistance setting up your account online please call our Utility Department at (386) 467-9800 option 4. You can also drop your payment by Town Hall anytime using our Utility Payment drop box located to the right of the front door of Town Hall.

## October's Recognitions and Proclamations

Town of Welaka Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of October 2021 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Welaka.

Town of Welaka Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of October 2021 as Domestic Awareness Violence Month

If you would like to recognize a Town of Welaka resident for dedicated community service to our Town, a local student with exceptional grades, or to nominate a Town resident who is celebrating a landmarked birthday such as turning 100 years old, please contact myself, Mayor Watts at (386) 467-9800 or by email at [jwatts@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:jwatts@welaka-fl.gov). We will be happy to recognize them at our next Council Meeting by public recognition.





## **TOWN OF WELAKA GOVERNMENT CONTACT LIST:**

You may contact the Mayor and Town Council members by phone through the Town Hall phone system or send an email to their official Town of Welaka accounts.

**To book a phone or in-person meeting with the Mayor: [www.MayorWatts.com](http://www.MayorWatts.com)**

**To report an issue or concern: [www.TellTownHall.com](http://www.TellTownHall.com)**

### **To leave a voicemail message for a Town Council member**

#### **Method 1**

1. Call the **Town of Welaka Town Hall at 386-467-9800**
2. Press the “Town Hall Extension” number of the person to reach their voicemail

#### **Method 2**

1. Call the **Town of Welaka Town Hall at 386-467-9800**
2. When the phone system begins speaking press “7”
3. Press the “Option” number of the Council Member to reach their voicemail

#### **Mayor & Town Council Members**

**Mayor Jamie Watts**  
Direct Line: 386-524-4009  
(386) 467-9800 Extension: 101  
[jwatts@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:jwatts@welaka-fl.gov)

**Council President Jessica Finch**  
386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 2)  
Town Hall Extension: 200  
[jfinch@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:jfinch@welaka-fl.gov)

**Councilwoman Marianne Milledge**  
386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 3)  
Town Hall Extension: 201  
[mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov)

**Councilwoman Tonya Long**  
386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 4)  
Town Hall Extension: 202  
[tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov)

**Councilwoman Kathy Washington**  
386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 4)  
Town Hall Extension: 202  
[kwashington@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:kwashington@welaka-fl.gov)

#### **Town Departments**

**Michael Porath - Police Chief**  
Direct Line: 386-524-4015  
Town Hall Extension: 107  
[mporath@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:mporath@welaka-fl.gov)

**Jennifer McDaniel - Town Clerk**  
Direct Line: 386-524-4010  
Town Hall Extension: 102  
[jennifermcdaniel@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:jennifermcdaniel@welaka-fl.gov)

**Kendrea Welch - Utility Clerk**  
Direct Line: 386-524-4016  
Town Hall Extension: 103  
[kwelch@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:kwelch@welaka-fl.gov)

**Justin Morris - Building Department**  
Direct Line: 386-524-4013  
Town Hall Extension: 105  
[building@welaka-fl.gov](mailto:building@welaka-fl.gov)

## Children's Christmas Party

As the holiday season approaches, the Friends of Welaka, would like to invite you to bring your children to a celebration of the season on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall the at the First Baptist Church "The Church" of Welaka at 638 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (CR 309) at 4 pm.

We will have refreshments, games and a gift giveaway. This event is open to children residing in Welaka ages 12 and under.

Please let us know if you will be able to celebrate with us by completing the attached coupon. You can either mail it to Friends of Welaka at PO Box 33, Welaka or turn it in to Laurie Porath or Jessica Finch. You can also return the completed form to the town hall.

Please fill out the name, age and sex of each child as well as well as any interests that have in OUTDOOR activities.

**This form needs to be completed and turned in by November 15, 2021 or we will be unable to provide a gift for your child!**

If you have questions, please contact Laurie Porath via email at [mp1326@aol.com](mailto:mp1326@aol.com) or by phone at 561-267-7466.

-----Cut Here-----

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Address</u>
-------------	------------	------------	----------------


Basketball  Soccer    Football    Hula Hoop    Jump Rope    Frisbee    Fishing    Tennis    Baseball

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Aside from our party, parents can register for toys online at [ToysForTots.org](http://ToysForTots.org)

# NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<b>1</b> Trash & Recycling Pickup Yard Debris Pick-Up	<b>2</b> Charter Review Committee Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
7	<b>8</b> Trash & Recycling Pickup	<b>9</b> Zoning Board 5:30 Code Enforc 5:45 Town Council 6:30	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day	<b>12</b> Citizens Advisory Board Meeting 9:00 AM	<b>13</b>
14	<b>15</b> Trash & Recycling Pickup Yard Debris Pick-Up	<b>16</b> Charter Review Committee Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
21	<b>22</b> Trash & Recycling Pickup	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
28	<b>29</b> Trash & Recycling Pickup Yard Debris Pick-Up	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

## Interesting Facts

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and Thanksgiving 2021 occurs on Thursday, November 25. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Native Americans shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.