

Application Form

Profile

Prefix First Name Last Name

dgulling@verteks.com

Home Address Suite or Apt

City State Postal Code

Business Name and Address

Mark's Prime Steakhouse of Ocala, 30 S. Magnolia Ave, Ocala, FL 34471

Business Owner

Home: (352) 209-8477 Business: (352) 482-1450

Are you a resident of Marion County?

Yes No

If you are a resident, state length of time in years:

33

Do you own property within the City Limits?

Yes No

Do you reside within the City Limits?

Yes No

Do you own a business within the City Limits?

Yes No

Do you hold a public office?

Yes No

Are you a registered City voter?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you employed by the City?

☐ Yes ☒ No

At the present time, do you serve on a City Board, Commission, Authority, or Committee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Please Note: A board/commission member shall not serve on more than one City board/commission at a time, unless that board/commission is an interim Ad Hoc Committee.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Committee: Submitted

Please note this application is effective for one year from date of submission.

Until such time as you are selected for the board/commission of your choice, can we submit your application when vacancies occur without contacting you each time?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why do you think you are qualified to serve on this board/commission?

As a long-time Ocala resident, business owner, and downtown property owner, I bring a deeply rooted commitment to the vitality and long-term success of our downtown district. I have invested in multiple downtown properties, including The Gathering Cafe, Serendipity Boutique, Brown Dog Coffeehouse, Venture Suites, Courtyard on Broadway, Mark's Prime Steakhouse, and the Shannon Roth Collection. These businesses and spaces serve a broad cross-section of our community—from entrepreneurs and professionals to shoppers, diners, and visitors. With over three decades of business leadership experience and firsthand knowledge of both the opportunities and challenges facing downtown stakeholders, I believe I can offer valuable insight to the advisory board. I understand what it takes to attract and retain tenants, create inviting and walkable spaces, and develop sustainable commercial models that contribute to the city's economic and cultural goals. I am deeply invested—not just financially, but personally—in ensuring that Ocala's downtown continues to thrive as a destination for locals and visitors alike. My collaborative approach and practical experience make me well-suited to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission and to support the city's efforts to enhance and promote our historic core.

Brief Resume of Education and Experience:

I'm a seasoned business executive, entrepreneur, and proud U.S. Army veteran with over 30 years of leadership experience across the technology, hospitality, and real estate sectors. As the Founder and CEO of Verteks Consulting, I've had the privilege of building a respected IT services firm that helps business and government clients modernize their infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity, and improve communications. I'm proud of the work we've done and the recognition we've earned, including being named Small Business of the Year by the Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership. I also serve on the WatchGuard Technologies Global Partner Advisory Council, helping shape the future of cybersecurity solutions. Beyond technology, I'm passionate about helping Ocala thrive. I'm a managing member of Mark's Prime Steakhouse and a founding partner of Ocala Broadway Partners, where I focus on revitalizing downtown through strategic property acquisitions and improvements. I'm a graduate of Leadership Ocala Marion and have served on several nonprofit boards, including Grace Christian School and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County. My journey began in the U.S. Army, where I served proudly during the Gulf War. Today, my greatest joys are my family—my wife Michelle and our two sons, David and Sean—and contributing to the community that has given me so much.

[Don_Gulling_Professional_Resume_2025.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

By submitting this application, you hereby confirm that you have read and understand the application, that all information furnished by yourself is true and accurate and that, to the best of your knowledge, you meet the criteria for serving on the board(s)/commission(s) for which you are applying.

If you have any questions, please call the Office of the City Clerk at (352) 629-8266.



Don Gulling

Founder & CEO, Verteks Consulting, Inc.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dongulling/>

5083 SE 6th Ave, Ocala, FL 34480

352-209-8477 / dgulling@verteks.com

Professional Summary

Seasoned business executive with a longstanding track record supporting business and government clients in improving technology infrastructure, unified communications, and cybersecurity resiliency. As Founder and CEO of Verteks Consulting, delivers strategic direction, managed services, and solutions for enterprise-level environments.

Professional Experience

Verteks Consulting, Inc. — Founder & Chief Executive Officer

1996–Present | Ocala, Florida

- Established and lead Verteks Consulting, a technology services firm specializing in IT infrastructure modernization, unified communications, cybersecurity, and managed IT solutions for business and government clients.
- Provide strategic consulting and hands-on guidance to improve clients' IT capabilities, optimize communications platforms, and ensure operational security and reliability.
- Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership Small Business of The Year 2015
- WatchGuard Technologies Global Partner Advisory Council Member 2017-2025

Mark's Prime Steakhouse of Ocala — Managing Member

May 2022–Present | Ocala, Florida

- Provide strategic oversight and leadership for one of Ocala's premier fine dining establishments, guiding operations, guest experience, and long-term growth while maintaining a reputation for excellence in service, cuisine, and community engagement.

Ocala Broadway Partners — *Managing Member*

June 2022–Present | Ocala, Florida

- Lead an entrepreneurial real estate venture focused on revitalizing downtown Ocala through the acquisition and enhancement of key commercial properties, including 40 SW 1st Avenue, 120–124 SW Broadway, 304 & 306 SW Broadway, and 22 S. Magnolia Avenue, with a mission to support economic growth, local business, and community development.
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Board Service and Community Involvement

- Graduate of Leadership Ocala Marion Class XXIII
 - Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Grace Christian School, 2010 – 2016
 - President, Board of Directors, Dalton Woods HOA, 2006 – 2013
 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Marion County Board Member, 2001 – 2015
 - Man & Youth Award Recipient, 2002
 - Board Member of The Year Award, 2003
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Military Service

- **Sergeant (E-5), U.S. Army – Infantry**
Served from 1988 to 1991 as a squad leader in HQ Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division; deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield (Gulf War). Honorably discharged.
Awards: Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal (3), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medals (Saudi Arabia & Kuwait).
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Personal

- Married to Michelle for 28 years; proud father of two sons, David (22) and Sean (20). Strong commitment to family, community, and faith.