

Did You Know?

Facts about Oak Run, Ocala, Marion County and Florida

- 1 Ponce de León spotted and landed on the Florida peninsula on April 2, 1513. He named the region La Florida ("land of flowers").
- 2 In April 1986 there were only 79 homes in Oak Run. Some homes were leased back to DECCA to be used as 'guest homes' to accommodate prospective buyers.
- 3 The City of Ocala is built near the site of the 16th century Timucua village and chiefdom of the Ocali. Taking its name from the historical village, Ocala is thought to mean "Big Hammock" in the Timucua language.
- 4 *Florida Builder* magazine selected Oak Run as "Retirement Community of the Year" in 1996.
- 5 Marion County ranks among the 20 most populous counties in Florida. It is home to approximately 330,000 people, the majority of whom live in unincorporated areas.
- 6 The main attraction at Silver Springs State Park is the headspring of the Silver River, which is the largest artesian spring in the world.
- 7 Needles was the first Florida-bred race horse to win a National Championship (1955), the Kentucky Derby (1956) and the Belmont Stakes (1956). These wins were instrumental in helping Marion County become the "Horse Capital of the World".
- 8 Also from here was one of America's fastest horses, Dr. Fager (1968) and Triple Crown winner Affirmed (1978). The 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah was trained here.
- 9 Groundbreaking for Oak Run's much anticipated first recreation center was held on May 12, 1986, and included a buffet lunch in a warehouse (nicknamed "Herb's Place") at the Construction Support Site. Seventeen months later the Orchid Club would officially open.
- 10 Jacksonville is the most populous municipality in the state and is the largest city by area in the contiguous United States.
- 11 Dunnellon is home to Florida's second largest artesian spring, Rainbow Springs. This spring feeds approximately 500 million gallons of crystal clear water each day into the scenic Rainbow River. That's enough to fill more than 757 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day.
- 12 The Timucua Indians lived in the area of Marion County and worshiped the sun. The Marion County motto is "Kingdom of the Sun".
- 13 Wishing happy birthday on May 25 to Kulbir Ghumman, creator and developer of Oak Run.
- 14 Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States, approximately 1,350 miles (2,170 km), and is the only state that borders both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.
- 15 In 1986 State Road 200 was a two-lane country road with little traffic. Grocery shopping was done in Dunnellon or Ocala.
- 16 In 1565, the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine was established, creating what would become the oldest European settlement in the continental U.S.

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- 17 The Florida Everglades is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles co-exist.
- 18 Florida is a golfer's paradise with more than 1,500 golf courses (more than any other state). There are also more than 7,000 lakes.
- 19 Oak Run's first Neighborhood 1 homesite was sold in June 1985, before any homes were built. The sales office, with 4 sales people, and the model homes were located in Pine Run.
- 20 The first closing in Neighborhood 2 was on June 12, 1986. By September 1 there were about 40 closings in Neighborhood 2.
- 21 In June 1986, after setting aside nearly \$350,000 for the project, DECCA began the beautification enhancements at the main entrance. This work included waterfalls over the natural stone, reflecting ponds and a 77 foot tall flagpole topped off by a 10 foot by 15 foot flag. It took about 8 months to complete the project.
- 22 In 1988 the entrance to Oak Run was awarded the "Community Appearance Award" by the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.
- 23 In June 1995 construction began on the Par 72 Championship Golf Course with restaurant and club facilities (Royal Oaks).
- 24 Homesite sales begin for Eagles Point in 2002. The last Eagles Point homesite sold in 2007.
- 25 The Palm Grove Club opened in 2003.
- 26 In 2014 Florida surpassed New York as the 3rd most populous state in the nation after California and Texas.
- 27 Site preparation began in July 1988 on the Par 31 nine hole Executive Course designed by John Ewseychik. It would take 20 more months for the Grand Opening to occur.
- 28 The summer 1998 issue of *Where to Retire* named Oak Run "Best Neighborhood".
- 29 Legend says Babe Ruth signed his first baseball contract in the dining room of the Tampa Bay Hotel. Babe also hit his longest home run, 587 feet, at Plant Field, a downtown Tampa stadium.
- 30 The first Oak Run Pancake Breakfast was on February 22, 1986. The cost was \$1.50 per person.
- 31 The summer 1999 and 2001 issues of *Where to Retire* includes Oak Run in it's "100 Best Master-Planned Communities In America".
- 32 The "*Florida House*" is the only embassy for a state in Washington, D.C.
- 33 The committee that would become the Travel Club and later Oak Run Travel had their first outing in early 1987, a trip to the Valdosta Outlet Mall.
- 34 Florida has one of only two naturally round lakes in the world, located in DeFuniak Springs.

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- 35 Florida ranks #2 in the nation for watermelon production, growing nearly 670 million pounds in 2016, about 18% of the US total.
- 36 Some of the first groups formed at Oak Run were Bingo, Bridge, Crafts, Exercise, Garden and Poker.
- 37 Jerrie Mock, the first woman to fly solo around the world (1964), retired to Quincy, near Florida's capital Tallahassee.
- 38 The 1,000th homesite closing in Oak Run took place on November 30, 1989.
- 39 The world's first scheduled passenger airline flight was from St. Petersburg to Tampa on January 1, 1914. The pilot was local boat mechanic Tony Jannus. Tickets cost \$5 each way.
- 40 In February, 1990, the 1913 yard (men) and 1728 yard (women) Executive Club golf course opened. The "Grand Opening" ceremony took place on Sunday, March 4. The Par 31 course encompassed 27 acres of fairways and greens.
- 41 The first Residents Association vote for Directors was on January 29, 1986. From a slate of 4 candidates Roy Eldridge and Marge Austin were elected. The Board was expanded by an election on May 13 when Earl Radke and Charles Wood were elected.
- 42 The September 1993 issue of regional magazine *Gainesville / Ocala Business* featured Mr. Ghumman and Oak Run.
- 43 Groundbreaking for the Gazebo Bar & Grill and Pro Shop at the Executive Club took place on September 12, 1995.
- 44 In 1846 Ocala became the county seat of the newly formed (in 1844) Marion County (honoring General Francis Marion).
- 45 In January 1990 the community is now referred to as Oak Run Country Club.
- 46 A post office was established in Ocala on September 12, 1847. William Roberts was Ocala's first postmaster.
- 47 In 2004 construction was well underway on the Walmart Supercenter along SR-200, West of Oak Run.
- 48 The "Grand Opening and Dedication" of the Orchid Club was on October 28, 1987.
- 49 The Oct / Nov 1997 issue of *Gainesville / Ocala Business* features Royal Oaks as "Florida's Best New Golf Club".
- 50 By 1890 Ocala had expanded to four square miles and its population had increased to 1,895, then the fifth largest town in Florida.
- 51 In 1986 Harriet Hertwig and Mary Kozel were elected as Oak Run's first Neighborhood Reps.
- 52 In the 1870s steamboats were the main mode of transportation. The Ocklawaha River was not only the main commercial shipping line but also brought tourists to Marion County. The famed Ocklawaha run to Silver Springs was a "must-see" for tourists visiting Florida.

Did You Know?

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- 53 During January 1995 the 2,000th homesite closing took place in The Preserve.
- 54 In January 1996 the opening of the Gazebo Bar & Grill and Pro Shop at the Executive Club occurred.
- 55 In January 1997 the Aquatic Sports Center opened.
- 56 Legendary horseman Bonnie Heath, whose colt Needles became the first state-bred runner to earn a national championship and the first to win the Kentucky Derby, died on November 4, 2001. A section of US-27 honors him as Bonnie Heath Boulevard.
- 57 In November, 1986, the first Craft Fair was held in the "Palm Clubhouse", a 3-bedroom home (Palm model) being used as a temporary clubhouse. It had a heated pool, a hot tub (whirlpool), one pool table in the garage and the smallest bedroom was a library.
- 58 On Thanksgiving Day in 1883 most of downtown Ocala, built with wood, was destroyed by a raging fire. The downtown area was rebuilt using brick, granite and steel, becoming known as "Brick City" when finished in 1888. The nickname is still in use today.
- 59 Between 1889 and 1906, 13 cigar factories were located in the west Ocala area called Marti City named after Cuban patriot Jose Marti.
- 60 The first Neighborhood 1 closing was on December 12, 1985. During that month, 27 homes closed in 10 days (there were no closings during Christmas week).
- 61 The first Christmas Tree Trim was held in the Orchid Club on December 13, 1987.
- 62 Groundbreaking for the Aquatic Sports Center located between Neighborhoods 11 and 12 took place in December, 1995.
- 63 The year 1997 ends sadly when the much loved and respected Nans Ghumman died suddenly on December 4th at age 56.
- 64 Record low temperatures on Christmas Eve, 1989, destroy many citrus trees on farms in North Central Florida. The freezing temps reach as far South as the Everglades.

credits: Alana I, Ron K, oakrunhistory.blogspot.com, ocalafl.org, ocalaonline.com, visitflorida.com, wikipedia.org