

Bernie Sanders makes clear he wants to restore progressive taxation and a higher minimum wage. Photograph: Evan Vucci/AP

# The times they are a changin’

by Thomas Piketty

*This article was originally published on Thomas Piketty’s blog for Le Monde on Feb. 15. The original can be found at <http://piketty.blog.lemonde.fr/2016/02/15/the-rise-of-sanders/>*

How should we interpret the incredible success of the ‘socialist’ Bernie Sanders in the American Primaries? The Vermont senator now has the lead over Hillary Clinton amongst the Democrat supporters under 50 years and only the senior citizens’ vote has enabled Hillary to maintain her advantage. Faced with the Clinton electoral

machine and the conservatism of the major media, Bernie will perhaps not win the primary. But it has been demonstrated that another Sanders, possibly younger

## Gainesville elections on March 15

By Joe Courter

Please exercise your right to vote March 15 (or sooner with early voting). Outside the City of Gainesville you just have the Presidential Primary for those registered

See **ELECTIONS**, p. 2

and less white, could one day soon win the American presidential elections and change the face of the country. In many

See **SANDERS**, p. 5

### INSIDE ...


From the Publisher .....	3
Editors’ Picks .....	7
Event Calendar .....	12–13
Radio Programming .....	18
CMC Events .....	19
Oral History .....	20–21
Directory .....	22–23



*ELECTIONS, from p. 1*  
D or R. We say Bern Baby Bern! Let's make Alachua County the higher percent-age for Bernie in the state!

Within the City everyone (D, R or other) has the chance to knock out Ed Braddy from the Mayor's seat by voting for Lau-ren Poe. Lauren is a solid forward think-ing person and we agree with the letter which follows from Eileen Roy; Braddy has a record of ethical problems and questionable judgment. Go Poe! In the District 4 race we very strongly support the election of Adrian Hayes-Santos, a life long Gainesvillian with a strong pro-gressive vision. 🐢

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## Letter to the City of Gainesville: Vote Lauren Poe

Hello everyone,

I am writing to ask you to vote for Democratic challenger Lauren Poe for Mayor of Gainesville. Even if you are not a Gainesville resident, you are likely affected by the decisions made by the Gainesville City Commission.

Lauren is a man of integrity whose character we can trust. His vision for our city is one of inclusion and smart growth. His previous tenure on the City Commission was conspicuous for its fairness, its embrace of the innovation economy, and its progressive agenda.

On the other hand, his opponent, Tea Party-backed Republican Ed Braddy, likes to pretend that he invented all the above since he was elected three years ago. It all started much earlier.

Braddy's scandal-ridden term as mayor has been an embarrassment to all decent citizens.

Does anyone believe it is ethical to accept money for restaurants, strip clubs, and hotel bills? All public officials are bound by law to undergo annual ethics training. Where was Ed

Braddy? Perhaps he thinks ethical standards don't apply to him.

In a recent forum, Mayor Braddy boasted that he has restored civility to the City Commission. Not true in my case.

When I appeared as a citizen before the commission in December, I was attacked by two commissioners whose vitriol and sarcasm was allowed by the Mayor to continue unabated until I walked out. You see, they did not like hearing the truth about an injustice the Mayor allowed to take place. The Mayor is a bully and tolerates bullies.

Please vote! When good people don't show up at the polls, bad things happen. Bad things are happening in Tallahassee due to voter apathy. Clean water, health care, and public schools are all in jeopardy.

Gainesville is a beautiful and precious place. Don't let bad things happen here. Vote Lauren Poe for Mayor! Pass it on!

Sincerely,  
Eileen Roy,  
Gainesville resident and Alachua County School Board Member 🐢



Cartoon by Mike Luckovich, AJC.com

## From the publisher: Not a 'reality show' – This is real


As most of you have gathered, I am a political junkie. It was the Presidential campaign of 1968 that first caught my attention, specifically the Democratic party debate I watched after Robert Kennedy joined the race. I was 17, had already started to question things I was seeing in the world. The news of his assassination devastated me a few weeks later, in him I thought there was hope. And going forward, it's been a cycle of hopes and horrors. Nixon over Humphrey, and then trouncing McGovern. Yikes. Carter in with hope, then Reagan twice followed by elder Bush ... a dozen years of bad news, some obvious then; others revealed as decades have passed. Hope with Bill Clinton, but major disappointments and flat out bizarre-ness in that term, followed by the installation of George W. Bush and the shit-storm that followed. Then, yes, I bought into the hopes again with Obama, but again disappointment and disgust at a ideologically paralyzed government and a President who did little but compromise with the right and conspire with the corporations.

And now; here we are. The Iguana will be at the printer on "Super Tuesday" March 1, so that outcome is unknown, but I am again in hope mode. During the span of the decades run through above, there has not been a major candidate telling the truth and speaking from principle like Bernie Sanders. There is a definite buzz out there and the people with the biggest stake in the election – the ones feeling the pain of debt, lack of opportunity, and a questionable environmental future – the young, are overwhelmingly in his corner. Florida and Ohio will be the major primaries voting on March 15. Early voting here starts March 4.

There is a burgeoning consciousness change out there. Economic inequality is being addressed and challenged. It began in the Obama-Romney race, and the huge impact wealthy donors tried to exert, but it amplified during Occupy, when the 1percent vs 99 percent came to the fore. Unbridled capitalism is being challenged in a big way, special interest groups like the Koch brothers are being exposed. The demonized concept of Socialism is being better understood as, in the words of the Constitution, a way to "Promote the General Welfare." The police violence against African Americans and their lack of punishment has lead to the powerful new voice embodied in the #blacklivesmatter movement and the Dream Defenders. Young Latin Americans are challenging deportations and harassment. On another front, climate change and environmental degradation have awakened a growing movement of people to the need to address the health of this one planet we all share.

We are witnessing a real challenge to our two political parties. The Democratic Leadership Council has lost control of the D's, and the coronation of Hillary has had a monkey-wrench thrown in the gears with the Sanders campaign. And the R's?? They have created their own multi-headed monster and they have no idea what to do next. Meanwhile any third party challenge is squelched by the entrenched two party system (perhaps as big a problem as big money). These are exciting and alarming times. And we need an alarm clock to collectively wake us up.

My take? Feel the Bern, but keep that fire burning. If he is the candidate and elected, he will need a movement to back him up, and change the House and Senate. If Hillary prevails as nominee and wins, we citizens need to be awake and active, and not complacent as we were with Obama (and Bill Clinton). It'll be awkward, she will need to, at times, feel our support, especially against sexist attacks (true now, by the way), but also our feedback and heat. And if any of the current crop of Repubs are elected? Get ready, 'cause it's gonna get crazy. In any case, nap time is over. Brrrrriinnnnnggg it on. 🐢



Joe Courter

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Publisher:  
Joe Courter

Editors Emeritus:  
Jenny Brown  
Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:  
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Jenny Brown  
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Distribution:  
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Jack Price  
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# The Family Garden in Gainesville

Community Supported Agriculture is a growing trend across the country, and we are well represented in our area with local farms that can be contacted at the various Farmer's Markets in our area. The Family Garden is one example of a new generation of small farms and farm families giving people healthy, locally grown food alternatives. (Citizen Co-op at 435 S. Main St. is also a buyer of locally grown veggies and other products and needs community support as well. They are open every day except Tuesday from 10 am to 8 pm.)

*NOTE: The Downtown Farmer's Market is now (thankfully) back at the Bo Diddley Plaza on Wednesdays from 4-7pm*

In operation since, 2007, the Family Garden has recently moved its operation to 1655 SE 23rd Place in Gainesville. Farmer Jordan Brown previously ran the operation in Bell, Florida for eight years. The farm grows certified organic fruits and veg-

etables and sells both wholesale and direct to consumer at the Alachua County Farmers Market and through their Community Supported Agriculture program.

The new location is flourishing and Brown anticipates an excellent harvest. Spring crops of carrots, beets, garlic, onions, rutabagas, napa cabbage, and a variety of leafy greens are growing steadily, which will be followed by watermelon, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers and squash.

"Our goal here is to show people where their food comes from," said Brown "We strive to show people that organic farming can benefit not only the farmer and the consumer, but also the Earth. We aim to make organic food more approachable and accessible."

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program's spring shares are available now. By signing up for a subscription, members will become a partner of the farm for 17 weeks, enjoying the first and freshest pick of what the farm has to offer. For an investment of \$400, averaging \$23 per week, members will pick up a full selection of produce each week. CSA shares are available for pick up at the University of Florida on Thursdays and at the Alachua County Farmer's Market on Saturday. The investment helps The Family Garden raise the capital needed for the continuous cycle of planting and harvesting.

The Family Garden has established itself as a leader in the sustainable agriculture community in Florida. It is certified organic and is the only Food Justice Certified farm in the South. This certification ensures the fair treatment of workers, so the employees at The Family Garden make a living wage and have rights that other agricultural workers are often denied.

Learn more about The Family Garden and the Agricultural Justice Project at [www.thefamilygardencsa.com](http://www.thefamilygardencsa.com) and [www.agriculturaljusticeproject.org](http://www.agriculturaljusticeproject.org).

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When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7 p.m.  
Where: 1625 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gainesville, FL 32603.

*SANDERS, from p. 1*  
respects, we are witnessing the end of the politico-ideological cycle opened by the victory of Ronald Reagan at the November 1980 elections.

Let's glance back for an instant. From the 1930s to the 1970s, the United States pursued an ambitious policy of reduction in social inequalities. Partly to avoid any resemblance with Old Europe, seen then as extremely unequal and contrary to the American democratic spirit, in the inter-war years the country invented a highly progressive income and estate tax and set up levels of fiscal progressiveness never used on our side of the Atlantic. Between 1930 and 1980, for half a century, the rate of taxation applicable to the highest American incomes (over one million dollars a year) was on average 82 percent with peaks at 91 percent from the 1940s to the 1960s, from Roosevelt to Kennedy, and it was still 70 percent when Reagan was elected in 1980. This policy in no way affected the strong growth of the post-war American economy, doubtless because there is not much point in paying super-managers 10 million dollars when one million will do.

The estate tax, which was just as progressive, with rates in the range of 70-80 percent applicable to the biggest fortunes for decades (whereas this rate has rarely risen above 30-40 percent in Germany or in France), considerably reduced the concentration of American capital, without the wars and the destructions which did the job in Europe.

In the 1930s, the United States also implemented a federal minimum wage, well before the European countries and at a level (expressed in 2016 dollars) which was above 10 dollars per hour at the end of the 1960s, by far the highest at the time. All this took place with practically no unemployment because the level of productivity and the educational system could allow it. This was also the period when the

United States finally put an end to the legal racial discrimination still operational in the South, which was far from democratic, and launched new social policies.

But all this aroused strong resistance, in particular amongst the financial elites and in the reactionary fringes of the white electorate. Humiliated in Vietnam, the America of the 1970s was further concerned by the fact that those who had been defeated in the war (with Germany and Japan in the lead) were catching up at top speed. America was also suffering from the oil crisis, inflation and the under-indexation of the tax schedules. Reagan surfed on all these frustrations and was elected in 1980 on a programme designed to reinstate a mythical capitalism said to have existed in the past.

The culmination was the 1986 fiscal reform which ended half a century of steady fiscal progressivity and lowered the rates applicable to the highest incomes to 28 percent. This choice was never genuinely challenged by the Democrats of the Clinton years (1992-2000) and the Obama era (2008-2016) who were to stabilise the rate at around 40 percent (roughly half the average level for the period 1930-1980), the key element being an explosion of inequalities and huge salaries, in a context of weak economic growth (but slightly higher than in Europe, bogged down by other problems) and stagnation of the incomes of the majority.

Reagan also decided to freeze the level of the federal minimum wage which, as from the 1980s, has been slowly but surely eroded by inflation (little more than 7 dollars per hour in 2016, as compared with almost 11 dollars in 1969). There again, this new politico-ideological regime has shown little sign of attenuation by the Democratic alternation of Clinton and Obama.

Today, Sanders' success demonstrates that a substantial proportion of America is tired of the rise in inequality and these pseudo-alternatives and intends to return to a progressive agenda and the American tradition of egalitarianism. Hillary, who fought on the left of

Obama in 2008, particularly on the issue of health insurance, today appears as the keeper of the status quo, the heir to the Reagan-Clinton-Obama political regime.

Bernie clearly proposes to reinstate fiscal progressivity and a high minimum wage (\$15 per hour). He also adds universal health care and free higher education in a country where inequality in access to education has reached incredible heights and has thus revealed the wide gulf between the reality and the winners of the system with their somewhat enervating speeches advocating a meritocratic approach.

At the same time, the Republican Party is sinking into a discourse which is hyper-nationalist, anti-immigrant and anti-Islam (a religion that is almost non-existent in the United States), and also into an endless glorification of rich whites. The judges appointed under Reagan and Bush have lifted all legal restrictions over the influence of private money in political life, which considerably complicates the task of candidates like Sanders. But new forms of political mobilisation and participatory financing can win the day and steer America into a new political cycle. We are very far from the doom and gloom of the prophecies predicting the end of history. 🐸

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# Stand up to Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser

By Scott Camil

The Alachua County Comprehensive plan is as close as we can get to a political consensus and compromise in our community. The product of many years of citizen advisory committee deliberations, workshops, public hearings, and legal challenges, then formally adopted and continually revised by an elected county commission, it provides a carefully considered blueprint for future growth in the unincorporated areas of our county. It balances the public interest with the rights of property owners by directing growth to appropriate areas and protecting public health, neighborhoods, farms, wetlands, and significant natural areas.



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In 2011, Plum Creek created the Envision Alachua Task Force and began working on a plan to develop its lands in eastern Alachua County. This would require massive changes to the county's comprehensive plan, sparking significant opposition by environmentalists and rural citizens. The Envision Alachua plan is now before the County Commission.

In February, the county held three special meetings on whether to approve the Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser (PC/W) plan or not. A huge outpouring of citizens wanted to speak on this issue.

Each person got up to three minutes to speak, and more than 200 people gave testimony over a span of three days and more than 11-1/2 hours. Those speakers who support the comprehensive plan outnumbered the pro PC/W plan by more than 3 to 1. These speakers are a cross-section of our community, young, old, students, retired people, urban and rural, a cross-section of backgrounds and income. All of these people have one thing in common, protecting our rural way of life, our environment and the comprehensive plan that protects both.

The PC/W side is primarily made up of special interests, Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser's staff, paid consultants, the Chamber of Commerce, Envision Task Force members, the builders association, and a sprinkling of people from groups and organizations that they have given money to. PC/W is having a hard time in Alachua County - they are used to having their way using money, propaganda, manipulation and deception.

In the introduction of their PR book, the first sentence says, "Plum Creek initiated the Envision Alachua planning process in response to a request from Alachua County." This first sentence is a deception - there was no request by Alachua County.

The deception continues, from their tightly controlled and carefully choreographed meetings trying to manufacture consent, to giving money to worthy causes and organizations in order

to buy good will and political influence. They pander to low income folks, feigning concern for wage disparity, while we all know that they don't really support a true living wage.

They act like they believe their own propaganda. They promise opportunities for east Gainesville, while their own map shows that their land is further away from east Gainesville than existing economic and educational opportunities that are much closer and have public transportation.

They don't understand our citizens. As much as people hate taxes, our citizens have voted to tax themselves every time there has been initiative on the ballot to raise money in order to invest in our community, buy land, and put it into conservation.

This is the big difference between us. They are motivated by greed and think that they can buy everyone off. They believe that accumulation of wealth is what life is about so have a hard time when coming up against a culture motivated by quality of life, not greed. Our folks can't be bought.

Our County Commission will decide this issue and PC/W knows this. Since 2012 they have been trying to knock Mike Byerly off the commission. This year, PC/W's Task Force member, Kevin Thorpe, is going after Mike Byerly's seat. You might remember that Pastor Thorpe tried to keep Ken Cornell off the county commission. Mike and Ken have been unyielding in the protection of our environment and comprehensive plan.

School Board member Eileen Roy, who also serves on the Planning Commission, voted to recommend that the county not approve PC/W's plan. She too has an opponent, Julian Kinsey, another Task Force member.

If PC/W gets its way, they will make lots of money at our expense. If we win, we insure a better future for our kids and grandkids. Please stand up to PC/W. Support our elected representatives who fight for us and our future. ☘

**Bad Officials  
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## Editors' picks: news that didn't fit


**Blacked Out History** by Dream Defenders, a celebration of the rich history of people of color, but particularly the collective culture and revolutionary history that has been blacked out from our textbooks -- <http://ddblackedouthistory.tumblr.com/> (JN)

**Hillary Clinton Sold Out Honduras: Lanny Davis, Corporate Cash, and the Real Story about the Death of a Latin America Democracy** by Matthew Pulver -- [http://www.salon.com/2015/06/08/exclusive\\_hillary\\_clinton\\_sold\\_out\\_honduras\\_lanny\\_davis\\_corporate\\_cash\\_and\\_the\\_real\\_story\\_about\\_the\\_death\\_of\\_a\\_latina\\_america\\_democracy/](http://www.salon.com/2015/06/08/exclusive_hillary_clinton_sold_out_honduras_lanny_davis_corporate_cash_and_the_real_story_about_the_death_of_a_latina_america_democracy/) (JC)

**How America Made Donald Trump Unstoppable** by Matt Taibbi -- <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/how-america-made-donald-trump-unstoppable-20160224> (PB)

**Liberal redbaiting** by Doug Henwood -- <http://lbo-news.com/2016/02/24/liberal-redbaiting/> (JC)

**Syria: Another Pipeline War** by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. -- <http://ecowatch.com/2016/02/25/robert-kennedy-jr-syria-pipeline-war/> ☘



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## Faculty salary impasse over, UF finds in favor of UF!

By Susan Hegeman

UF Chapter President, United Faculty of Florida (FEA/AFT/NEA)

On January 28, the impasse over faculty salaries between UF and the faculty union ended with a Kafkaesque flourish, with UF's own Board of Trustees deciding in favor of UF against the union.

At the end of a hearing attended by about eighty faculty, students, and other UF constituents, Trustee Steven Scott gave a short statement, in which he lectured the faculty on fiscal responsibility. UF sits on the largest reserve of funds, both in dollars and in percent of operating budget, of any university within the Florida state university system. Yet Scott told the faculty that it wasn't prudent to give them the raise the union had proposed. Instead, he said, UF's millions in accumulated funds were for things like replacing the "shrubby" after a hurricane.

With very little deliberation, the Board voted for what is effectively a 1.25 percent faculty raise for 2015-16.

It may seem strange to be upset about a raise of any amount, no matter how small. But in this case, faculty were angered that the Board of Trustees ignored the recommendation of an outside neutral observer who concurred with the union's case for better salaries.

In November, a special magistrate was brought in to recommend a resolution to an impasse over salary negotiations brought by United Faculty of Florida, the union representing UF faculty in some of its largest colleges, including Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Health and Human Performance, the Arts, and Business. It also represents teachers at the PK Yonge Developmental Research School.

Special Magistrate Tom Young, himself a former education administrator, recommended a settlement that more than doubled the UF management's raise proposal. Young concluded that a reasonable raise package would help UF reach its goal of being a "top ten" public university by making faculty salaries more

competitive with those of its aspirational peers: "flagship" universities like UC Berkeley, U Texas, and UNC.

Young also rejected the university's claim that a higher faculty raise would jeopardize UF's financial health. In fact, he emphasized that UF owed it to the taxpayers of the state of Florida and its current students to spend a reasonable portion of its reserves on its educational mission, which included attracting and retaining top faculty.

UF leaders have stated that the university

## UF Graduate Student Labor Union pushes for fee relief for graduate assistants

By: Kevin Funk, Co-President,  
Graduate Assistants United (GAU)

Every semester, the University of Florida's 4,000 graduate, teaching, and research assistants are responsible for paying exorbitant university fees. This spring 2015 semester, most of us will pay around \$700 back to our employer. For many, this is more than the amount of their biweekly paycheck.

That the university would charge its graduate assistants such a significant amount in fees — hundreds of dollars higher per semester on average than its peer institutions — is especially ironic given the recent campaign, which Graduate Assistants United (GAU) supports, to turn the University of Florida into a Top 10 public research institution.

Graduate Assistant poverty is a very real but hidden problem that affects many members of the Gator Nation.

At a time in which the university's budget is increasing, and university administrators are receiving substantial raises, GAU calls on the University of Florida to make Graduate Assistants a priority and ease the significant fee burden that is pushing so many of us below the poverty line.

On Friday, March 13, our Graduate Assistant community will gather together at Turlington Plaza to push for fee relief and remind our administrators that the University of Florida only works because we do. It is time for the administration to recognize our fundamental contributions to the university's mission by providing Graduate Assistants with fair and livable compensation packages. 🐢

has emerged from the Great Recession in good financial health. It has a \$1.5 billion endowment, \$148 million of which are in unrestricted net assets.

In 2015, it set a fundraising record of \$315 million, and its faculty set a research funding record of \$707 million. It received \$24 million in performance-based funds from the state legislature — more than any other state university. The faculty, whose raises have lagged in recent years, maintain that they should get some recognition for their part in these successes.

There is also the matter of fairness. UF President Kent Fuchs, hired in 2015 at a base salary of \$860,000 (plus \$160,000 in deferred salary), is eligible for an annual raise of 4 percent if the university meets short-term performance goals. Yet the university claims

it can only find money for a 1.25 percent raise for the faculty who do the bulk of the teaching and research at UF.

UF is Alachua County's largest employer. It has recently made some small strides in addressing the issue of pay inequity. Its lowest-paid employees now receive \$12 per hour, up from \$10. It has also taken some small steps to help out graduate students who teach and conduct research in exchange for low stipends, yet have to pay student fees back to their employer. But there is still much more to do. Faculty raises have not kept up with those given to administrators, and their pay lags behind that of faculty at peer institutions. Yet UF's rise to preeminence will be based on their hard work. It's time they were paid accordingly. 🐢

**Adrian**  
HAYES-SANTOS

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**ADRIAN HAYES-SANTOS**  
**ON MARCH 15, 2016**

I want to know what issues  
are important to you.  
Call me at (352) 514-3191 or email me at  
[adrian@adrianforgainesville.com](mailto:adrian@adrianforgainesville.com)

[AdrianForGainesville.com](http://AdrianForGainesville.com)

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Paid by Adrian Hayes-Santos for Gainesville City Commission District 4

Paid for by Poe for Mayor



**POE**  
FOR MAYOR

## EQUITY FOR ALL OF GAINESVILLE

### FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Protecting our neighborhoods
  - Investing in our children
- Expanding recreational opportunities

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Jobs for all skill-sets
- Support a living wage
- Grow and retain our own creative talent

### TRANSPORTATION


- A system that works for all users
- A safe system, with the goal of zero deaths by 2020
- An efficient system for all modes of travel

**ELECTION DAY IS MARCH 15, 2016**


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## Medicare CUTS in FY 2017 budget

Pay attention to YOUR earned benefits and tell YOUR elected officials: "No cuts to Medicare!"



by Carol Thomas

The president's fiscal year 2017 budget has more bad news than good news for senior citizens. While Social Security beneficiaries will see no changes in the way Social Security benefits are determined, proposals for Medicare are downright bad news.

What's proposed are higher deductibles, means-testing and more cost-shifting to seniors and their families.

Medicare is the good and moral healthcare program for seniors that was designed to keep retirees and their families free from the added burden of healthcare costs as family members deal with the obligation of caring for their aging relatives. President Johnson signed Medicare into law in 1965 and former President Harry Truman was the first to receive a Medicare card.

In 2012, there were 49.4 million Medicare beneficiaries across the nation, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation.

While the FY 2017 budget has been proposed, it's now up to us citizens to let our elected officials know they should not cut Medicare, but preserve and protect Medicare. After all, we pay in to Medicare during our working years and expect it to be there for us when we reach our retirement years.

Here are excerpts from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare's statement released in February 2016 on the proposed budget's targeting of Medicare through cuts and cost-shifting. Use these facts and figures from the NCPSSM's Government Relations and Policy office when talking to your elected officials or writing letters to the editor.

"The National Committee opposes proposals in the President's budget which would shift additional costs to

Medicare beneficiaries. Over half of Medicare beneficiaries had incomes below \$24,150 per year in 2014, and they are already paying 23 percent of their average Social Security check for Parts B and D cost-sharing in addition to paying for health services not covered by Medicare. Medicare beneficiaries with annual incomes over \$85,000 for individuals and \$170,000 for couples are paying higher income-related premiums.

"We do not share the Administration's view that people will make wiser choices about using health care services if they have to pay more of the cost. Rather, we agree with research that shows these additional costs could lead many seniors to forgo necessary care, which, in turn, could lead to more serious health conditions and higher costs.

"The President's budget contains proposals we oppose which would increase costs for future beneficiaries, including the following:

"1. Applies a \$25 increase in the Part B deductible in 2020, 2022, and 2024 for new beneficiaries. This increase would be in addition to the current Medicare Part B deductible that beneficiaries pay which, along with general revenues, funds Part B physician and outpatient services. This proposal is estimated to cost beneficiaries \$4.23 billion over 10 years.

"2. Imposes a home health copayment for new beneficiaries beginning in 2020. A \$100 copayment per home health episode would be applicable for episodes with five or more visits not preceded by a hospital or other inpatient post-acute care stay. This proposal is estimated to cost beneficiaries approximately \$1.30 billion over 10 years.

"3. Expands income-related premiums under Medicare Parts B and D. Beginning in 2020, the Administration proposes to restructure means-testing in Medicare Parts B and D by increasing the amount of income-related premiums, and maintaining the income thresholds associated with income-related premiums until 25 percent of beneficiaries under Parts B and D are subject to these premiums. A Kaiser Family Foundation

study found that this proposal would affect individuals with incomes equivalent to \$45,600 for an individual and \$91,300 for a couple in 2014. This proposal is estimated to cost beneficiaries approximately \$41.2 billion over 10 years."

As a senior looking at the president's budget, I am horrified at the manipulations of our benefits in terms of prices paid and benefits pared down. I feel seniors will be betrayed by this budget after a life of work and investment in their retirement.

While I want a Medicare-For-All healthcare system through a single-payer structure, I also believe we need to protect the Medicare system we have now and make sure our federal representative and senators know we are aware and watching and – as the old saying goes – will remember how they voted come election day and will vote them in or vote them out. "We'll remember in November."

This is a very important election year. Ask your presidential candidate if she or he supports these cuts or if they want to privatize Medicare, another bad idea.

If you don't ask, who will?

The only real remedy is Medicare expansion through single-payer insurance. But in the meantime, let's keep a watchful eye on the Medicare system we have now and let elected officials know we want our earned benefits protected, not cut.

Let's all say together, "No cuts to Medicare!"

Carol Thomas is a volunteer with the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and a member of the Alachua County Labor Coalition. ✂

**CAN I HELP?**



**Housecleaning**  
Weekly/Bi-Weekly

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Innovative Ideas

**Pet Care**  
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Overnights

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**UF Grad and Local Homeowner**  
Reliable/Trustworthy with Excellent References  
(352) 495-2262 / (352) 575-4080

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBERATION**  
presents a screening of:  [www.womensliberation.org](http://www.womensliberation.org)



**FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION**  
with KATHIE SARACHILD, ZOHARAH SIMMONS,  
KENDRA VINCENT, and WHITNEY MUTCH  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016**  
doors at 6:30pm, film at 7pm  
**@ THE WOOLY**  
20 N. Main St.  
\$5-10 donation  
**A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT**

**GET READY. GET SET. VOTE!**


**Vote By Mail** - Request an absentee ballot at [VoteAlachua.com](http://VoteAlachua.com) or call our office. Be sure your signature on file is current. Be aware that March 9th by 5 PM is the last day to request a ballot be mailed to you.

**Early Voting** - Fri., March 4th thru Sat., March 12th from 9 AM to 5 PM except Thursday, March 10th Thursday from 10 AM to 6 PM at the following locations:  
Supervisor of Elections Office – 515 N. Main Street ★  
Tower Road Branch Library – 3020 SW 75th Street  
Millhopper Branch Library – 3145 NW 43rd Street

**Election Day Voting** - Vote at your precinct between 7AM to 7PM. FL law requires that you present photo and signature ID, or vote a provisional ballot.

March 15, 2016 - Election Day!  
Presidential Preference Primary & Gainesville City Election

**Pam Carpenter**  
Alachua County  
Supervisor of Elections  
[www.VoteAlachua.com](http://www.VoteAlachua.com)  
(352)374-5252







Sunday  
Domingo

Monday  
Lunes

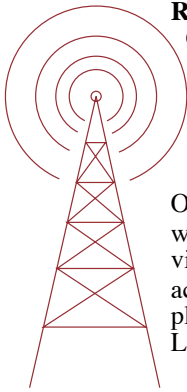
Tuesday  
Martes

Wednesday  
Miercoles

Thursday  
Jueves

Friday  
Viernes

Saturday  
Sabado



**Radio Notes:** Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at [www.wuft.org](http://www.wuft.org), [wgot.org](http://wgot.org), & [growradio.org](http://growradio.org) respectively. WGOT is a part-time over-the-air broadcast but working to be full-time in the near future. More info on local independent radio on pg 18.

On the music side of things, those on the east side or with antennas might appreciate the music on Jacksonville's public radio station at 89.9 FM, ranging from acoustic to electronic, jazz and blues, in an eclectic and pleasant mix in the evenings and night.

LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

For more events, event details, and irregularly updated calendar entries, see [www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar).

**6 Women's Movie Night**, 1st Sundays, Pride Center, 7 pm.



**1836: Mexican Army** defeats insurgency at El Alamo.  
**1857: US Supreme Court** botches Dred Scott decision.

**13 "Florida Treasures"** UF Smathers Library East 100, 3 pm.

**1781: William & Caroline Hershel** discover planet Uranus.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

**20 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Fest** continues (see 3/21).

Keep up with the CMC at [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org) for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future.

**1957: Shelton J. "Spike" Lee** born.  
SPRING EQUINOX

**27 Green Party** meets, 1112 NW 10th Ave, 2 pm (info: 352-871-1995).

If you appreciate this calendar, please consider supporting the Ig with a donation &/or subscription: PO Box 14712, Gainesville FL 32604.

**1513: Ponce de Leon** enters Florida.  
EASTER



**3 IGUANA Deadline** for April issue is April 5th; write [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

**7 Human (pt 3)**, Civic Media Ctr (433 S. Main St) doc, 7 pm.

**Gvl Citizens for Active Transportation** meets at CIED (530 E. Univ Ave), 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm.  
**1875: Maurice Ravel** born.

**14 "Participation in Local Elections"** - Fla Free Speech Forum talk by Thomas Hawkins, Wyndham Garden (formerly Paramount), 11:30 am.

**Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** meets, Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 6 pm.

**Tampa Bay Times** chair/CEO Paul Tash at UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm, free.

**Buddhism/Social Justice** doc, CMC, 7 pm.

**Gouge Away, Wino For Never**, OOF, Rosemary Kennedy at CMC, 10 pm.



**21 Witness to Innocence** doc presented by Gvl Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Civic Media Center, 7 pm.

**Gvl Food Security Group** meets 3rd Mondays, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), 7 pm.

**28 Up the Ridge** (Prison Ecology Project-hosted documentary); CMC, 7 pm.

**Garrison Keillor** at Phillips Ctr, 7:30 pm.



**1979: Three Mile Island** nuclear plant disaster begins.

**4 Girl on the Road**, doc featuring Ferron, CMC: potluck, 5:30 pm, film at 7 pm.



**1967: MLK** opposes war on Vietnam.  
**1968: MLK** shot to death.

**Mar 1 County Farmers' Market** on N 441 by Hwy Patrol Tues/Thurs/Sat, 8 am-noon.

**Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser hearing** - County Commission meets at Senior Rec Ctr (5701 NW 34th St), 5-?? pm; fire-works expected.

**School Board** meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 620 E Univ Ave, 6 pm: see sbac.edu

**Anti-war signholding** - 1st/3rd Tues, Archer Rd & 34th St, 2nd/4th Tues, Univ Ave & 13th St; 4:30-6 pm.

**8 Alachua County Commission** meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens comment, 9:30 & 5:30 - tonight: Living Wage presentation.

**"Brazil's Landless Workers Movement"** talk, CMC, 7 pm.

**1587: Mary Queen of Scots** beheaded.

INTERNAT'L WOMEN'S DAY

**15 School Board** - see 3/1.  
**She's Beautiful When She's Angry** movie & Nat'l Women's Liberation panel at the Wooly, 6:30 pm, \$5-10 slide.

**PFLAG** meets, United Church (1624 NW 5th Ave), 7 pm - see pg 4.

**22 County Commission** - see 3/8.

**The Resonant Rogues** (Asheville, NC) at Lightnin' Salvage, 6-9 pm.

**Labor Coalition** meeting, ACEA Hall (618 NW 13th Ave), 6:30 pm.

**29 I-75 Relief Task Force** meets at Hilton on SW 34th St, 5:30-8 pm - see pg 24.

**"Reconciliation in a Post Conflict Society"** talk by Rev. Gary Mason of Belfast, N. Ireland: UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm.

**1971: Lt. William Calley** convicted of "at least" 22 My Lai murders.

**5 School Board** - see 3/1.  
**The Conch** - see 3/1.

**1856: Booker T. Washington** born.  
**1937: Colin L. Powell** born.

**2 Free confidential walk-in HIV testing** at Alachua County Health Dept, 224 SE 24th St, 9 am-3 pm, M-F; & at Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St, 4-6 pm on 1st & 3rd Thurs; info: 334-7961.

**Downtown Farmers' Market** every Wed, back at Bo Diddley Plaza (yay!), 4-7 pm;  
**Edible Plant Project**, 2nd Weds.

**Move to Amend** meets weekly, Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St), 6 pm.

**1904: Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel** born.



**9 Citizens' Climate Lobby** meets, Vine Bread & Pasta (627 N. Main St), 6:30 pm.

**Just Health Care** meets, ACLC (Ste 204, 14 E. Univ Ave), 7 pm.

**Democratic Executive Committee** meets, County Commission meeting room, 7 pm.

**Mothers, Wax Wings, GUTS:** The Atlantic, 9 pm.

**1959: 1st Barbie dolls** sold.

**16 Humanists** hear Ken Sulak on Suwannee River, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 6:30 pm.

**Mellow Soul open mic**, CMC, 8 pm.

**1802: US Army** establishes academy at West Point, NY.  
**1968: US troops** massacre between 200 and 500 Vietnamese villagers in My Lai.

**23 Kirk Fiel** (Gatlinburg, TN), Lightnin' Salvage, 6-9 pm.

**Movie Night** w/ Gvl Peer Respite (mental health support group working towards actual space for people to seek comfort & aid), CMC, 7 pm.

**23 Kirk Fiel** (Gatlinburg, TN), Lightnin' Salvage, 6-9 pm.

**23 Kirk Fiel** (Gatlinburg, TN), Lightnin' Salvage, 6-9 pm.

**30**

**1945: Eric Clapton** born.

**6 C. Climate Lobby** - see 3/9.

**Vets for Peace** meet, 7 pm: call 352-375-2563 for directions.

**Elephant Man** opens at The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl); 7 pm, thru 5/1.

**3 CMC Volunteers** meet every Thursday, 5:30 pm.

**Acoustic Blues** weekly open mike Cymplify, 5402 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm.

**Stonewall Democrats**, 901 NW 8th Ave, 3rd Thursdays, 6 pm.

**SSJ Sierra Club** meets, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7:30 pm.

**Open Poetry** every Thursday at CMC, 8 pm.

**1845: Florida** becomes 27th state.

**1931: "Star-Spangled Banner"** becomes US national anthem.

**10 CMC Volunteers**, 5:30 pm.

**"School to Prison Pipeline"** talk by ABA pres. Paulette Brown, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm, free.

**"The Newberry Six, 100 Years Later"** talk by Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Matheson Museum (5113 E. Univ. Ave), 6:30 pm, free.

**Dancing Lessons** opens at Actors' Warehouse (608 N Main St), 8 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 8 pm.

**17 Civil Rights Restoration workshop**, dntn library (401 E Univ Ave), 5:30 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 8 pm.

**1917: Nat "King" Cole** born.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY**

**24 CMC Volunteers**, 5:30 pm.

**Open Poetry**, CMC, 8 pm.

**Mischief Brew & Every Men**, CMC, 9 pm.

**1970: US-trained death squad** assassinates Salvadorean Archbishop Oscar Romero.

**31 Volunteers & Poets** at CMC, usual times.

**"Hidden Curriculum"** talk on US justice sytem, UF Norman Hall, 6 pm.

**1492: King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella** expel Jews from Spain.

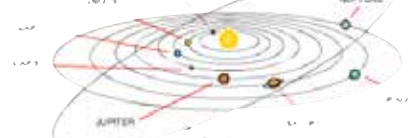
**7 Civil Rights Restoration**, Library Partnership (1130 NE 16th Ave), 5:30 pm.

**Islam & Feminism** talk, UF Pugh Hall, 6 pm, free

**SSJ Sierra Club** meets, UUFG (4225 NW 34th St), 7:30 pm.

**4 UF Lacrosse** vs Niagara, Dizney Stadium, 6:30 pm.

**Endless Pools**, others at Hardback Café, 9 pm.



**1519: Hernan Cortez** invades Mexico.  
**1616: Catholic Church** bans books supporting Copernicanism.

Please support Citizens Co-op, a community resource. Shop Co-op first & keep your \$\$\$ local!

**11 Workers' Voice Tour**, SW corner of Norman Field on SW 13th St, 3 pm.

**UF Lacrosse** vs Boston College, Dizney Stadium, 6:30 pm.

**Comfort Phone/Can You See Me?** - two 1-act plays open, Acrosstown Rep (619 SW Main St), 8 pm.

**Books for Prisoners** benefit show, Loosey's, 8 pm.

**1936: Antonin Scalia** born.

**18 Honky**, UF Black Box Theatre, 7 pm, \$18 public/\$13 students.

**UF Spring Break** begins, and G'ville gets rather quiet for a week and a half...

**1970: Dana "Queen Latifah" Owens** born.

**25 Critical Mass** bike ride, meets at Freewheel Project, 6 pm.

**G'ville Downtown Artwalk** at CMC: "Nature Takes Form" & Iran-Contra retrospective in art, plus live music, 7-10 pm; see pp 6 & 19.

**Gay Movie Night** last Fridays, Pride Ctr, \$2, 7:30 pm.

**1942: Aretha Franklin** born.

**25 Critical Mass** bike ride, meets at Freewheel Project, 6 pm.

**Apr 1 House of Atreus** opens, UF Constans Theatre, 7:30 pm.

There will doubtless be events scheduled that aren't on this calendar at press time: check various websites and listings, and support events in our wonderfully active community.

**1971: Cigarette tv/radio advertising ban** takes effect in US.

**8 The Currys CD** release show, Prairie Creek Lodge, 7:30 pm.

**Punk Black!**, CMC, 8 pm.  
**563 BCE: Siddhartha "Buddha" Gautama Shaka** born.

**5 Veg For Life** vegan potluck, UUFG, 1st Saturdays, \$2+veg dish, 6:30 pm.

**Elestial Sounds** music showcase, Gallery Protocol (2029 NW 6th St), 7 pm.

**1770: British troops** kill Crispus Attucks, 3 others, in Boston Massacre.

**12 Interfaith Dialog**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), 10 am.

**Gvl Record Fair**, The Wooly (20 N Main St), 11 am-4 pm.

**Conservation Steward Awards**, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234) 5:30 pm; \$70 pre 3/6, then \$90.

**Aural Eyes, I Want to Believe**, Hardback Café, 9 pm.

**19 Clean Creek Revival** - meet at 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St) for creek cleanup supplies, 8:30 am; return to FM at 11:30 for weigh-in & lunch, followed by CCR Festival w/ live music (\$10 to benefit Current Problems).

**UF Lacrosse** vs Maryland, Dizney Stadium, noon.

**Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Fest** (4700 SW 58th Dr), w/ live entertainment, food, booths: 9 am-5 pm; \$8 adults, \$5 kids 3-13.

**Alix Dobkin in Concert** at Pride Ctr (3131 NW 13th St), 7 pm, \$10-15.

**Endless Pools**, others, Boca Fiesta Backyard, 10 pm.

**26 Interfaith Dialog** - see 3/5.

**Plant & Seed Swap**, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), noon.

**UF Lacrosse** vs Vanderbilt, Dizney Stadium, noon.

**Wild Iris Free Store** - CMC, 2-6 pm.

**Ukelele Cowboy Society** (Columbus, OH), Lightnin' Salvage, 6-9 pm.

**2 O'Leno State Park Springs Celebration & Chili Cook-off**, High Springs, 11 am-3 pm.

**UF Lacrosse** vs Temple, Dizney Stadium, noon.

**Gvl Barter Project**, Highlands Presbyterian Church (1001 NE 16th Ave), 3rd Saturdays, 1-4 pm.

**Veg For Life** - see 3/5.

**Ordinary Boys** (Smiths/Morrissey tribute) & **Sisters of Mercy**, The Atlantic, 9 pm.

**9 Interfaith Dialog** - see 3/5.  
**Pierce Pettis** w/ **Elaine Mahon**, CMC, 8 pm, \$8-15 slide; see pg 17.





## Solutions

**Bold,expansive and wide-reaching public policy change that moves our economy towards equality and equity is the only solution. This kind of change can only be achieved through a well-organized political movement for justice.**

### Pay for Generational Oppression: Reparations Revisited

To center enslavement as the only form of economic injustice experienced by Black people is, at best, limited and narrow. The discourse on reparations for Black people must be expanded beyond the lingering effects of chattel slavery to individuals and families affected by mass incarceration, redlining policies, and the disinvestment of blighted communities across this nation.

**Pass H.R. 40.** We demand the passage of H.R. 40 and advocate that recommendations coming out of that commission should include the following:

- **Budget lines for reparations at municipal, state, and federal government levels** to include cash, land, and economic development, scholarship funds for Black students to be paid by colleges and universities that benefitted directly from slave labor, and textbooks/other educational materials that accurately depict the history of Black people of the African diaspora – all of which could begin to amend past and persistent injustice and exploitation.
- **Restore voting rights to incarcerated people.** Today, close to 6 million people are denied the right to vote due to felony records. Additionally, through a process called “prison-gerrymandering,” political power has decreased in over-policed areas and increased in the overwhelmingly white and Republican areas of the United States where prisons have been built.
- **Establish Independent Compensation Commission** to process claims and pay compensation for economic, social, psychological, and political damage suffered as a result of the United States’ harmful policies and practices towards Black people.

### Honor Workers’ Rights: #BlackWorkMatters

The modern labor movement must support a robust agenda for Black workers. A workers’ bill of rights must be adapted across all sectors in order to address generational poverty and worker exploitation while providing pathways for our people to do more than survive.

1. All workers should receive a living wage (regardless of education/experience)
2. All workers should have access to provisions for maternity/paternity/parental leave.
3. All workers should have paid sick leave.
4. All workers should have the right to form a union and/or body for the purposes of collective bargaining for benefits, wage adjustments, sexual harassment, grievances and workplace safety.
5. All workers should have protections against discrimination based on perceived or self- identified gender presentation and sexual orientation.
6. All workers should have protections against discrimination based on past drug offenses or incarceration.
7. All gender-based and race-based pay gaps should be eliminated in public and private places of employment.
8. All adults who want a job should have a right to employment through public or private opportunities through a federal jobs program.
9. All children, regardless of the financial status the child was born into, should receive a Child Development Account or “baby bond.”
10. All people have a right to a guaranteed living income regardless of employment status.

### Divest and Eliminate Profit from Punishment

Prisons, profit, policing, and poverty are intimately connected. Prisons are warehouses for the poor and policing is the gateway. And increasingly rich people and the multi-billion dollar security industry make money off of mass incarceration. The profit motive in the criminal injustice system is immoral and must be eliminated. Mass incarceration of Black people should never contribute to profit for corporations, government or any individuals. We must demand that all individuals and institutions divest immediately from racist and classist systems of punishment.

**Abolish all fines in the penal system and administrative fees for probationers and parolees** because any transfer of our scarce family wealth to the prison industrial complex cannot be allowed to stand.

**End all fines for minor and petty crimes and misdemeanors.** It is becoming more and more evident that law enforcement agencies are used as tools to take advantage of young Black people in over-policed areas, particularly for petty crimes like parking infractions, jaywalking, public intoxication, and low-level marijuana possession.

**Divest public and higher education funds from the prison-industrial complex.** The profit motive in the penal system is a corrupting force that motivates police and judges to unnecessarily incarcerate and criminalize in order to maintain profitability of powerful monied interests. (Ex. Columbia Prison Divest campaign)

**Reduce police budgets and reallocate residual funds to the people's vision of public safety.** Establishing participatory municipal and state budgets is an avenue that would allow the public to democratically decide how to allocate funds towards services and institutions critical to our survival and success.

### Value the Worth of Women’s Work

Black women are our primary heads of households and our entire community is impacted when women are not able to support their families. All women must be centered in our struggle for economic justice.

**Protect women’s livelihood with the workers’ bill of rights.**

**Universal child care and renewed investment in quality public schools.** All parents should be able to go to work feeling safe and secure that their child or children are being cared for. A universal child care benefit is especially pertinent for parents who have been laid off, unemployed and looking for work, and underemployed. Spending on universal child care now leads to positive outcomes in later life, which would alleviate government spending on services later on. In a similar vein, investing in schools and afterschool programs for Black children and adolescents that carry on the tradition of freedom schools in bolstering academic enrichment, socio-political consciousness, and communal self- development, is essential for cultivating strong communities.

**Full access to reproductive healthcare regardless of ability to pay.** All women should be able to exercise full autonomy and self-determination over their bodies, sex lives, ability to reproduce, and when/how often to do so. Poverty or strained financial ability should not stand in the way of these choices.

### Support Trans\* Wealth and Health

The narratives and experiences of queer and trans\* Black people provide some of the clearest examples of the effects of poverty. The impact of structural violence when it appears as economic injustice often compounds to keep many in a constant state of trauma and often has fatal consequences for transgender women.

**Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and make nondiscrimination protections for trans\* people explicit under federal and state law.** Although nondiscrimination laws exist that protect people from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, disability status, sex, and genetic information, federal and state law that offers protection based on gender identity/expression in the areas of employment, housing, health insurance, and financial institutions is either inadequate (like in the case of federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) or nonexistent (like in the area of employment).

**Comprehensive access to basic health care and transition-related care in benefits.** Trans\* workers get fewer benefits for the same work and have a harder time accessing necessary health care, having to pay out-of-pocket for transition-related care. It is essential that health insurance companies cover transition-related care.

**Remove barriers to obtaining government-issued identification for trans\* people that aligns with their gender identity.** Government-issued identification is often needed in order to apply for employment, benefits, enroll in school, open bank accounts, and carry out other essential activities. However, federal and state governments impose a burden so heavy for trans\* people to update their IDs – requiring proof of surgery and court orders – that only 21% of folks who have transitioned have been able to successfully do so. National Center for Transgender Equality has been doing important work to remove these barriers and has achieved great success. However, many state agencies need still impose burdensome requirements that need to be relaxed in order to ensure that trans\* folks are able to obtain identification that reflects who they are.

### Stabilize and Revitalize Black Communities

Economic development must uplift Black communities, Black families and individuals. To maintain opportunity for Black families in developing areas, our approaches must be multi- pronged and center social equity.

**Accountability and Redress for Predatory Lending.** We demand that immediate investigations be opened by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau into mortgage practices in Black communities all over the U.S., with additional attention given to Black female head of households. If misconduct is found on the part of mortgage lenders, then the financial institutions employing them should be held responsible for significant compensatory damages. Further, we demand local, state, and federal resources be used to support communities assaulted by discriminatory practices by creating programs to protect Black families from foreclosure and rectify the credit scores for those who have fallen victim to foreclosure.

**Increased Availability and Accessibility of Financial Literacy.** Financial literacy and education is an integral part of economic equality. Therefore, we challenge our local governments to fund nonprofits and community groups to teach on financial topics that include, but are not limited to the following: budgeting, financial opportunities (i.e., the purchasing of non-liquid assets), applying for a credit card, and tax filing. We demand that this education be available to any and all members of our community. We also demand that financial planning options be integrated into traditional banking systems already in place within our communities. These options should also be transparent and easily accessible.

**Intentional Support for First-Time Homebuyers.** We demand government to ensure that mechanisms be put in place for areas experiencing rapid development and growth to enable low-income and wealth-poor Black individuals to obtain and maintain homeownership, such as tax abatements for low-income homeowners and programs that provide down-payment assistance to first time homebuyers. Further, we demand that information about mortgage loan rates offered to prospective homeowners including interest rate offers delineated by race, gender, ability status, and sexuality be made public to better allow the general public to gauge active levels of discrimination.

**Support Community Land Trusts.** In order to protect Black communities from the impacts of gentrification, a crucial challenge that must be addressed is the instability that the process imposes on communities through displacement. One method for addressing community displacement is through the development of community land trusts. By creating a system in which land and property ownership are separated, CLTs are able to in effect shield those properties from speculative housing market fluctuations and ensure that those properties continue to be bought and sold at rates affordable for lower and middle income households indefinitely.

**Support and Strengthen Cooperative Enterprises.** Cooperative Enterprises (also known as co-ops) economically empower Black people and provide an alternative to top-down corporations within an exploitative, capitalist enterprise system. They promote shared decision-making power, shared ownership. and shared profits. Cooperative ownership among Black people is not a novel idea, as market failures and economic racial discrimination have historically driven cooperative practice. However, we have plenty of room for collective growth so that we can literally build community and alternative structures for our workplaces, housing, and consumption. Several types of co-ops that could be started by young Black people right now to support Black communities include worker-owned business co-ops, producer-owned co-ops, housing co-ops, and consumer co-ops.

**agendatobuildblackfutures.org**



# Florida State Parks in peril

Jim A Stevenson gave a rousing speech at the Save Paynes Prairie and our State Parks event on Jan. 23. He is a 50-year veteran of working with the multi award winning Florida State Parks system, which provides not only habitat for wildlife, but also a connection to Florida history. As a public commons that have provided respite and adventure to over 30 million people, they are over 80 percent self-supporting, with the 20 million Florida taxpayers only having to kick in about a dollar each.

In spite of all this we have a governor taking a hatchet to both staffing and funding. Employees fear speaking out, and sudden terminations of long time employees have been happening. Morale is really low as the Department of Environmental Protection management is seriously distrusted, a survey showing less than 23% support by employees. Volunteers have had to try and fill the void. Citizen support organizations have been muzzled from speaking out.

Stevenson laid out the threats to Florida’s natural environment and state parks: the introduction of hunting, cattle grazing, and logging — all of this disruption and destruction as a means of generating money for private industry.



*Following is an excerpt from Jim’s speech on Jan. 23. The full version can be found on our website at [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org).*

*Read Jim’s oped, “Parks Are Not for Profit,” in the Gainesville Sun from June 15, 2015, for more perspective: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/2015150619842>.*

### What must we do?

Columnist Mark Shields says that “a militant minority always wins.” Grassroots organizations have been formed since April for Myakka River State Park and Paynes Prairie State Preserve since they were the first targets of DEP’s threats. Audubon Chapters, Native Plant Societies, Sierra Clubs, Garden Clubs, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, the Florida Trail Association, the League of Women Voters, and other organizations have joined the battle to save our parks.

The press has been remarkably supportive in “opposition” to DEP’s mismanagement of our parks having published Editorials, Op-eds, and Letters to the Editor in major newspapers throughout the state including: the Gainesville Sun, Miami Herald, Orlando Sentinel, Tampa Bay Times and Jacksonville Times Union. Over 129 such articles have been noted since April—some by renowned columnists Carl Hiaasen, Paula Dockery and Ron Cunningham.

### In Conclusion

The most significant indictment of DEP’s proposed folly is a letter of opposition from three former state park directors, having a combined tenure of 38 years (one of which was also the director of the National Park Service for six years) and a similar letter of opposition from 42 retired state park managers. The secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection is dismantling and intends to degrade the state parks, but they are not his parks. They belong to the people of Florida. Secretaries come and go but our state parks are forever.

To paraphrase writer Al Burt: “All of Florida’s common folk need to stand a little taller if Florida’s state parks are to survive. Good citizens must act. The good will of the people will become political action.”

Thank you for standing for Florida’s state parks. 🐢

# Media misleading public on Syria

*by Stephen Kinzer*

*The following is an opinion piece originally published on Feb. 18 by the Boston Globe. Find the original here: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2016/02/18/the-media-are-misleading-public-syria/8YB75otYirPzUCnlwaVicK/story.html>*

Coverage of the Syrian war will be remembered as one of the most shameful episodes in the history of the American press. Reporting about carnage in the ancient city of Aleppo is the latest reason why.

For three years, violent militants have run Aleppo. Their rule began with a wave of repression. They posted notices warning residents: “Don’t send your children to school. If you do, we will get the backpack and you will get the coffin.” Then they destroyed factories, hoping that unemployed workers would have no recourse other than to become fighters. They trucked looted machinery to Turkey and sold it.

This month, people in Aleppo have finally seen glimmers of hope. The Syrian army and its allies have been pushing militants out of the city. Last week they reclaimed the main power plant. Regular electricity may soon be restored. The militants’ hold on the city could be ending.

Militants, true to form, are wreaking havoc as they are pushed out of the city by Russian and Syrian Army forces. “Turkish-Saudi backed ‘moderate rebels’ showered the residential neighborhoods of Aleppo with unguided rockets and gas jars,” one Aleppo resident wrote on social media. The Beirut-based analyst Marwa Osma asked, “The Syrian Arab Army, which is led by President Bashar Assad, is the only force on the ground, along with their allies, who are fighting ISIS — so you want to weaken the only system that is fighting ISIS?”

This does not fit with Washington’s narrative. As a result, much of the American press is reporting the opposite of what is actually happening. Many news reports suggest that Aleppo has been a “liberated zone” for three years but is now being pulled back into misery.

Americans are being told that the virtuous course in Syria is to fight the Assad regime and its Russian and Iranian partners. We are supposed to hope that a righteous coalition of Americans, Turks, Saudis, Kurds, and the “moderate opposition” will win.

This is convoluted nonsense, but Americans cannot be blamed for believing it. We have almost no real information about the combatants, their goals, or their tactics. Much blame for this lies with our media.

Under intense financial pressure, most American newspapers, magazines, and broadcast networks have drastically reduced their corps of foreign correspondents. Much important news about the world now comes from reporters based in Washington. In that environment, access and credibility depend on acceptance of official paradigms. Reporters who cover Syria check with the Pentagon, the State Department, the White House, and think tank “experts.” After a spin on that soiled carousel, they feel they have covered all sides of the story. This form of stenography produces the pabulum that passes for news about Syria.

Astonishingly brave correspondents in the war zone, including Americans, seek to counteract Washington-based reporting. At great risk to their own safety, these reporters are pushing to find the truth about the Syrian war. Their reporting often illuminates the darkness of groupthink. Yet for many consumers of news, their voices

are lost in the cacophony. Reporting from the ground is often overwhelmed by the Washington consensus.

Washington-based reporters tell us that one potent force in Syria, al-Nusra, is made up of “rebels” or “moderates,” not that it is the local al-Qaeda franchise. Saudi Arabia is portrayed as aiding freedom fighters when in fact it is a prime sponsor of ISIS. Turkey has for years been running a “rat line” for foreign fighters wanting to join terror groups in Syria, but because the United States wants to stay on Turkey’s good side, we hear little about it. Nor are we often reminded that although we want to support the secular and battle-hardened Kurds, Turkey wants to kill them. Everything Russia and Iran do in Syria is described as negative and destabilizing, simply because it is they who are doing it — and because that is the official line in Washington.

Inevitably, this kind of disinformation has bled into the American presidential campaign. At the recent debate in Milwaukee, Hillary Clinton claimed that United Nations peace efforts in Syria were based on “an agreement I negotiated in June of 2012 in Geneva.” The precise opposite is true. In 2012 Secretary of State Clinton

joined Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Israel in a successful effort to kill Kofi Annan’s UN peace plan because it would have accommodated Iran and kept Assad in power, at least temporarily. No one on the Milwaukee stage knew enough to challenge her.

Politicians may be forgiven for distorting their past actions. Governments may also be excused for promoting whatever narrative they believe best suits them. Journalism, however, is supposed to remain apart from the power elite and its inbred mendacity. In this crisis it has failed miserably.

Americans are said to be ignorant of the world. We are, but so are people in other countries. If people in Bhutan or Bolivia misunderstand Syria, however, that has no real effect. Our ignorance is more dangerous, because we act on it. The United States has the power to decree the death of nations. It can do so with popular support because many Americans — and many journalists — are content with the official story. In Syria, it is: “Fight Assad, Russia, and Iran! Join with our Turkish, Saudi, and Kurdish friends to support peace!” This is appallingly distant from reality. It is also likely to prolong the war and condemn more Syrians to suffering and death. 🐢

## Recording artist Pierce Pettis to perform at CMC April 9



*Renown singer songwriter Pierce Pettis will be returning to the Civic Media Center on Saturday, April 9 at 8 pm. Opening the show will be local singer songwriter Elaine Mahon. A \$10 to \$15 donation is requested at the door. Refreshments will be available.*

Pierce Pettis will be in concert at the Civic Media Center April 9 at 8pm. Pierce, adored by both critics and public alike, is one of this generation’s most masterful songwriters. His music is distinguished by his uncanny ability to capture universals in human experience by drawing on the humor and trials in daily life. Pettis’ music can simultaneously pull on our hearts and keep us laughing. In live performance his mastery of the craft is moderated with an endearing ADD infused spontaneity.

Pettis has performed in all 48 continental states as well as in Canada and Europe, appeared nine times on American Public Radio’s Mountain Stage, been featured on National Public Radio’s E-town, Morning Edition and World Cafe ... appeared on VH-1, CBS News, and the Nashville Network.

Opening the show will be Gainesville’s own Elaine Mahon. Elaine is currently at work on her third CD; her 2013 release Rise has achieved international praise. She is currently coordinating music at the Sandhill Stage concerts held at Prairie Creek Lodge. Well over 15 years ago the CMC hosted one of her first public shows in Gainesville as a young woman with the hopes of a musical career, at the old West University Ave. location. She has made good on those dreams, writing beautiful songs that highlight a voice folks have compared to Judy Collins.

The CMC is at 433 S. Main Street. Doors open at 7:30 pm, music at 8, refreshments will be available or can be purchased from the Co-op before the show and brought in. A \$10-\$15 donation is requested for the artists and to support the CMC. More info is at [www.civiciamediacyenter.org](http://www.civiciamediacyenter.org), [www.piercepettis.com](http://www.piercepettis.com), and [www.elainemahonmusic.com](http://www.elainemahonmusic.com). 🐢





## GROWRADIO.org

### programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community.

Grow Radio is changing its format, moving from live-streaming, free-form programming to a podcast-only format.

The following schedule is subject to change, and not all programs are broadcast each week. Check [growradio.org](http://growradio.org) for updates.

Sun 5 pm	Joe and Craig Show
Mon 5 pm	Street Nuts
7 pm	Malum
8 pm	The Sum of Your Life
Tue 10 am	The Serene City
4 pm	Copyright Issue
6 am	Your Used To Be
8 pm	Lost Sharks
Wed 12 am	Pyramid Society 64
9 am	Sax and Violins
1 pm	The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
3 pm	The Quiet City
5 pm	An Average Day
9 pm	The Otherness
Thu 12 pm	Things Be Blowin'
2 pm	The Breakup Song
4 pm	Hope & Anchor
6 pm	No Filler
8 pm	florida rules
10 pm	Eagle Death
Fri 3 pm	Ectasy To Frenzy
5 pm	Artichokeification
7 pm	Jazzville
9 pm	Bag of Tricks
Sat 3 pm	Brazillian Commando
7 pm	Planet of Sound
9 pm	Reality Bites

## Mayor's Community Response Council Committee Recommendations

In early February 2015 a committee was formed to look at Gainesville Police policies and practices. This was on the heels of the increased concern over police misconduct which came to light in Ferguson, MO. After a year of meeting monthly, the Committee presented its report to the City Commission. Its recommendations were as follows; how seriously they are taken remains to be seen:

### Background:

To support the work of the Mayor's Community Response Council, the Committee was formed and open to all MCRA representatives to attend. Meeting monthly since the inception of the MCRC, with an average attendance of 4 - 8 members present, the Committee discussed current policies and practices, listened to presentations to gather information, requested and received supporting information from GPD Leadership and reviewed 3 key reports: President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, Department of Justice, and Campaign Zero Report.

Utilizing the Police Public Contact Survey (PPCS) and Pew Research, the Committee built a Community Survey to gauge community trust and understanding of our local law enforcement. Responses to the survey will serve as a foundation for the MCRC to build upon and guide us into the future.

Secondly, using the three reports listed above, the Committee developed the following recommendations by extracting information and issues we felt were pertinent in our community.

### Proposed Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mayor's Community Response Council is to advise City leadership and recommend policies and practices that will ensure the protection of civil rights, restore trust, foster positive relationships, while providing transparent public safety in our community.

### Recommendations:

The committee would like to present the following nine (9) recommendations:

1. Use of Force – Policies must restrict use of force and emphasize de-escalation. Written policies concerning use of force should be available to the public in multiple media formats.
2. Independent Investigations – Require independent investigations by an outside agency involved in all cases where police kill or seriously injure civilian(s).
3. Independent Prosecutors – An independent prosecutor's office be required and authorized to prosecute all cases where police kill or seriously injure civilian(s) and in cases of in-custody deaths.

See *MAYOR*, p. 21



## WGOT-LP 94.7 FM

Soon to be at 100.1

Gainesville's Progressive Community Radio Station WGOT is on the air

Check out [wgot.org](http://wgot.org) for upcoming events and a detailed schedule.

94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car.

Questions? Comments?  
E-mail us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org).



**Democracy NOW!**  
airs Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## Artwalk history lesson

Helping mark 30 years of publishing the Iguana, the monthly ArtWalk at the CMC will feature a display of the 35-card deck which was produced in 1988 to commemorate the 1986 Iran-Contra hearings.

These hearings helped expose a "secret government" that had been created to fund the CIA led operations in Central America devoted to topple the elected government of Nicaragua.

The Sandinista government came to power in 1979 after overthrowing the U.S. backed dictator Anastasio Somoza, whose brother and father had ruled Nicaragua for decades, and enriched themselves immensely in the process. The Sandinistas created many popular reforms and in 1984 were officially elected to power, but their Socialist leanings were not tolerable to the U.S. Government under President Ronald Reagan.

When Congress blocked money going to

the Contras (the force the CIA created that was terrorizing the countryside), the CIA turned to drug smuggling and selling weapons to Iran to generate the funds to carry out their illegal war.

These operations came to light, and Congress convened hearings that further exposed the illegal and deadly operations.

These cards are 35 history lessons of a corrupt administration's bloody efforts. The blowback from these interventionist policies in Central America still impact the region. It was out of that ferment that the Gainesville Iguana began.

The March Artwalk at the CMC (and all over downtown) is Friday March 25, and will run from 7-10 pm.

For more information, see [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/10/gary-webb-dark-alliance\\_n\\_5961748.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/10/gary-webb-dark-alliance_n_5961748.html). ☛

## Civic Media Center events

Check [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org) for details, additional events

Every Thu	Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
Every Thu	Weekly Poetry Jam, 8 pm
Sat 3/5	Live Music: Flossie and the Fox, Duchess, Night Wars, 8 pm
Mon 3/7	Human the Movie, Pt. 3, 7 pm
Tue 3/8	IWW Meeting, 6 pm
Tue 3/8	Brazil's Landless Workers Movement with Leo Xavier, 7 pm
Mon 3/14	Social Justice and Buddhism Movie Night, 7 pm
Mon 3/14	Live Music: Gouge Away, Wino For Never & More!, 8:30 pm
Wed 3/16	Mellow Soul Open Mic, 8 pm
Mon 3/21	"Witness to Innocence" hosted by Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, 7 pm
Wed 3/23	Movie Night with Gainesville Peer Respite, 7 pm
Thu 3/24	Live Music: Mischief Brew & Everymen, 9 pm
Fri 3/25	Artwalk: Nature Takes Form & Iran-Contra Lookback, 6 pm
Sat 3/26	Wild Iris Free Store, 2-6 pm
Mon 3/28	"Up the Ridge," 7 pm
Mon 4/4	Movie "Girl on the Road," with Ferron; potluck at 5:30, film at 7 pm
Fri 4/8	Punk Black!, 9 pm
Sat 4/9	Live Music: Pierce Pettis, 8 pm



**433 S. Main Street • 373-0010**

Park just to the south at SE 5th Ave, (see sign), or after 7pm at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave), or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC).



## GRASSROOTS SUPPORT KEEPS IT GOING

*Please support the CMC in whatever way you can: volunteering, memberships, donations, ideas, and attendance at our events.*

### Slingshot Organizers!

Got a Planner for 2016?

The CMC has a limited supply of Slingshot Organizers.

Come get one during regular hours (2-6 pm, Mon.-Sat.), at events, or at the Downtown Farmers Market every Wednesday from 4 pm-7 pm.

Contains listing of Co-ops and Infoshops all around the country and the world.

Small \$7 Large \$11

[www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)  
[coordinators@](mailto:coordinators@civicmediacenter.org)  
[civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)  
**352-373-0010**  
**433 S. Main St., Gainesville**  
**32601**



# History and the people who make it: Judith Davis

*Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.*  
*This is the 33rd in a series of transcript excerpts from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection at the University of Florida.*

*Judith Davis [D] was interviewed by Richelle Moore [M] in 2015.*

**D:** I was born January 15, 1953 in Gainesville, Florida. My dad worked at the physical plant at the University. Mom was a baker for the school board. I was an only child. Even though they didn’t have a lot of money, I was always supported in anything I wanted that they could afford. I had a wonderful childhood.

I made some poor choices about college. I was offered a four year Blue Key scholarship to the University of Florida, and I turned it down to go to Emory, where I had already been accepted. Dad could only afford one semester there and, when the money ran out, I transferred back; my scholarship was gone, so I was going to school part-time and working part-time jobs.

For about three or four years, I pumped gas, I delivered newspapers between here and Valdosta. I was a bartender for about a year and a group of electricians came in. One of them told me that they figured I was too smart to be doing what I was doing, and you ought to get in the apprenticeship program. And I’m like, are there any girls in it? No. But, we think you could do it. So I applied and took the test. You could tell they really didn’t want a girl in the program. We’re talking about 1976, and there had never been a woman applicant.

I was the first in Florida. They worried about requirements that the federal government had about women and blacks being allowed. So I got the letter of acceptance. It was the only way that in four years I could go from minimum wage to fifteen or sixteen dollars an hour, which at the time was big money.

Part of the requirement back then was 8,000 work hours and four years of school. You had a journeyman that you were assigned to, and whatever his project was for the day. Apprentices did all the dirty work - I spent quite a bit of time digging ditches.


**M: Were they harder on you for being a woman?**

**D:** Constantly. It kind of depended on how country they were, really. The city boys I guess were more used to seeing

women out and about doing things, but the ones raised by dads that were like, she needs to be barefoot and pregnant, came with that attitude. I think they started out being afraid they would have to do their share of the work and mine. I didn’t let that happen. I worked harder than the guys to be accepted at the same level they were.

I started out residential and light commercial: wiring houses, apartments. At the end of my second year, they put me on a service truck with one of the smartest electricians that’s ever come through this hall. We’d get service calls. The dishwasher in the restaurant isn’t working,

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Many Voices.*



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the block making tool at the block plant is not working; it was a wonderful education ’cause he taught me how to troubleshoot. Mr. Preston would figure it out, then we’d get the pieces, put it all together.

Then they transferred me to Crystal River, which was an industrial job. That’s where I met traveling electricians, out of other locals. Oddly enough, they were more accepting of me.

But the tendency those first two, three years was if I had an idea, it can’t be any good, it came from her. Then getting to Crystal River and working with John Rickerson — he was awesome. He called me Froggy — it was something about the way I would jump when we had something to do.

I found out when I topped or graduated that there were two or three of them that had a bet about who could make me quit. There were guys who’d just tell the grossest jokes or whatever. Then, it was a man’s world and if they want to talk that way, that’s between them and God or whoever.

Now directing something at me, not many of them had the guts to do that. I had one guy pinch my butt in an elevator at Crystal River. The next day when we piled in the elevator, I pinched him with a pair of side cutters. You should have heard him yowl. All of his buddies were laughing, uh-huh, we told you she was going to get you.

I hate to bring religion into it, but this primitive Baptist kind of guy [thought] women should definitely be at home cooking dinner barefoot and pregnant. They put this guy in charge of our crew. He had to have emergency surgery.

John, the very guy that he hassled daily, stood up at our safety meeting and said, this man’s going to be out of work for eight weeks. His wife doesn’t work. We took up a collection. Every week that man got a minimum of eight hundred dollars cash for his family. When he came back, he didn’t know what to say because he had treated a lot of people poorly. He even came around to me and said, I apologize for my attitude about you. I said, you need to thank John Rickerson. He doesn’t like you, but you’re a brother in the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and we try to take care of our own.

By the time I graduated — 1980, Mr. Hoover, when I came in, he jumped up, he hugged my neck. This man, he was rough on me when we worked together, and he said, I am so proud on you, you’ve made such a good name for us as the first female because you carry our ideals and you do good work and you’re smart. I’m like [sighs] at last. After four years of hard work I’ve been accepted.

**M: In these early days, what was the public opinion of unions?**

**D:** The only people that had a decent opinion about unions were members of unions or had family members that were union, and they understood what it was all about. People were horrified that I paid twenty dollars a month to belong — well, what do they do for ya? They guarantee my work conditions, my wages, my insurance, my legal rights. I think the state of the economy in this country now — part of the reason for it, they broke unions. They shipped our manufacturing to other countries, where they’re giving them wages that won’t even buy a bowl of rice. It’s horrifying. They’ve got children working in these places. The things that unions fixed in this country are going on over there.

The things they used to say — oh, they keep sorry people on the job and they protect them; getting those big wages. Auto workers caught a ration of stuff about that. That’s why cars are so expensive. Well, they’re not made by union workers anymore, and they’re more expensive than they ever were. So who’s getting the money?

It’s hard to compete when they’re paying twenty-two dollars an hour, and nonunion shops will generally not pay your average journeyman maybe ten, twelve dollars an hour, unless, they know he knows his business; and they might pay him fifteen.

I met my current husband on a job — he was also a union electrician. We went on a job in Connecticut. They put us on this cooling tower, and the superintendent’s window is looking at this thing. I’m like, okay, where’s the material? Oh, it’s not here yet. But you need to look busy.

I said, I’ve already heard about your headhunter. Contractors would send him to sneak around and see if you’re working. And I said, you’re out of your mind; we can’t do this very long. So Curt and I got busy. In two days, we had everything laid out and put up everything they had. And I looked down, and there’s that headhunter. I went down the stairs and I said, if I get fired for not doing anything, there will be repercussions, I promise. And boy, he took off, he ran. The next morning there was a stack of pipe out there.

I’m almost forty years into this. Instead of things getting better, they’re getting

worse. We don’t have many union contractors because they don’t get the jobs. They can’t stay working here because we don’t have enough union jobs, so a huge majority of them travel to make that good wage, and they’ll be gone two, six months at a time, and the wives just get tired of doing it all alone.

My husband, Curtis — he’s in Minnesota right now working because there’s so little work here. I feel bad for him. Some of these men just can’t afford to live. They’re dealing with a wife and kids, with elderly parents that are dependent on them. They can’t just take a thousand dollars and travel, and wait for somebody to call them. They’ll take whatever they can get. They’ll paint, they’ll do something else besides the trade.

**M: What do you expect for the future of the IBEW?**

**D:** When I went through — a union journeyman/wireman’s ticket showed that you had the schooling, the theory; that you had 8-10,000 hours of on the job training. The International has gotten so fond of that money they get out of our dues that they wanted to expand that.

If a contractor has a friend and his son needs a job, they can put his son to work on their job. He doesn’t go through the apprenticeship; if they want to, they can pay him journeyman/wireman’s wages. And the International is getting a piece of his dues. There is some bitter resentment about that.

I hope the young ones coming up can keep it on track. It’s hard to get them to come to meetings. [sighs] I’m not going to spend my Friday night at the union hall. You know, young people. Old people, it’s a social gathering.

**M: What was your most memorable moment?**

**D:** For all of the wonderful things that happened, really it had to be graduation night. I was dressed up, which the guys didn’t get to see much; they all told me that I cleaned up pretty good, it was funny. And to have quite a few of the members come congratulate me — out of everything, that would have been the pinnacle.

I met wonderful people, I got to know a lot of their families, I learned a trade that will stay with me all of my life. It allowed me to travel. I went from being an only child to having three or four hundred brothers.

*For the full transcript of this interview, go to: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00039167/00001>*

*The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public’s help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP’s ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations. 🐢*

## MAYOR, from p. 18

4. Transparency – Make all department policies available for public review. Require law enforcement officers to distribute business cards containing their name, rank, Commander, and contact information that would enable individuals to offer suggestions, make commendations, or to file complaints with the appropriate individual, office or board. Ensure that the City funds the use of body-worn cameras with the understanding that written policies must be in place.

5. Demilitarization – Establish local restrictions to limit the police department from purchasing or using military weaponry and to use the SWAT team only in cases of emergency. Educate the community on how and when the SWAT team and military equipment is used to help them gain a better understanding.

6. Department Diversification – Ensure the police department reflect and be responsive to the cultural, racial sexual and gender diversity of the community.

7. Implicit Bias Training – Ensure the City allocate appropriate funding for a comprehensive officer development training program to keep all officers aware of bias and cultural diversity.

8. Community Trust Survey – Require a periodic (2–3 years) survey to be fielded to the community to gauge their experiences

with and perceptions of the police. Use the survey responses to inform law enforcement and the community.

9. Citizen Review Board – Ensure the City create an independent Citizen’s Review Board, appointed by the City Commission, to ensure adherence to policies, a voice for the community in response to citizen’s concerns, and a review of major incidents within law enforcement. 🐢

“We must launch a political revolution which engages millions of Americans from all walks of life in the struggle for real change. This county belongs to all of us, not just the billionaire class. And that’s what this campaign is all about. To win this campaign, all of us must be deeply involved. Our movement needs people like you to help it succeed.”

*Bernie*  
**berniesanders.com**



# Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) with updates and additions

*Notice to readers: If there is inaccurate information in this list, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed about your contact information. Thank you.*

**Art Lab** is for artists who continually expand skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from a range of mediums (e.g. forged iron, spun wool, graphic design). Technique workshops, artist talks/ critiques, professional practices meetings, critical thinking discussions. [GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com](mailto:GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com). <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

**Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc.** Protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic & recreational resources for over 25 years. ACT is the 2013 national Land Trust Excellence award recipient. 352-373-1078. [AlachuaConservationTrust.org](http://AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

**Alachua County Green Party** Part of a worldwide movement built out of four interrelated social pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. [alachuagreens.weebly.com](http://alachuagreens.weebly.com), [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com), 352-222-3449.

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Memberships are \$20/year. Contact: <http://laborcoalition.org/>, [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org), 352-375-2832, PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

**American Civil Liberties Union** Currently no local chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or ACLU info, contact Jax office 904-353-7600 or [bstandly@aclufl.org](mailto:bstandly@aclufl.org)

**Amnesty International** UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; [www.facebook.com/ufamnesty](http://www.facebook.com/ufamnesty) or [UFAmnesty@gmail.com](mailto:UFAmnesty@gmail.com).

**Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI)** Non-profit research organization working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened species of birds in the southeastern U.S., [www.arcinst.org](http://www.arcinst.org).

**Citizens Climate Lobby** (Gainesville Chapter) provides education/activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are on the Wednesday after the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, at Vine Bread & Pasta place at 627 N. Main St. 352-672-4327, [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org), [cclgainesville@gmail.com](mailto:cclgainesville@gmail.com)

**Civic Media Center** Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org).

**The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and**

**Service (CHISPAS)** Student-run group at UF. [www.chispasuf.org](http://www.chispasuf.org)

**Code Pink: Women for Peace** Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. [CodePink4Peace.org](mailto:CodePink4Peace.org), [jacquebetz@gmail.com](mailto:jacquebetz@gmail.com).

**The Community Weatherization Coalition** is a grassroots community coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work projects and community-building. The CWC welcomes new volunteers to get involved in a variety of ways, from performing audits, to PR/Graphics and more. Contact: 352-450-4965 or [cwc@communityweatherization.net](mailto:cwc@communityweatherization.net)

**Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.** Non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-466-1178, [ConserveFlorida.org](http://ConserveFlorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** Meetings held the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the 2nd floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, [alachuadems.org](http://alachuadems.org).

**Edible Plant Project** Local 100% volunteer-run collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. <http://edibleplantproject.org/contact-us>.

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums** Work to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614, [gnewburn@famm.org](mailto:gnewburn@famm.org), 352-682-2542

**The Fine Print** Independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting for Gainesville's students. [www.thefineprintuf.org](http://www.thefineprintuf.org).

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 [www.midwiferyschool.org](http://www.midwiferyschool.org)

**Florida Defenders of the Environment** works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, and provide quality environmental education since 1969, 352-475-1119, [Fladefenders.org](http://Fladefenders.org)

**Gainesville Area AIDS Project** provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. [www.gaaponline.org](http://www.gaaponline.org), [info@gaaponline.org](mailto:info@gaaponline.org), 352-373-4227, Open Tuesdays 10-1 and last Friday of month 5-7.

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty** works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets first Tues-

day every month at St. Augustine Church & Catholic Student Center , 1738 W. Univ. Ave, 352-284-1749, [www.fadp.org](http://www.fadp.org).

**Gainesville Food Not Bombs** Local chapter of loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals made from local surplus with all who are hungry. Meals at 3 p.m. Sundays at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11 am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. [gainesvillefnb@riseup.net](http://gainesvillefnb@riseup.net). [www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/)

**Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ)** organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd Mondays at 6 pm at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. [Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com](mailto:Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com), [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com), 352-377-6577.

**Gainesville Loves Mountains** partners with Appalachian allies to end mountaintop removal coal mining and build a prosperous economy/sustainable future for the region and its people. We pursue policies to strengthen our local economy through energy efficiency, clean energy. [gainesvilleloves-mountains@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleloves-mountains@gmail.com), 352-610-1090, <http://gainesvillelovesmountains.wordpress.com/>.

**Gainesville NOW** [www.gainesvillenow.org](http://www.gainesvillenow.org). [info@gainesvilleNOW.org](mailto:info@gainesvilleNOW.org) NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

**Gainesville Socialists** is a bi-weekly reading and discussion group. Meetings are open to all who consider themselves socialists, are interested in socialism, or are otherwise curious. Meetings are held at the CMC every other Tuesday at 8 pm, [gainesvillesocialists@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillesocialists@gmail.com)

**National Women's Liberation** is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. The inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: [www.womensliberation.org](http://www.womensliberation.org), P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, 347-560-4695, [nwl@womensliberation.org](mailto:nwl@womensliberation.org).

**Gainesville Zen Center & Hostel** A Zen Buddhist community offering rooms to rent on a daily basis. 404 SE 2nd St., 352-336-3613, [wonderwhy@cox.net](mailto:wonderwhy@cox.net).

**Graduate Assistants United** Union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, [officers@ufgau.org](mailto:officers@ufgau.org), [www.ufgau.org](http://www.ufgau.org)

**Grow Radio** Non-profit provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of the community. [www.growradio.org](http://www.growradio.org). PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

**Harvest of Hope Foundation** Non-profit provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. [www.harvestofhope.net](http://www.harvestofhope.net), email: [kellerhope@cox.net](mailto:kellerhope@cox.net).

**Home Van** A mobile soup kitchen going to homeless areas twice a week with food and other necessities, delivering about 400 meals per week; operated by Citizens for Social Justice. [barupa@atlantic.net](mailto:barupa@atlantic.net) or 352-372-4825.

**Humanist Society of Gainesville** meets 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th St to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist & agnostic social influences-[www.gainesvillehumanists.org](http://www.gainesvillehumanists.org) or [facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville](http://facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville); [gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com).

**Humanists on Campus** UF organization provides a community for freethinking, secular humanists. Goals include promoting values of humanism, discussing issues humanists face internationally. We strive to participate in community service and bring a fun, dynamic group to the university! Preferred contact info: email [ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com](mailto:ufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com), alternative: [j.bontems@ufl.edu](mailto:j.bontems@ufl.edu), phone- 561-374-3537.

**Industrial Workers of the World** Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm. [Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com](mailto:Gainesvilleiww@gmail.com). [www.gainesvilleiww.org](http://www.gainesvilleiww.org)

**International Socialist Organization** Organization committed to building a left alternative to a world of war, racism and poverty. Meetings are every Thurs at the UF classroom building at 105 NW 16th St. at 7 pm. [gainesvilleiso@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleiso@gmail.com).

**Kindred Sisters** Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. [www.kindredsisters.org](http://www.kindredsisters.org), [KindredSisters@gmail.com](mailto:KindredSisters@gmail.com).

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteers to join its advocates who protect elders' rights in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes. Training and certification provided. 888-831-0404 or <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

**MindFreedom North Florida** Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511.

**Move to Amend, Gainesville** is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. [movetoamend.org/fl-gainesville](http://movetoamend.org/fl-gainesville)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/ brain disorders. 374-5600. ext. 8322; [www.namigainesville.org](http://www.namigainesville.org).

**National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** Local advocates work to promote/ preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens. We have literature, speakers, T-shirts. Email: [sun115flower@yahoo.com](mailto:sun115flower@yahoo.com). See national Web site to join: <http://www.ncpssm.org/>.

**National Lawyers Guild** Lawyers, law students,

legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. [nlggainesville@gmail.com](mailto:nlggainesville@gmail.com) or [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)

**NCF AWIS** is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30 pm Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Public Library. All meetings open to the public. Email [ncfawis@gmail.com](mailto:ncfawis@gmail.com) or go to [www.ncfawis.org](http://www.ncfawis.org) for more information.

**Occupy Gainesville** is about engaging local people in grassroots, participatory democracy, diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the rest of the world. [www.occupygainesville.org](http://www.occupygainesville.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>.

**Our Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee Alliance** are two of a number of grassroots environmentalist groups campaigning to protect and restore the rivers and springs. See: <http://www.oursantaferiver.org/> and <http://www.ichetuckneealliance.org/>

**PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays)** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm with a programmed portion and informal meeting with opportunity to talk and peruse their resource library. [pflaggainesville.org](http://pflaggainesville.org). Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email [info@pflaggainesville.org](mailto:info@pflaggainesville.org).

**Planned Parenthood Clinic** Full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling for \$10 from 10am-noon and 2-5pm. Located at 914 NW 13th St. 352-377-0881.

**Pride Community Center of North Central Florida** Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, [www.GainesvillePride.org](http://www.GainesvillePride.org).

**Protect Gainesville Citizens Group** whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, [www.protectgainesville.org](http://www.protectgainesville.org).

**River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding** provides innovative ways to resolve conflict and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. [www.centerforpeacebuilding.org](http://www.centerforpeacebuilding.org). 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

**Sierra Club** meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville-4225 NW 34th St. 352-528-3751, [www.sjsierra.org](http://www.sjsierra.org)

**Sister City Program of Gainesville** links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel

and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>.

**Stand By Our Plan** is committed to informing the public about the critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal. We do not support Plum Creek's Plan. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the unincorporated areas of our county; it protects our valuable wetlands. [standbyourplan@gmail.com](mailto:standbyourplan@gmail.com); <http://standbyourplan.org/>.

**Student/Farmworker Alliance** A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. On Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

**Sunday Assembly**, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 3 pm at 530 W. University Ave. (Santa Fe College campus building in downtown Gainesville). There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. See <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>.

**UF Pride Student Union** Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. [www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride](http://www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride).

**UF Radical Student Alliance** is a progressive grassroots organization that strives to combat social justice issues on campus, with our core values being transparency, democratic process, the value of each member's input, and the ability of any member to assume a leadership role. Meetings are at 6:30pm Wednesdays on campus, [ufradstudentalliance@gmail.com](mailto:ufradstudentalliance@gmail.com).

**United Faculty of Florida Union** represents faculty at Univeristy of Florida. 352-392-0274, [president@uff-uf.org](mailto:president@uff-uf.org), [www.UFF-UF.org](http://www.UFF-UF.org).

**United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter** Purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the UN efforts to deal with those issues. [www.afn.org/~una-usa/](http://www.afn.org/~una-usa/).

**United Way Information and Referral** Human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211.

**Veterans for Peace** Anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. Meets first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. 352-375-2563, [www.afn.org/~vetpeace/](http://www.afn.org/~vetpeace/).

**WGOT 94.7 LP-FM** Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. [wgot947@gmail.com](mailto:wgot947@gmail.com), [www.wgot.org](http://www.wgot.org). 🐸



# A living wage in Alachua County

by Jeremiah Tattersall and Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Alachua County Labor Coalition has been hard at work campaigning to raise workers wages across the County.

The living wage campaign, launched in August 2015, has the ambitious goal of getting the 10 largest employers in Alachua County to pay a living wage by 2020. In the past seven months we were able to help pressure the University of Florida and the Alachua County Commission to raise their starting wage to \$12 an hour. These raises directly affected over 500 workers and will put over \$1.5 million back into our local economy this year.

Currently the campaign is focusing on passing strong living wage ordinances for the Alachua County Commission and the City of Gainesville. We've met with dozens of organizations, lobbied our elected officials, held demonstrations, and now we're ready for our first official victory! On March 8, the Alachua County Commission will have the first of two votes on a proposed living wage ordinance. This ordinance would directly affect over 100 workers and over \$7 million in County contracts. We have a majority of the Commission supporting an ordinance, the only question now is how robust will this ordinance be.

We're seeking a strong ordinance that:

- Will peg the starting wage for all workers to 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (currently \$14.60 an hour).
- Has no exemptions or loopholes for businesses that contract with the County.
- Does not penalize businesses that provide health insurance to their workers by creating wage levels with and without healthcare costs added in.

Getting a strong ordinance will depend on how much community support the Commission sees. You can show your support by emailing the commission at [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us) and by making your voice heard at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at 5:30 pm at 12 SE 1st St.

The City of Gainesville is also moving forward with updating their ordinance to reflect these demands. The City's current ordinance has three main issues:

- Its starting wage of \$11.66 an hour is



Supporters gathered at a Fight for \$15 rally, organized by Fight for \$15 and the Alachua County Labor Coalition, on Nov. 10. Photo by Mary Bahr.

a poverty wage, not a living wage. This needs to be increased to \$14.60 an hour.

- Its exemptions are so broad and abused that 99.95 percent of all contracts for Fiscal Year 2015 were exempt. These loopholes need to be closed.
- The required living wage level paid for employers that do not provide healthcare is less than half the actual cost of providing healthcare. This has the effect of incentivizing companies to not provide healthcare to their workforce, as it is cheaper to pay the non-healthcare wage than it is to actually provide healthcare.

In the coming months City staff will bring findings to the Legislative and Organizational Policy Committee for review. We hope to have an ordinance voted on by the full City Commission by September.

We are also looking at implementing pro living wage policies at Sante Fe College and the University of Florida as part of our campaign to have the 10 largest employers in the County pay a living wage by 2020.

To find out more about our campaign for a living wage please go to <http://laborcoalition.org/>. 🐢

# I-75 meetings slated for end of March

by Mary Helen Wheeler

The Florida Department of Transportation's I-75 Relief Task Force presented ideas for dealing with interstate and local transportation issues at a day-long meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church in Gainesville on Feb. 26. Thirty minutes at the end of the meeting were allotted for citizen comments.

Ten community members expressed concerns about the plan -- all were against another intrusion into the wetlands and wild areas of eastern Alachua County. The citizens made it clear that the project would not be allowed in environmentally sensitive areas. Task force members acknowledged the resistance and agreed that efforts should be focused on adjusting existing routes along I-75, Highway 301 and possibly 41.

Citizens can view maps and ask questions about the project's progress at three meetings to be held at the end of March. The meetings will be in an open house format, where citizens can interact with members of the DOT staff, but will not be able to speak to issues as a group.

The Gainesville meeting is at the UF Hilton on 34th street on Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30-8 pm. Meetings will also be held in Ocala on March 30 and Lecanto on March 31. 🐢



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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at:

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