

Orlo Vista United Safe Neighborhood

A newsletter about issues important to you and your neighbors

Community Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. Orlo Vista Chamber of Commerce 38 Hastings Street June 20, 2023 July 18, 2023

August 15, 2023

Contact <u>oak5455@aol.com</u> or 407-484-5164 for meeting assistance

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Orange County
Customer Service
3-1-1

Sheriff's Non-Emergency 407-836-HELP (4357)

Sheriff's Emergency **9-1-1**

Crime Line **407-423-TIPS (8477)**

Drug Enforcement 407-521-2400

Parking Enforcement 407-836-0800

Seniors First **407-292-0177**

Housing, Food, Social Services **2-1-1**

Consumer Tips Tips to Avoiding Consumer Fraud

Learn to recognize fraud and how to avoid becoming a victim. Orange County's Consumer Protection Office is on your side to provide the information you need and protection you deserve. A few suggestions:

HIRING A CONTRACTOR

- Be cautious about door-to-door solicitors and advertisements on classified sites like Craigslist.
- Verify the contractor is licensed to perform the work you are hiring them for by calling the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395.
- Hire a contractor with a real office, not just a post office box address or residential home address.
- Verify that your contractor complies with state workers' compensation requirements by calling the Florida Division of Workers' Compensation at 800-742-2214.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

- Keep an eye on your card during the entire transaction.
- Draw a line through any blank spaces on restaurant checks if you are not going to write in a dollar amount.
- Don't give out your card number over the phone unless you know the company.
- Immediately call your credit card company if you see any suspicious charges on your statement.
- Many texts and emails about your credit card are phishing scams. If you are unsure about a text or email you receive, call the phone number on the back of your card.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Work-from-home schemes are almost always scams.
- Avoid "pay today" pressure tactics. Take the time to research and compare prices.
- Ask about the refund policy before you buy.
- Always read contracts completely before signing. If you don't understand the term, don't rely
 on the business to explain it to you. You may want to have an attorney review the contract.

For more information about the Orange County Consumer Protection Office, email fraudhelp@ocfl.net or call 407-836-3111.





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Get Involved and Have Fun

Our recent "First Friday/Remember When" (FF/RW) was Hawaiian in theme, with a halau hula (school that teaches hula) Na Opio I Orlando! Some of the dancers came and performed at the Orlo Vista Chamber Hall that evening. The blowing of the conch shell opened the evening, with a chant, "Kawika" (translated means David), and refers to King David Kalakaua (1836-1891). Numerous hulas were beautifully exhibited as the audience watched and enjoyed the lively entertainment. Flower leis were presented to every individual upon arrival. Our buffet was mainland themed with some added Hawaiian goodies. There too was public participation teaching basic hula moves, with folks learning "huki lau!" Most people recorded cellphone videos, which can be enjoyed on FACEBOOK! (Yes! Check it out!).

Spend some time getting involved and have fun with meeting OUR neighbors, in an entertaining way.

Office of Tenant Services

The Office of Tenant Services acts as a one-stop shop and clearinghouse to address issues of landlord and tenant rights for citizens located within unincorporated Orange County. It focuses on outreach and education for both tenants and landlords by providing information related to renting within Orange County.

The Office of Tenant Services ensures residents know what their rights are under Florida law. The office can also investigate complaints and enforce the Tenant Bill of Rights Ordinance and the Rental Notices Ordinance. It provides referrals for:

- Orange County Code Compliance
- Other Orange County departments
- Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association
- Nonprofit organizations
- Additional community stakeholders

What the Office of Tenant Services does NOT do:

- Provide direct monetary assistance
- Provide emergency rental assistance
- Represent consumers in legal actions
- Provide legal advice
- Force or order a landlord or tenant to provide a specific resolution

Contact the Orange County Office of Tenant Services: Email TenantServices@ocfl.net or call 407-836-7368.

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