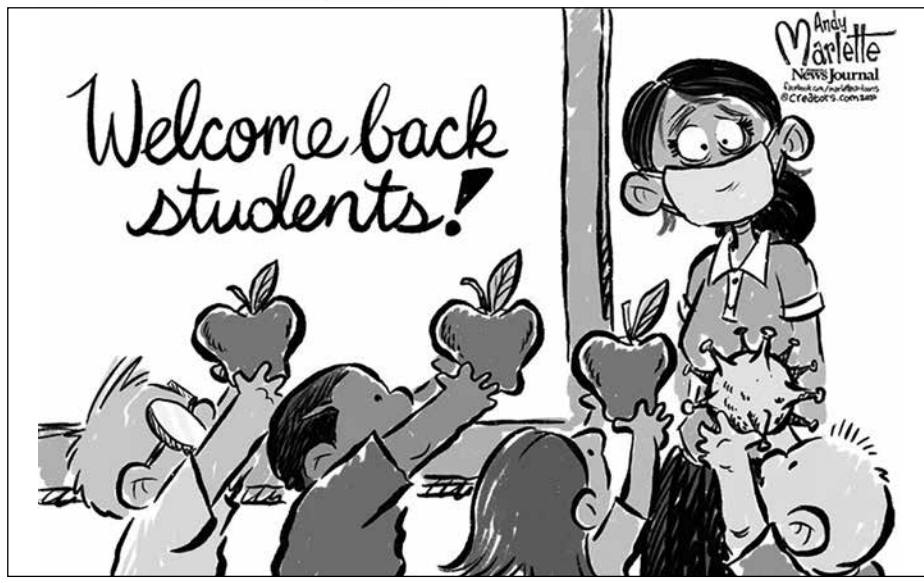




The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter and events calendar

September 2020
Vol. 34, Issue 9



"A teacher's view" (page 9) explores what it's like to oversee a classroom these days.

August elections favored candidates for social change

by James Thompson

The big winners in the Democratic primaries and "final" races on Aug. 18 were candidates who highlighted strong reform platforms and understood the pulse of justice issues facing our community, state, and nation.

Although many local races were technically "primaries," all but two of them likely face impossible Republican challengers in Alachua County on November 3. The strongly contested local and regional November General Election races are Dr. Kayser Enneking (Dem) against property-rights corporatist Chuck Clemons (R) in Florida House District 21, and Adam Christensen (Dem) against the Trumpist, pro-wall, anti-choice right winger Kat Cammack (R) in Florida Congressional District 3.

The hottest county contest placed a third reform-oriented and outspoken Black woman on the County School Board. Diyonne McGraw (52.4%) narrowly beat Khanh-Lien Banko (47.6%) despite widespread reporting of McGraw's questionable ethics in personal business dealings and Banko's mile long PTA credentials and teachers' union endorsements. Both

See AUGUST ELECTIONS, p. 20

Renters rights update

by Sheila Payne, Alachua County Labor Coalition

One of the Alachua County Labor Coalition's biggest campaigns in years – our Renters Rights initiative – is nearing a significant victory, but it is under attack by corporate property managers and realtors, and we need your support to push it through. A Realtors Association Pac out of Tallahassee has sent over 25,000 mailers to Gainesville residents and are running ads against this initiative.

Currently, our City Commission is considering an ordinance which includes:

- requirements for all rental properties to meet life safety, housing standards, and basic energy/water efficiency requirements to keep tenants safe and help lower utility bills
- greater disclosure of renters' rights and responsibilities
- a City-sponsored mediation program to help counter rental deposit theft and other abuses of tenants
- landlord licensing and inspections citywide

Please join us in expressing your support for this initiative by emailing the City Commission at CityComm@cityofgainesville.org. A message as simple as "I am writing in support of the proposed rental housing ordinance" is great, but feel free to write

See RENTERS RIGHTS, p. 20

REGULAR FEATURES

From the Publisher	3
And the Good News is	8-9
Editors' Picks	13
In Memoriam	16-17
Oral History	18-19
Directory	21-23

UF's exploitation of prison slavery: An unfulfilled promise, profit motive, administration in hiding

by Coalition to Abolish Prison Slavery
(CAPS) at UF
caps.uf@gmail.com

On June 18 — following nationwide protests and rebellions against systemic anti-Black racism, murderous police, and the carceral state — University of Florida (UF) president Kent Fuchs made a [statement](#) that outlined policies aimed at taking “a step towards positive change against racism” at the university. One such policy is the purported end of the practice of exploiting prison labor at UF/IFAS agricultural facilities, as [reported](#) in the preceding Iguana issue.

Students, staff, and community members responded with a mix of excitement that UF had made this historic move and anger that they had used prison slave labor for so long. Those who learned about UF's exploitation of prison slavery for the first time on June 18 were particularly irate.

While UF's commitment to combat institutional racism on campus is certainly welcome, the lack of tangible action items calls their sincerity into question. The statement is cleverly and carefully worded, but it is vacuous and includes no specific goals, milestones, or action items.

In most of the “actions” outlined, the phrasing allows the administration to

merely pay lip service to these causes with no accountability. The statement includes just the *right* words at the *right* historical moment for UF to score some PR wins, and to cover up for their own institutional racism.

This particularly extends to their commitment to end the exploitation of prison slavery at UF. President Fuchs and his PR team chose — undoubtedly after careful thought — to say that “the symbolism of inmate labor is incompatible with our university and its principles and therefore this practice will end.”

It seems that this administration's priority is avoiding negative press, not the actual human beings doing forced and unpaid labor in agricultural fields at the university's whim. The administration did not apologize, nor did it accept its responsibility for exploiting prison slavery. The only details provided were hidden away in a UF/IFAS [blog post](#). In that post the administration proudly bragged about the financial value (to the tune of \$1,695,000/year) and research benefits of their violent practice. As one CAPS co-founder said in an [interview with the Alligator](#), “it's sick that UF decides to brag about the cost-savings that they have sucked out of prison slavery rather than to recognize the

ways that they have violently exploited fellow humans.”

However, the most egregious part of the statement is that while the university purports to have ended this practice — it has not. At the time of their statement, they had no plan as to when they would stop abusing slave labor. This quickly became apparent through communications between the administration and the [CAPS](#), who were informed that IFAS will only cease using such labor “no later than July 1, 2021.” How can the university publicly admit that prison slavery is immoral, only to turn around and continue exploiting incarcerated people for another year?

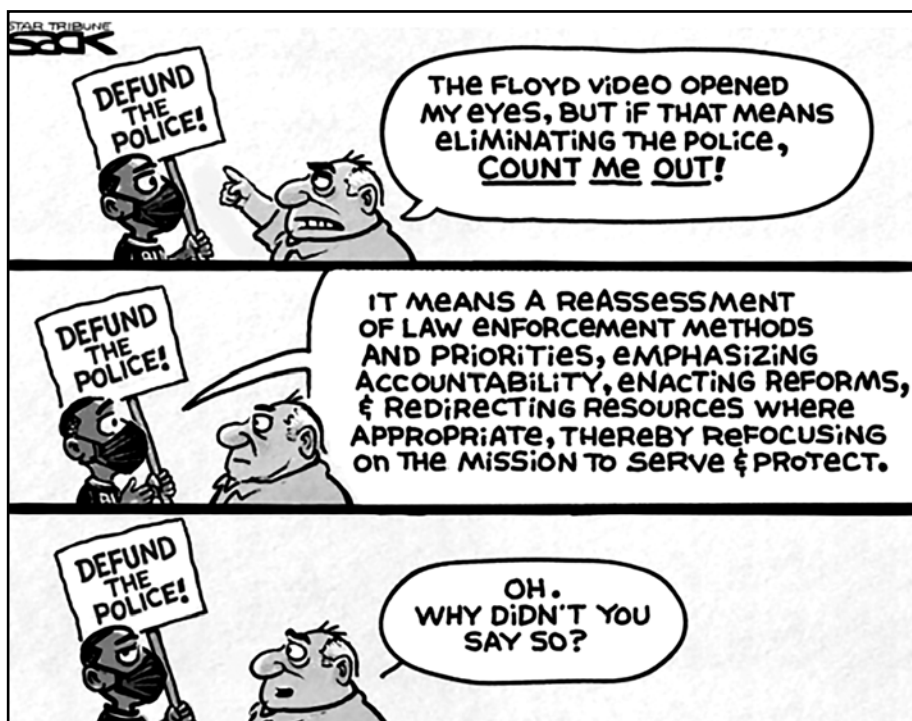
Following additional pressure, IFAS administrators opened a line of communication with CAPS representatives, and provided some additional updates regarding their plan. However, as of the time of writing, President Fuchs (who set the July 1, 2021 deadline) has ignored all calls, emails and requests for a conversation regarding the immediate end of this practice.

IFAS Vice President J. Scott Angle's office, meanwhile, has not responded to consecutive emails and hung up the phone on at least two current UF students. These UF admins seem content to continue hiding from their responsibilities, hiding from the same students and Gainesville community orgs that they supposedly represent.

Given the admins' unwillingness to act, CAPS — a coalition of 28 student and community organizations — continues to apply pressure via phone zaps, email campaigns, and more. President Fuchs made that statement on June 18, but as of Sep. 1, UF will be exploiting prison slave labor for another 303 days.

As Kevin Scott from [Florida Prisoner Solidarity](#) stated in CAPS's [meeting with IFAS](#): “I understand that this has been going on for a long time, but it is unacceptable. It was unacceptable yesterday. It's still going to be unacceptable next July. Why not end it today? Put out a very clear and concise statement to the public to say that we are ending it today.”

Over six weeks have passed since that meeting, and UF has yet to answer the calls to end the practice immediately. ❦



From the publisher On voting



Joe Courter

Voting is the very least you can do when living in a democracy. It is also quite profound; people fought and died for your right to. That should go through your mind each time you have the opportunity to do it.

Does your one vote matter? Not really amid all the hundreds, thousands and millions of votes cast. Except it might, it might be the one vote that swings an election.

Voting is a small aspect of the process; the real key to voting is the right to magnify your vote. This is done by encouraging other people to vote, and to vote in a way that will better everyone's life.

This can be done with a button, a bumper sticker, a yard sign, or a conversation. It can be done by aiding in a campaign for a candidate or issue. It can be with phone banking, door knocking, mailing preparation. It can be donations of money if you cannot afford the time.

When you vote there are many things on the ballot. The power of your vote is most powerful in the local races that have the fewest voters. Some of them may also be the ones that actually affect your life the most. Local candidates, referendums, charter amendments. Being not excited by the top of the ballot is a self-defeating reason not to vote.

And speaking of that, here we are. Being frustrated that the candidate of your choice is not the nominee still means there is the need to keep in mind the above, and not only for the sake of the down ballot issues. You do not need to love the top-of-ticket candidates, you do not have to park your ideals. You can look at it by taking the big picture approach. And in this year's case especially, you have to vote in your self-interest, vote for which will do the least harm, vote for which will give you the most room to keep things moving in a direction that your ideals can come to fruition. Let 2016 be an object lesson. We need a massive turnout for Biden-Harris to make sure we defeat the growing authoritarian menace in the White House now.

And to those who feel they just can't, this: voting is math, not a place to exercise your moral purity. Your third party vote, your protest write-in vote, only has the effect of a vote for Trump. There will be active efforts for a third party, a unified progressive party, in the coming year. By all means people should work for that, but that work comes later.

Lives are in the balance with this election. And there is reason for optimism; thanks largely to Bernie Sanders we have progressive issues like Medicare for All being openly pushed for. Thanks to Occupy, the income disparity symbolized by the 99 percent is in people's minds. Young progressives like the Squad are getting into elected positions. Youth organizing from the Sunrise Movement to the folks in the streets are being heard. The internet and social media, for all its faults and hazards, has given us decentralized communications and information sharing. COVID has brought an opportunity to reexamine our lives and the way we live; it really sucks that it is happening, but, well again, here we are.

Stay safe, help each other out. Reach out if you can, and reach out if you need to. Be kind, we will get through this somehow. 🐢

Subscribe!

The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter and events calendar

Individuals: \$15
(or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20

Gainesville Iguana
P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville, FL 32604

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

352-378-5655
GainesvilleIguana@cox.net
www.gainesvilleiguana.org
facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

The Iguana has been published monthly or bimonthly by volunteers for over 30 years. Circulation for this issue is 3,500.

Publisher:
Joe Courter

Editors Emeritus:
Jenny Brown
Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:
Pierce Butler
Joe Courter
Beth Grobman
Jessica Newman

Production work and contributing writers:

Joye Barnes
Doug Bernal
Jenny Brown
JoJo Sacks
Zoharah Simmons
Terry Wollin

Distribution:
Joe Courter
Kate Ellison
Bill Gilbert
Anita Sundaram

Contact us if you can help with distribution in outlying areas.

Authors and photographers have sole credit, responsibility for, and rights to their work.

Cover drawing of iguana by Daryl Harrison.

Printed on recycled paper.

Election reflections

In November, vote: Christensen, Ennecking, Prizzia, Alford

by Joe Courter

First, in writing the elections article last issue there are some things I need to address. I made some mistakes and oversights I want to acknowledge. Being isolated took me away from my normal life of being out with people and talking about issues and candidates, and I did not do as good a job as I should have.

I made a really bad misstatement regarding Sadie Darnell, falsely saying she might have hired domestic abusers to the sheriff's department. I had heard things and I did not question them. I have talked to her and apologized; she was actually very strong against domestic violence during her long tenure.

As one of the only woman sheriffs in Florida, it is the state's loss, but change was in the air, and we will need to make sure Clovis Watson lives up to the charge we voters have given him regarding both the jail and the sheriff's office. His time in Tallahassee as a representative saw his personal politics improve greatly after a rather troubling time as Alachua City Manager and Police Chief. We wish him luck in the new job, but we need to hold him to his promises.

Second, by not being out talking to people and just seeing things from my own POV, I was too locked in on Mike Byerly. I have watched and appreciated him during his 20-year tenure, which included not just environmental issues, but strong support for LGBT rights, support of housing programs for the homeless, his support of civil citations for marijuana possession, and his support for the fight against wage theft and for a living wage.

However, recently his early rejection of masking and his opposition to ending prison labor by the County were not on my radar, plus my own isolation and loyalty to Mike kept me from knowing more or sharing much about Mary Alford, and I never really had interaction with her or her supporters. The voters made a strong statement, I learned some lessons from the feedback I got from others, and we wish Mary well and fully support her against her Republican opponent in November.

Now, looking ahead to the November elections:

The presidency obviously is at the top of the ballot, but right below that are important races.

U.S. Congress District 3 will have Adam Christensen, an energetic young progressive going for Yoho's old seat against Kat Cammack, a Trump-loving former Yoho assistant who ran his office. Help and support Adam. It will be hard to flip this gerrymandered district, but fantastic if we could.

For State House District 21, Kayser Ennecking will be going against incumbent Chuck Clemons and she will be a vast improvement. Her campaign against State Senator Keith Perry last election cycle was dirty tricked by Perry. She should have been in Tallahassee then; we need to send her there this time. Help and support Kayser.

Anna Prizzia and Mary Alford, after prevailing in their County Commission primary in August, will have Republican opponents in November. Both of them need support, and will be great additions to the County Commission.

There will also be a bunch of state amendments, judicial retentions, and County Charter amendments on the November ballot. We will have a rundown of those items in the October issue. ✨

INDIE & OLDER ROCK, ELECTRONIC, PUNK, AMERICANA, JAZZ, TALK AND MORE!

INFORMATIVO PACIFICA

MUSICA LATINA

MON-FRI: 6AM

THOM HARTMANN

MON - FRI: 7 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW!

AMY GOODMAN

MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM

JAZZ

ROBBIE STEVENS

WEEKENDS: 8-11AM



WGOT 100.1 FM

Gainesville's Community Radio

Streaming now at

WGOT.org

GREAT SHOWS BY:

FRED SOWDER

BILL PERRY

H.R. GERTNER

D.J. CRAMELA

D.J. LUTRA

DOUG CLIFFORD

KEN STEARNS

GARGS ALLARD

BRIANNA

MARKUS ALEXANDER

CHUCK D.

(and others!)

**WE ARE GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY RADIO STATION
CELEBRATING 12 YEARS ON THE AIR!**

Our area deserves a representative who cares

by Kayser Enneking

Hello, my name is Kayser Enneking. I am a native of North Central Florida, a mother, a wife, and a medical doctor. I am running for the Florida State House District 21 because our community deserves a Representative who votes like they care about the community.

Like many of my patients, I am frustrated by the current status quo of our healthcare systems. I was shocked by the purely political decision by Florida State Legislators to not expand Medicaid. This decision has been bad for our state, and this district. Prior to COVID-19 it was estimated 800,000 Floridians would've been eligible for healthcare if we expanded Medicaid. As thousands lose employer sponsored healthcare due to job losses, that number has now ballooned to well over 1 million Floridians. In our district, Medicaid expansion would translate into jobs and critical funding for our rural hospitals. It also would cover mental health as well as substance abuse treatment, which are vital to the health of our community.

This year we have seen the impact of decades of legislative policies that have focused on budget cuts, catering to special interests, and corporate tax giveaways. The Legislature, and Chuck Clemons', indifference to ensuring the health of our community goes beyond the decision to not expand Medicaid. Prior to COVID-19 our public health system was crumbling. Legislators, including Chuck Clemons, have voted to cut millions of dollars and thousands of jobs from county health departments over the last decade. COVID-19 has shown the glaring holes in our state government; a broken unemployment system, a failing public health infrastructure, and a Republican Majority that would rather cede power to the Governor than go to Tallahassee and address the issues that impact our community.

My frustration with the politicization of healthcare fueled my desire to run for office. However, in the wake of COVID-19 we must commit to rebuilding our economy, and our state in a way that benefits all Floridians, not just the wealthy and well connected.

This year, as thousands of Floridians were locked out of our broken unemployment system, the State of Florida sent over \$500 million in tax refunds to top corporations, while main street businesses in Trenton,

Cross City, Gainesville, and throughout our area struggled to make ends meet.

For too long, the legislature has ignored the needs of our students and teachers, rerouting much needed funding away from public schools into non-regulated, for-profit charter and private schools. We need to increase all teachers' salaries, invest in our school infrastructure, and ensure every teacher, staffer, and student is safe in the classroom.

A clean environment is vital to healthy communities and healthy lives. We must protect our springs and aquifers here in North Florida for future generations. Our legislators must stand up for the issues

important to our community, and give these issues more than lip service. We must ban fracking, support science based water management districts, and invest in cost sharing to support best practices for our small farmers throughout the district.

My platform deals with issues facing every Floridian: democrat, republican, independent, poor, rich, white, black, and brown. I ask for your vote on Nov. 3 so we can be the change in Florida. Vote Kayser Enneking for Florida House District 21.

Please visit www.ennekingforflorida.com to learn more about our campaign and see how you can get involved! 🐢

SECURE YOUR VOTE IN 2020 GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The voter registration deadline for this election is **October 5**

Vote by Mail

You may request a vote-by-mail ballot by contacting our office in person; by mail, phone, fax or email; or through our website (VoteAlachua.com/MBRS). Any voter can vote by mail.

Requests for vote-by-mail ballots must be received **no later than 5 p.m. on October 24**. Follow the instructions included to complete and return your ballot. **Return postage is prepaid.**

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail or delivered to the Supervisor of Elections Office's 24-hour white, secure dropbox or to an early voting location during early voting hours.

You may track your ballot status at VoteAlachua.com/My-Registration-Status.

Vote Early

Early voting is offered for all elections. Regardless of assigned polling location, all eligible Alachua County voters may cast a ballot at any of the early voting locations in Alachua County. Early voting locations for the 2020 General Election are open **Oct. 19 to Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day**. For a list of locations, go to VoteAlachua.com.

Vote on Election Day at Your Assigned Polling Place

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must vote at your assigned polling location — not at an early voting site. Early voting sites are not open on Election Day. If you are not sure where your assigned polling place is, call 352-374-5252 or go to VoteAlachua.com.



office: 352-374-5252
fax: 352-374-5264
español: 833-875-0365
Josiah T. Walls Building
515 N. Main Street, Suite 300
Gainesville, FL 32601-3348
VoteAlachua.com



Charter Review Commission ballot proposals

by Penny Wheat, Chair
2020 Alachua County Charter Review Commission

On Sept. 10, 2019, the Alachua County Commission appointed the 2019-20 Charter Review Commission. In the subsequent nine months, the CRC held 16 meetings and three public hearings. Public outreach resulted in numerous published media reports, and on the CRC website, the online form received 80 submittals – more than any previous CRC.

After significant public debate and discussion, the County CRC voted to place four charter amendment proposals before voters on the Nov. 3 ballot. The County Charter requires that the County Commission hold a public hearing on CRC-transmitted proposals before voting to place them (as adopted by the CRC) on the ballot. These ballot proposals, a link to the County

Charter, and other documents are available on the CRC website: <http://ac2020crc.us/>

Once voters approve language for the County Charter, only the voters – at a subsequent General Election – can vote to remove it. The four CRC-approved ballot items for voters to consider Nov. 3 are:

County Growth Management Area – This amendment would establish a “County Growth Management Area.” On land within the Area, the County’s comprehensive plan and land development regulations would exclusively govern land development, even if a parcel of land is later annexed into the boundaries of a city. A map of the proposed County Growth Management Area is available on the CRC website. The County Growth Management Area was designed as a compromise, providing areas outside existing city borders where cities could still exercise land use control after annexation. The amendment also allows the County Commission to remove property from the County Growth Management Area by a supermajority vote.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund – This amendment would create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund used to create and sustain affordable housing. The County Commission can fund the Trust Fund from fees on new commercial and residential development and other sources, but the charter amendment does not itself create or authorize any new taxes or fees. The Trust Fund can also accept donations of any kind. If approved by voters, the County Commission would be required to administer the fund, obtain an annual audit, and spend any funds in the Trust Fund to support affordable housing.

“Cleanup” Amendment Removing Unconstitutional Provisions – This amendment would remove two unconstitutional and unenforceable provisions from the County Charter.

First, the amendment would remove a provision that unconstitutionally prohibits protections based on sexual orientation, sexual preference, or similar characteristics.

Second, the amendment removes a provision that imposes unconstitutional residency requirements for Alachua County Commission candidate qualifying. The Florida Constitution [Article VIII, Sec. 1(e)] and Florida Law require County Commission candidates to reside in their district upon election.

Even if this amendment is not approved, these provisions would remain unenforceable, but they would continue to clutter the County Charter.

Candidate Treasurer Reports – This amendment retains the existing requirement that candidates for county office file campaign treasurer reports electronically but removes the requirement that they also file the same campaign treasurer reports on paper. This amendment modernizes the campaign finance disclosure process in Alachua County, and was suggested by the Supervisor of Elections.

Over the next several months, CRC members will be available to speak with you and/or your organization about the County Charter amendment proposals. If you would like for one of us to attend a meeting of your organization, please email CharterReview@alachuacounty.us

2020 Alachua County Charter Review Commission: Doug Bernal, Kali Blount, Scott Camil, James Ingle, Nick Klein, Joe Little, Pradeep Kumar, Stan Richardson, Tamara Robbins, James Thompson, Kristin Young, Penny Wheat 🐘



HOURS
Closed to the public, but accepting online orders
400 NW 10th Ave.
@thirdhousebooks
www.thirdhousebooks.com

220 NW 8th Ave. 352.375.3752



Modern & Vintage Apparel

Buy. Sell. Trade.

Open every day 12-6
Closed Mondays



flashbacksrecycledfashions.com

Message from Mary Alford

Democratic candidate for Alachua County Commission District One

I'm still amazed, humbled, and excited for the journey ahead and working hard for a victory on November 3.

I'm grateful for the amazing help during this campaign. It was truly a grassroots effort, supported by many modest donations. There are simply too many people to thank but know that I am enormously grateful for every single person that supported me in any way, and I am honored and humbled to have your trust and confidence. I'd especially like to thank Mike Byerly, who I greatly admire, for showing me so much respect during this race and for running a positive and informative campaign. Mike has been a vociferous defender of Alachua County and I know I'll have big shoes to fill.

Now, we're on to November! Many say, and I agree, that this is the most important election in our lifetime. Locally I hope to make history! I'm working to be the first openly LGBT+ person to serve on the Alachua County Commission. I am also a professional environmental engineer,

the owner of a mission-based architecture and engineering firm specializing in sustainability, a mom and grandmother, and I am active on many boards and non-profits, everything from Florida Defenders of the Environment to the County Code Enforcement Board.

My platform is based on sustainability. First, of course, is the environment. But we need to look at the economic and equity impacts of our environmental decisions. One example is the decision to expand the construction landfill in SE Gainesville. It met the environmental requirements, and allowing the expansion saved the contractors and developers money. But from an equity point of view, was the effect property values of nearby owners considered? Property value changes when the view from your back yard is a looming landfill.

Second, I am focusing on sustainable infrastructure. We simply need to maintain what we have invested taxpayer dollars in. The greenest roads, the greenest buildings are the ones we already have.

This is not the time to build a new county government complex. Roads are rapidly deteriorating and the cost and carbon footprint of replacing a road is significant.

Third, we need to plan for a climate disruption, political upheaval, population growth – and sustainably protect this place we all call home.

But just like in the primary, I can't do it alone - I need your help! Please donate today. Mail in ballots will be out in just a few weeks. We don't have long to catch up to my well-funded Republican opponent – her brother is Dane Eagle, the Leader of the State House – so we know more money will be funneled her way. Please phone bank. Every local voter we mobilize helps us nationally. Also – letters to the editor, talking to your neighbors, friends and family. I am running a carbon neutral campaign and so my goal is to avoid mailers, so your word of mouth really helps!

Change starts right here in our own backyards and we can make that change. Thank you again. 🐾



"I'm humbled to follow in the footsteps of those that have served & protected Alachua County! I'll work to honor that legacy."



MARY ALFORD

FOR ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 1

 AlfordForAlachua

AlfordForAlachua.com

Paid for and approved by Mary Alford, Democrat, for Alachua County Commission - District One

And the good news is ...

J.J. Finley Elementary's new namesake: Carolyn Beatrice Parker

by Avery Lotz
Independent Florida Alligator

She was born in the Jim Crow South. At 20, she dedicated her life and mind to protecting all Americans, even those who oppressed her, from the threat of Nazism. She was the first African American woman in the U.S. to receive a graduate degree in physics — later earning another master's degree in the field.

The Alachua County School Board's renaming committee voted to approve the new namesake for J.J. Finley Elementary School: Carolyn Beatrice Parker. The school's current namesake was a confederate soldier and is known for his contribution to the culture of lynching in Alachua County.

The Alachua County School Board voted to rename the school Carolyn Beatrice Parker Elementary School officially on Tuesday, Committee Chair Carlee Simon said.

"Not only was she incredibly successful academically, and she came from a very successful family, but she also was successful in, even now, a predominantly male-occupied field of study," Simon said.

Born in 1917, Parker grew up in Gainesville's Jim Crow era, said Peggy Macdonald, a renaming committee member, Stetson University history professor, and author of a biography about Parker. While she was an infant, her father, a physician, worked to eradicate the influenza epidemic of 1918.

According to Macdonald, six of Parker's seven siblings achieved advanced degrees. Her sister Julia Leslie Cosby became the first Black woman to teach in the previously all-white Alachua County schools.

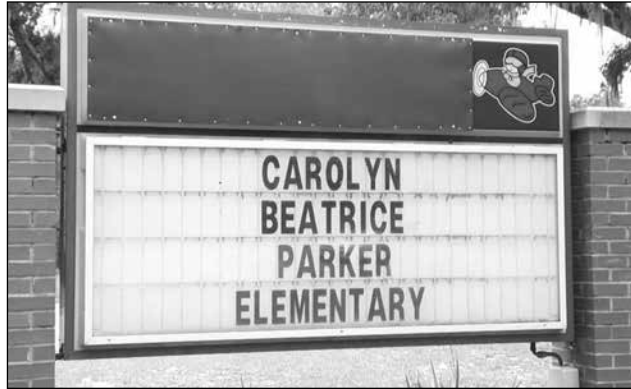
Parker's niece, Dr. Joyce Cosby, has fond memories of Parker, who passed away when Cosby was 10. She remembers her mother calling Parker her favorite sister.

After high school, Parker taught in Rochelle, Florida, with her sister for a year to save money for college, Cosby said.

Parker later moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue a bachelor's degree in physics at Fisk University. She graduated magna cum laude in 1938 before return-

ing to Gainesville to teach alongside her mother for two years, Macdonald said.

While Parker's name is not listed in Kevin McCarthy and Albert White's 2012 "Lin-



J.J. Finley Elementary School is now officially Carolyn Beatrice Parker Elementary. Photo courtesy of mycbs4.

coln High School, Gainesville, Florida: Its History and Legacy," Macdonald said she, her colleagues and Parker's nieces believe she taught at Lincoln High School.

In the 1940s, the historically Black Lincoln High School was the only Gainesville institution that would have permitted Parker's service.

In 1941, Parker made history when she became the first African American woman in the U.S. with a graduate degree in physics, which she obtained from the University of Michigan. Ten years later, Parker almost earned a Ph.D. in physics from MIT. However, she put her education on hold two years later.

She was welcomed to the Dayton Project, a division of the Manhattan Project, which created the American atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, Macdonald said. Her division was recruited to work with polonium, a highly radioactive element used in atomic bombs.

"She contributed to ending World War II, working on a project that was originally designed to defeat Hitler," Macdonald said.

Albert Einstein informed Franklin Delano Roosevelt that the Nazi scientists were verging on finalizing the atomic bomb, and the Manhattan Project was founded in response, Macdonald added.

While working on the Dayton Project, Parker would have experienced numerous

levels of oppression, Macdonald said. During the early-to-mid-20th century, women in science were usually given menial tasks despite their potential, she added.

"What Carolyn Parker did was incredibly uncommon for a white woman scientist," she said. "To be an African American and female scientist and this time, the challenges she surmounted were incredible."

According to the renaming committee's proposal and biography, the Black scientists working for the Manhattan and Dayton Projects were commonly mistaken for janitorial staff.

While the goal of the projects is now known, the work was top-secret at the time, and Parker's family still doesn't

know the extent of their ancestor's work, Macdonald said.

According to MIT Black History's profile on Parker, she couldn't discuss her job with her family.

However, the work Parker did wasn't disclosed to her and many of her fellow scientists, Macdonald said. The deployment of the bombs using elements they studied was a shock to them.

Because Parker was a junior scientist, she didn't participate in the decision-making of dropping the atomic bomb, according to the renaming committee's proposal.

After leaving the Dayton Project in 1947, she worked as an assistant physics professor at Fisk, even though women were discouraged from teaching advanced science courses, Macdonald said. Fisk University is a historically Black university, but she still had to overcome barriers as a minority — women at the time were commonly not permitted to teach science.

Parker earned a second master's degree in physics, and she was on track to become the first African American woman to receive a PhD in physics.

She continued her work in research as a physicist for Air Force Cambridge Research Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after receiving a second master's degree in physics from MIT, Macdonald said.

Before having the chance to defend her

doctoral dissertation, tragedy struck.

Parker died from leukemia in 1966. In 2008, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health declared that polonium can cause cancer.

“I really felt sympathy for this amazing woman, who completed work that most female scientists could not have done,” Macdonald said. “And yet she was working to save the nation from Nazi threat of attack. Then because of her work to do that, she died from leukemia, so she really sacrificed her life to save the nation during World War II.”

Parker is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Gainesville among other important Black national figures like Matthew Lewey and the wife of Josiah T. Walls, Macdonald said. Parker’s family still attends church services at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, she added.

While her story wasn’t told for years, the renaming committee hopes that the school board will take this opportunity to unveil Carolyn Beatrice Parker’s hidden history, Simon said.

“There are these pieces of our history that I think many of us are being introduced to pretty late in our lives,” Simon said. “And it’s so unfortunate that we didn’t know certain things sooner, and it wasn’t part of our curriculum and it wasn’t a cultural component of American life.”

According to Simon, some Alachua County Public School teachers are already excited to include Parker in their curriculum. The committee also discussed holding a science fair in her name.

As an elementary-school-aged girl, Cosby lived in the J.J. Finley school zone. The school she once could not attend will now pay tribute to their family name.

“With the emphasis on science technology and math in today’s era, certainly the fact that this was a woman who predated some that have received a great amount of publicity recently, namely the “Hidden Figures” — she was 20 years ahead of them.”

Macdonald reflected on what else Parker could have contributed to the U.S., science and history if her life hadn’t been cut short.

“There’s so many ways you could teach national history major topics and themes through Parker’s life,” Macdonald said. “And her life was unfortunately brief — had she lived past the age of 48, I would like to think of all the other stories that we could tell about her.” 🐸

A teacher’s view

by Kendra Vincent

I know that as a teacher I am supposed to be all positive at this point. The whole “we got this” and “I just can’t wait to see my students” and “I will give it my all and my best will be good enough.” But, y’all, I am not feeling it.

Do I want to see my students? Absolutely. But that’s the only question I can really answer. My students will see a happy, positive teacher on Monday. I will present our challenges as opportunities. I will make sure they know that I am happy to see each and every one of them and that I can’t wait to get to know them. And that will all be true, but it won’t be the whole truth, and getting there by Monday will require a lot more work. And a lot more continued work. Much more than my usual extra time that I spend.

When I go to my windowless classroom, I wear designated work shoes, scrubs, face mask, and face shield. I do not take off my face mask at anytime that I’m in the school building. This means I’m eating lunch outside (and will probably have to eventually resort to my car). This means I am not drinking anything throughout the day. And, this means my students will see very little of my face.

Here are my basic stats: ~120 in-person students and ~60 digital students. That’s ~30 students per period with 10 of them being digital. I agreed to teach “hyflex” because I was gullible enough to believe that would allow for my students to socially distance within my classroom (surprise – that is not true). This means I have to figure out how to teach face to face and digital students at the same time. The online platform we are required to use is new to me, and it currently doesn’t sync with our grade book or attendance system. Digital students will be using Zoom to attend each class period. I have a new prep this year. After 14 years of 9th and 10th grade, my 15th year in this district, I will be teaching 10th grade and 12th grade.

On top of all of this, I have to figure out what best practices look like in the time of Covid (without any guidance from the school or district). How do I teach without getting near my students? How do I conduct class without group work? I still have to use paper for my face to face students, because they don’t have access to computers during class. I can’t even get a laptop from the school for home use. I worry about not recognizing students because they have on masks. I worry that I will not be able to give my students what they need. And those are the simple worries. What about the students who refuse to wear masks? And what happens when students and teachers get sick?... I’m not sleeping; I’m crying and having panic attacks.

I don’t know how any of this is good for anyone.

Think about it.

If public schools were adequately funded, and then we were given some more funding to deal with Covid, it would be less risky. We know public school isn’t adequately funded, especially in Florida. And, my general perspective is that public education has been filling SO many gaps in society for so long. Just like with a lot of things, the pandemic is making this clear to more people – that we don’t have what we need and that we should be demanding more from the government and owning class.

School should not be seen as childcare. And instead of demanding students and teachers risk their lives returning to school “for the economy,” the real demand should be on businesses to be more flexible and to have lower productivity rates for their employees, because we’re working from home and balancing childcare/family responsibilities ... and we’re still in the middle of a pandemic. The thing I have been saying over and over to people is we need to quit demanding more from each other and instead demand more from the people who can actually make our lives easier/better – the owning class. 🐸

UF Law: a crisis averted, questions remain

by Curran Butcher

Professor Michelle Jacobs started her twenty-eighth year of teaching at UF's Levin College of Law as planned this week, after [a week of frantic organizing by students](#). But things almost turned out very differently.

Last Monday, the law school announced that it would not permit Professor Jacobs, who lives in Washington D.C., to teach remotely. It also announced that her Police Practices class and Critical Race Theory seminar would be cancelled, a week before the start of the semester. The announcements caught just about everyone by surprise, especially the students, many of whom had been enrolled in the courses for months and had already purchased the required materials.

It's hard to blame people for being caught off guard — there seemed to be every justification for Professor Jacobs to teach from home. Although [some UF Law students are attending classes in person](#), multiple professors are teaching entirely remotely, and more than a dozen classes were already slated to be offered online when Professor Jacobs' classes were cancelled. (That number has now expanded to more than twenty online classes.) Additionally, Professor Jacobs already had over a decade of experience with teaching remotely, and (perhaps most importantly) it was common knowledge that she has been dealing with health complications that limited her ability to travel, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After shaking off the shock of the news, several of Professor



Professor Michelle Jacobs

Jacobs' current and former students jumped into action to figure out what had happened and to convince the law school to reverse its decision. Inquiries to UF Law Dean Laura Ann Rosenbury were initially met with vague, boilerplate answers that offered no insight, and then with radio silence. In response to the Dean's stonewalling, a group of students penned a [letter, cosigned by over 150 UF Law students and alumni](#), which called on the school to allow Professor Jacobs to teach remotely. When the Dean failed to respond, the students organized phone banking efforts and held a [demonstration at the law school](#).

Finally, on Tuesday, two days into the law school's semester and after a week of sustained pressure by students, alumni, and [other faculty](#), Dean Rosenbury announced that Professor Jacobs would be permitted to teach Police Practices and Critical Race Theory as planned remotely in exchange for taking on additional administrative duties for the 2020–2021 academic year.

To be sure, the reversal by UF Law was a welcome shift that was celebrated by both the law students and the broader UF community. Professor Jacobs is much beloved by her students, and these courses are more important than ever given the nation's current reckoning with racial justice and police violence following the killings of [George Floyd](#), [Breonna Taylor](#), [Amhaud Arbery](#), [Rayshard Brookes](#), and [Trayford Pellerin](#) and the [recent police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha](#). But the chaotic series of events that led to Professor Jacobs teaching as planned left many questions unanswered, and the answers to which the available facts tend to point are very troubling indeed.

For starters, why did the school originally refuse to let Professor Jacobs teach online? In addition to the circumstance noted above, Professor Jacobs had filed an application for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the law school's administration knew about the application.

There appears to be no rational justification for insisting that she teach in person. Was it because the school prioritizes the optics of in-person instruction over the safety of its faculty and the education of its students?

How many other faculty members aren't getting the accommodations they deserve? There are certainly other UF Law faculty who haven't been permitted to teach remotely. Did any of them have pending ADA requests? Did the law school violate the ADA by short-circuiting the accommodations process?

How does the law school square the attempted cancellation of the only course that offers a comprehensive examination of the intersection of race and the law with its [stated commitment to dismantling systemic racism](#)?

Because of Dean Rosenbury's opacity, we may never know the answers to these questions with certainty. But, as a member of the UF Law community, I'm distressed by the answers that the available facts point to. 🐿



435 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-8 Weekends 10-6

Scott Camil receives national recognition for anti-war organizing, justice work

Gainesville local Scott Camil was honored by the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation in July for his antiwar organizing over the last half decade. The U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation honors Americans who stand for peace by publishing the [U.S. Peace Registry](http://uspeacememorial.org/registry) (uspeacememorial.org/registry), awarding the [U.S. Peace Prize](#), and fundraising for the [U.S. Peace Memorial](#) in Washington, DC.

They recognize thoughtful and courageous Americans and U.S. organizations that have taken a public stand against one or more U.S. wars or have devoted their time, energy, and other resources to finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

They celebrate these role models to inspire other Americans to speak out against war and to work for peace. ✨



El Indio
REAL MEXICAN FOOD
377-5828

DRIVE THRU & CALL-INS

407 NW 13th St.
9am-10pm
Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

5011 NW 34th St.
8am-10pm
Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

Hey, Readers!

The Gainesville Iguana has opened a PayPal account, and we're accepting donations through our website at:
www.gainesvilleiguana.org.

Go to our home page and click on the <Donate with PayPal> link to support us via your PayPal account or credit card.

We thank you very much!

FREE ADMISSION
THE LATINA WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESENTS THE
16TH GAINESVILLE

FILM FESTIVAL
UNITY IN COMMUNITY
Unidad en Comunidad
SEPTEMBER 10TH - OCTOBER 3RD

FILMS & EVENTS

09/10 PAJAROS DE VERANO
CIRO GUERRA & CRISTINA GALLEG0

09/12 MARTIRIO
VINCENT CARELLI

09/17 SOLEDAD
JORGE THIELEN-ARMAND

09/19 GUARANI
LUIS ZORRAQUIN

09/24 EL TECHO
PATRICIA RAMOS

09/26 SINGING OUR WAY TO FREEDOM
PAUL ESPINOSA

SPONSORS

Gainesville. Citizen centered. People empowered

UF CENTER FOR THE HUMANITY AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

UF Center for Latin American Studies UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA MINISTRO DE EDUCACION CULTURA Y DEPORTE SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE CULTURA

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF ART UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

SPANISH FILM CLUB

SAMUEL PINOYER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UNIVERSITY of Florida

GAINESVILLELATINOFILMFESTIVAL.COM

Together, you can redeem the soul of our nation

“Though I [am gone], I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe.”

John Lewis, the civil rights leaders who died on July 17, wrote this essay shortly before his death, to be published in the New York Times on the day of his funeral. See the original at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1103>

by John Lewis

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way



Congressman John Lewis, who was arrested and jailed for his role in the Freedom Rides in the 1960s (left), was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2011. Photos courtesy of FBI and CNN.

out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.

Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide. ✨

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE | THOMAS GROUP

THE CHALMERS TEAM

KIM CHALMERS, REALTOR®
kcgainesville@gmail.com
352.339.5210

JEAN CHALMERS, REALTOR®
chalmersrealestate@gmail.com
352.538.4256

Contact the Chalmers Team for All of Your Gainesville Real Estate Needs!

Jacksonville teen refurbishes used computers, donates them to Big Brothers, Big Sisters

by Ken Amaro, MSN.com

While many will remember the Summer of 2020 for the coronavirus pandemic, 15-year-old Christopher Kilpatrick will remember it as the summer he made an impact on his community. "I like the feeling I am making a difference," said Kilpatrick.

A rising sophomore at The Bolles School, the teenager had a summer internship at Urban Mining, a technology company. He understands that in today's learning environment, a computer is essential, but he also knows there is a digital divide between the have and the have not. "I almost had an epiphany when I realized not everyone can afford a computer," he said.

Kilpatrick interned with Johnnie Mcburnie's team at Urban Mining and saw an opportunity. "We get retired machines from businesses," said Mcburnie.

The opportunity was to take some of those retired machines and instead of them becoming salvage goods, he wanted to refurbish them and then donate them to close the digital divide; it became his summer project.

In the end, Kilpatrick would completely refurbish 20 desktop computers and that included monitors, programs and the other ancillary needs. "I installed various applications and made sure they were working," he said.

Now those 20 computers will be donated to the nonprofit Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

"He knew his stuff," said Mcburnie. The honor student said there were lessons learned from his summer internship. He learned the lesson of giving and the lesson of good stewardship.

"One great thing I learned from this is the importance of recycling," said Kilpatrick. And now his summer experience just may become the new expectation for future interns.

"I think we started something really good here," said Mcburnie. 🐢

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🐢 Author Carl Hiaasen Skewers Palm Beach and Florida Life in 'Squeeze Me'

by Dave Davies / Fresh Air / NPR / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1105>

The Miami Herald columnist's new novel is a mystery set in Palm Beach featuring wealthy widows, the president and first lady, a scrappy wildlife removal specialist, and some gigantic Burmese pythons.

🐢 Ava Duvernay interviews Angela Davis on this moment - and what came before

by Ava Duvernay / Vanity Fair / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1108>

The scholar and activist has spent more than 50 years working for social justice. This summer, society started to catch up.

🐢 Former Trump DHS officials launch anti-Trump group

by Daniel Lippman / Politico / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1112>

Miles Taylor, former chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security in the Trump administration, endorsed Joe Biden and started a group of current and former administration officials and Republican leaders who want to see Trump defeated.

🐢 It's a Tough Time for the Left. But I'm More Optimistic Than Ever.

by Thea Riofrancos / New York Times / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1106>

The signs of radical possibility are everywhere; political conditions are ripe for change. It's a spectacular sight: Affluent liberal democracies are experiencing an upsurge of radical energy.

🐢 On FL's Rainbow River, something nearly miraculous happened: A developer listened to reason

by Craig Pittman / Florida Phoenix / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1111>

The developer/landowner told a crowd at a meeting, "If you guys don't want us to [build it], I ain't going to."

🐢 Rev. James Lawson: John Lewis's Life Is Call to Action Against U.S. Violence & Plantation Capitalism

by Amy Goodman / Democracy Now / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1113>

The Rev. James Lawson, who helped train John Lewis in nonviolence when Lewis was a student, invokes Lewis's life as a call to action.

🐢 Security and Peace on the Ocean

by Peter Neill / World Ocean Radio / <https://woradio.podomatic.com>

This podcast is the first of a series, BLUEprint, on the marvels and importance of the ocean and how it can save civilization. It can be listened to or read at their website.

🐢 Some medieval towns handled plagues better than Trump's unequal, rundown America

by F. Douglas Stephenson / Common Dreams / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1110>

Even by historical standards, the U.S. president is an abysmal failure.

🐢 Twin Imperatives: Defeat President Trump This Fall, Challenge President Biden from Day One

by Norman Solomon / Common Dreams / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1107>

This presidential election isn't really about Biden ... it's about a clear and present threat to democratic capacities in the United States. This is our political crossroads. 🐢

Updates on the battles for the Santa Fe River

by Mike Roth
President, Our Santa Fe River, Inc.

For the second time this year, the Suwannee River Water Management District had on its agenda a scheduled vote on the Seven Springs Water application to draw about a million gallons of water a day from the already impaired Santa Fe River so that they can sell it to Nestle Waters to put in plastic bottles to sell to the rest of the world. At maturity, company documents show the plant is capable of producing almost 6,000 bottles per minute. That's a lot of plastic – and a lot of water!

The water is free to Seven Springs; they sell it to Nestle at a price that is an absolute secret – so secretive that, among other reasons, the contract between them was not made privy to the District, which is one of the three reasons that the District staff recommended denying the permit in March of this year.

Also, the District staff couldn't determine that Nestle would be able to process the full amount of the proposed water draw, given that no previous producer under the permit had ever used more than a third of the permitted amount.

The third reason was that the District staff was unconvinced that if the full amount of the permit was drawn, none of it would be transferred in bulk out of district, which is inconsistent with the Florida Statutes.

Before the Board of Governors could vote, Seven Springs appealed to the Division of Administrative Hearings, and since March this matter was a series of legal arguments on paper to be heard in mid-July, then extended to mid-October.

Then, on August 3, the District announced that the next Board agenda would include the recommended approval of a revised permit, asking for 984,000 gallons per

day instead of the original 1.152 million gallons per day, still over 2½ times the highest amount (and over three times the average amount) of previous withdrawals under the permit.

Curiously, the staff recommendation report reprints a summary of its previous denial points but doesn't offer any commentary as to why it no longer believes them to be valid.

On Aug. 11, there were about 150 people on the District teleconference, which has been the mode of District meetings since March. As we waited for the public comment period leading to the big vote, long-time Board of Governors member Donald Quincey (in his last meeting of his now expired term) moved to table the question citing (as Our Santa Fe River pointed out to the board over a year ago) the fact that the permittee was not of itself equipped or positioned to use their allocation of water and Nestle, who was to use the water, wasn't listed on the permit. He suggested that the Board require Nestle to be a co-permittee, and after some discussion, the Board agreed 5-1 to table it.

So back to the Division of Administrative Hearings it went, where whole settlement was set aside, and the District immediately moved to add the co-permittee condition to the reasons for denial. Seven Springs/Nestle moved to object; arguments are pending.

Our Santa Fe River entered the fray on Aug. 21, entering a third-party petition raising points that we believe the District missed in posting its initial denial recommendation.

Nestle has stated that they intend to "operate in a responsible way" – one can only hope that they won't replicate what they've done in drought-stricken California and Ontario, or in Flint Michigan, where local residents didn't even have access to clean water.

A simple Google search of "Nestle horror stories" will unearth a dark picture of Nestle as a corporate citizen.

Protesters in Louisiana and Pennsylvania and Native American women in Cascade Locks, Oregon have succeeded in keeping Nestle out of their neighborhoods – we hope that High Springs can do so as well. 🐉



Civic Media Center update

by JoJo Sacks, CMC Coordinator

This has been an unprecedented time for the Civic Media Center, as we have remained closed for the last few months during the pandemic. It is our first and most important goal to keep our community safe, and make sure the CMC does not become a place where the people we care about can get sick.

This is the first time that we coordinators and volunteers are asking you to help us keep our doors "closed." And, they stay closed, except that we are the staging area for a weekly food distribution, which gathers and distributes food to hundreds of people.

In these times, we have still been able to offer programs online, including our upcoming CMC Virtual Book Club, and panels and talks via Zoom. We will be hosting a virtual discussion on DIY community spaces on Monday, Sept. 7 at 6 pm with three other DIY spaces participating.

We have planned a panel discussion on Seminary Lane development issues on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6 pm with Desmon Walker, Kali Blount and Terry Bailey, and the poetry jam has gone virtual, too.

Social media and computers have allowed us to stay on people's minds, raise some funds, communicate, and plan, despite not being able to be with one another face-to-face. You can keep up with these events through Facebook at www.facebook.com/civicmediacenter.

We do not want to be like the other infoshops and DIY spaces around the country that have had to close during these times. Each day we are open is an act of resistance. Your support is how we will power through the pandemic, pay our rent, bills, and coordinator pay, and continue to be a hub for the mutual aid efforts and protest planning happenings in town.

Without our normal events, we need your help to sustain the CMC and keep it alive. Thank you for being a part of our community and our family.

If you can, send a check by mail to: CMC, 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601, donate online through PayPal at: [paypal.me/CMC4ever](https://www.paypal.com/CMC4ever). Mask up, stay safe. 🦺



The Gainesville Free Grocery Store is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center. We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

For more info:

Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)

Web: <https://www.facebook.com/GNVVFGS>

Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

Leave message: at 352-388-1586

Vine ORGANIC BAKERY & CAFE

SOURDOUGH BREADS • PASTRIES • ORGANIC COFFEE
SOUP & SANDWICH • FINE WINE • NATURAL SODAS
BEER • WI-FI • VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS

627 N MAIN STREET
FACEBOOK.COM/VINEGAINESVILLE
352.872.5866 • CASH ONLY - ATM ON SITE

MON - THU: 8 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY: 8 AM - 8 PM
SATURDAY: 7 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

Realty's
A
Ride

GET INSIDE!

Sandy Malone, Realtor
352-575-4080
"No Pressure Realtor"

1.5% listing fee (call for details)

In memoriam:



Remembering Jack Price

by Ronnie Lovler

Jack Price's passing is everyone's loss. He was an inspiration to me and probably to most people who knew him. Often when we call someone an inspiration, it is an empty word. But that is not the case when referring to Jack.

Jack died of COVID-19 early in the morning hours of July 15. He had become frail and weak, at almost 91, with both his eyesight and hearing failing. He died in his sleep and that was a blessing.

Jack was not a Gainesville native; he was born on Oct. 11, 1929 in Vero Beach, Florida (a birthday he always bragged that he shared with Eleanor Roosevelt).

He grew up in Jacksonville and later lived in a number of cities including New York, Atlanta, and Tampa where he worked for different social justice organizations.

When he was looking to retire in 1990, he chose Gainesville.

Jack was a staunch supporter of the Civic Media Center and the Alachua County Labor Coalition. He loved, supported and appreciated both organizations. He spoke out on Medicare For All, before the concept had even been branded.

It was my honor and privilege to be one of his friends. All of the many of us who were lucky enough to number among his friends know that Jack was not always an easy man, but his overall kindness and generosity were what counted most. He also had an amazing wit and a photographic memory. There was very little that Jack forgot or could not bring up with instant recall.

You might have also recognized Jack by the way he dressed. He usually sported a beret, used suspenders or a vest, and decked himself in the campaign buttons of progressive candidates seeking political office at the time. He carried a man purse stuffed to overflowing with sunglasses, some cash and credit cards, as well as newspaper clippings. In his earlier days, he was known as "Jack the Clipper," for his propensity to clip and share interesting newspaper articles with his friends.

Jack was a self-described Luddite and a real technophobe. He did not use a computer, a cell phone, or a tablet. When he really wanted to share a piece of infor-

mation wide and far, he would ask the woman who was probably his best friend, Terry Hamilton Wollin, to write an email to "friends of Jack" to share the news.

Jack was always aligned with the left's political causes, particularly around Latin America in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Once democracy was restored to Chile, the Chilean government honored Jack for what he had done to help make Chile a free and democratic nation once again. He was also involved with political groups working on behalf of Puerto Rico, Nicaragua and El Salvador in the 1980s.

Jack was proud of being Jewish and identified with the Jewish Renewal movement of Congregation B'nai Or. He also occasionally attended services and went to other events at Shir Shalom and B'nai Israel.

Jack was an ally of the African American freedom struggle and was thrilled to see how the Black Lives Movement finally picked up steam during the last few months.

He kept up to date on developments through the only channel he liked to watch — MSNBC.

He loved Rachel Maddow. I don't think he ever willingly missed one of her shows. If a nurse dared to change the channel to suggest he might like some variety, he let the nurse know in no uncertain terms he was very happy with how things were.

During the last year or so of his life, Jack took action (or had people take action on his behalf) to give away his belongings. He donated his vast book collection to the Civic Media Center. He gifted his collection of menorahs and his paintings. In other words, he gave away everything that meant something to him to the people who meant something to him.

We thought Jack would have made it through until Nov. 3, so he could vote. That was his stated goal. Every time I talked with him, during visits before COVID, and on the phone after that, he would talk about voting. Earlier, his candidate of choice was Elizabeth Warren. Naturally now he was going to vote for Joe Biden. That is the kind of man Jack was, passionate about progressive politics to the very end.

Jack has no surviving family, but he did have plenty of friends, and I guess we became his family. 🐾

Labor Notes
 The voice of activists who are
 "Putting the movement back in
 the Labor Movement"

www.labornotes.org
 for in-depth and up-to-date
 reporting from around the
 labor movement

Subscribe \$30/year

In memoriam:

Community mourns loss of Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn



by Linda Cue, Alachua County Library District

As a librarian, developing programs for the Alachua County Library District, and helping to provide many services, I've witnessed how information can empower an individual and even an entire community. However, it wasn't until I met and worked with Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn that I truly began to understand that community service demands passion, commitment, and dedication.

On Aug. 5, Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Tricia to her many friends and colleagues, died in her home surrounded by family and close friends after battling an illness. Her death not only left a void for those who loved and knew her best, but also left a void in a community that she embraced, served, and worked passionately to empower.

Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn moved to Gainesville 30 years ago. While first teaching Black Women in Film in the Women's Studies Department and then working as a senior lecturer in the African American Studies Department at the University of Florida, she along with her husband, Dr. Kenneth Nunn, a law professor at the university, raised two daughters and worked diligently with so many in the Alachua County community to provide and create projects about the often hidden history of this county.

A professor and community activist, Dr. Hilliard-Nunn's research and activism involved the history of enslaved Africans, plantations, and lynchings in Alachua County. As a result of her research, she created the documentary, "In the Shadow of Plantations," highlighting the history of enslaved African Americans in Alachua County. With her research involving The Newberry Six, she uncovered and lead an entire community to confront and reconcile with a history of lynching and racial injustice.

Besides her research, she was director of the Community Outreach Partnership Center at the University of Florida during the 1990s, worked with the Gainesville community to restore historical black areas (Porters Quarters, Seminary Lane, and Pleasant Street), created Markare Publishing Company, founded The Powerful Elder Organization, served on the board of The Cotton Club, and was a member of The Pleasant Street Historic Society, while participating in numerous church, civic, library, and community activities and events.

As a student in her Black Women in Film class, I was captivated and discovered films by African American women that I didn't realize existed. I was encouraged to question ideas and perceptions about popular and familiar films portraying African American female characters.

As a librarian, I was honored to assist Dr. Hilliard-Nunn in searching for books, microfilms, and documents in the Florida Reference section of the library and spent hours, and days, searching for information involving African American history in Alachua County.

As a friend to the library, she developed and presented programs on James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Juneteenth, African American history in Alachua County, black hair, African dance and art, and so many other topics.

As a friend, Dr. Hilliard-Nunn brainstormed ideas for programs with me, discussed books, authors, and films, and shared strategies about how to research and record my family history.

The Alachua County Library District's mission is to build a better community by creating opportunities to participate, connect, and discover. Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn effortlessly embodied the meaning of this mission. She influenced students, colleagues, friends, and her community.

As her students, colleagues, friends, and members of this community, we will move forward connecting, discovering, creating, and serving to build a community that recognizes the value of everyone. Thank you, Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn for your service and for being a brilliant example. ☾

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

You are welcome here, where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.



www.gainesvillequakers.org

352-372-1070

702 NW 38th St.

Worship each Sunday @ 11 am.

**GAINESVILLE
COMMUNITY
ACUPUNCTURE**



AFFORDABLE ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

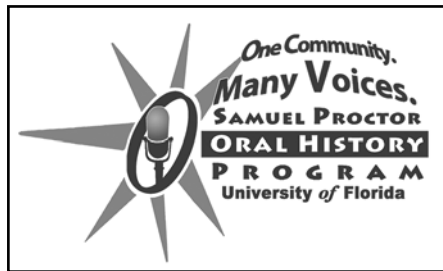
Jennifer Downey, AP, Dipl OM

ACUPUNCTURE PHYSICIAN
AP 1673

4131 NW 13th Street, Suite 101
Gainesville, FL 32609
GainesvilleCommunityAcupuncture.com

Phone: (352) 371-0012
Cell: (352) 745-2977
acujenn@yahoo.com

History and the people who make it: Gainesville Women for Equal Rights - Part 2



Jane Hiers [H], Jean Chalmers [C], Cora Roberson [R], Vivian Filer [F], and David Chalmers [DC] speak in April 2009 with interviewer Steve Davis [D] about their time working with Gainesville Women for Equal Rights (GWER), one of the first integrated organizations in Gainesville.

This is the 61st in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection; part 1 of this excerpt appeared in the July-August Iguana.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

C: Alachua General Hospital, of course, was owned by the county. And the county government was fighting with the doctors. Two county commissioners: G.M. Davis and Sid [Martin], were friendly to our cause. The two of them said, "We'll get even with those doctors. We'll appoint Jean Chalmers to the Board of Trustees." [Laughter] Here was this committee member who'd caused so much trouble, and they put me on the board. You should've seen the faces of the men when I walked in. And I stayed on that board until 1982.

F: We'd know who we could count on. We had women, strong women, in strategic places who were not afraid to really go to battle. It took a lot. They wouldn't call y'all nice names in the newspaper. You weren't discussed in favorable ways in other places, either. But we created a bond, and were empowered. I remember the nights in those rooms, when smoke was a complete haze. I mean, there was a balloon above our heads from the smoke!

C: You know, I would go from GWER meetings over to the Millhopper Nursery School where nobody smoked.

F: Smelling like a smokestack, and you hadn't had a cigarette! [Laughter]

C: I was at [a] Millhopper meeting the

night that Martin Luther King was killed. The phone call came, and I was the only person in the room that cried. And I just wished I could be back in the smoke-filled room! [Laughter]

D: Vivian, in the panel discussion at the Matheson, you had a quote that I thought was interesting. It was: "Just because it might appear on paper, doesn't mean that it actually gets done." In the process of desegregating Alachua County schools, the devil is in the details. People can say that they're going to desegregate, but there are ways that they can slow or frustrate the process. I was wondering if you guys had any comments on that.

R: One thing in particular was that we – Colored teachers – were paid less money than White teachers. You know how we found that out? By talking, being friendly, with teachers, as we would meet in that place where we charged all of our supplies.

Teachers from different schools would come in, and they'd say, "Excuse me, but what are you paying for?" Say, "Our supplies that we use for the children." Say, "Are you paying for those out of your pocket?" I had a large bill every month – and other teachers – where we would buy the materials to use with the children. We had to pay for it. They said, "You shouldn't be doing that. The school system is supposed to be paying for that!" It took a while for it to change.

Some of the White teachers at Kirby-Smith, they spoke up for us and at A. Quinn Jones, we soon stopped doing it. I think Williams and Duval elementary schools maybe got that privilege a little bit later. We had connections with these teachers, especially at Kirby-Smith. They would tell us what was happening. They would tell us how much they made, and we would say how much we made, and they would say, "That's ridiculous!" Now, these are special teachers. We met there almost on purpose, so that we could talk to each other. This was just a kind of off-the-record meeting. When we meet with you, it was like a big sisterhood. But this was people just feeding us information, because they were learning and we were learning.

F: They were your Watergate. [Laughter]

R: We were learning from them how we were not treated equally. And they were learning how it worked, because they were unaware that this was happening. We came back to the then-formed education committee, and they thought they would investigate, because you can't go by hearsay; you got to really know what you're doing. Jean, were you a member of that group that went up to the school board after hours, so you could look at the records and see?

C: Right. I think, John Dukes let us in.

R: And let you see the records, and found out that what we had told you was true: we were not getting equal salaries.

C: Right. There was no Sunshine Law in those days.

R: I remember volunteering to babysit for some of you guys so that you could go over there in the evenings and check those records. A lot of times, we couldn't be out front, because nobody listened to us. You had to go in and see that things were done, and we had to just be supportive sometimes, that included babysitting while you went to take care of business. Because if we tried to, nobody had any time for us.

C: This went through right into the [19]70s. I remember speaking in front of the school board. I was working for the county government. The County Commission called me and said, "As long as you're on the payroll of the county, you cannot go and scold the school board!" [Laughter]

F: One hand doesn't know what the other hand's doing. Those are really good examples of 'just because it's written doesn't mean that it's done'; the other part of that is finding out that it is written.

Somebody like Mr. John Dukes would've been the person who would clue you in. He was a Lincoln High School graduate who went to the Service, and to college. He came back into Gainesville with the idea that he wanted to move his school forward—which he did.

He organized our first National Honor Society. Those of us – Janie Williams, Vivian Filer – that whole group were Lincoln High School's first members of the National Honor Society. He made

a way, because nobody'd done this: get a bus to take Black kids from a school on a trip. He took us to Tallahassee, to the legislative sessions. He also planned that to be the very night that they had a play on campus: Carmen. I never will forget that. We were able to go see Carmen Jones.

Not only that, he was engaged to Bernice, and she was in college at FAMU, so we were able to go on a picnic where he brought his fiancée. For us, that was unheard of. We'd never been on a trip, we hadn't been on a bus, we didn't have a clue as to what happened in the Senate or House of Representatives; had never been on a college campus; had no clue what it meant to go to a stage play. That is the kind of thing that John Dukes brought to Gainesville.

When we graduated as his first class, we were the first that he led into organizing an alumni group. So, the class of 1956, every five years, had an alumni celebration, up until we celebrated our 50th year a couple of years ago, and that was our last one.

He always came to speak. He never stopped reprimanding us. He never stopped telling us – but he always did “Out of the night that covers me / Black as the pit from pole to pole / I thank whatever gods may be / For my unconquerable soul.”

He meant that. He meant us to have unconquerable souls. But you know, Cora, my hat goes off to all of the teachers like you who, not only did you take funds out of your pocket, you took love out of your heart.

D: Was there any intimidation on the UF campus, of people involved with civil rights? Were jobs threatened by your activism?

F: [Laughter] Did your husbands tell you to stay home?

C: The husband of our president was Marshall Jones, and he lost his position at the University of Florida because of it. He was the faculty advisor for Students for Equal Rights. His wife, Beverly Jones, was one of the founders of Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, to help support Marshall's students. Bob Canney lost his job; people lost their jobs in the University of Florida because of involvement.

Dan Harmeling had a job at the library, and he was arrested up in Quincy, I think, at a demonstration, and his grant was taken away. A lot of students lost their aid; they weren't expelled, but they lost their student aid, they lost their grants, and for some it meant that they couldn't keep going.

The faculty wives didn't have any problems, because we didn't have jobs. The old rule in Florida – many states during the Depression – was you could only have one member of a family work for the government, because they wanted to spread the jobs as broadly as they could. That was still the practice at the University of Florida. So, you had all these overeducated women that couldn't get a job, had time on their hands; it was the worst decision the state ever made, because it meant we all had time to become radical! [Laughter] If they'd given us jobs – and indeed, with GWER, as soon as we all got professional jobs, the organization sort of petered away.

R: That's right.

F: A lot of women left whatever side of town to go into the home of a faculty person to be the maid. That was real important. In some instances, I know that they were told, “Was it your daughter out there doing this?” Or “Were you involved in things” that were civil rights-related. Those were trying times for some

people on that level. I don't think it stopped anybody, because my mom was one of those, and I never stopped.

C: Yeah. But then, the other side, Rosa Williams was Jane Sterritt's maid.

R: That's right! That's right! [Laughter]

C: Jane got Rosa into the Council for Human Rights, and I remember Rosa had such a stutter, she could hardly talk. Rosa would stand in the kitchen rather than come out and meet with us all. Rosa and I were appointed to a covered dish committee. That's when the two of us became friends, 1959. I remember saying to Rosa, “But what if everybody brings meat, or everyone brings a salad?” She said, “If you're doing the Lord's work, He'll straighten out the food.” [Laughter]

F: And she knows how to straighten out food!

H: Yes. Yes. She worked at Bell Nursery as a cook for a long time. And she was a great, great help.

F: That's another big, empty spot as far as African American children were concerned, because there was no organized daycare. We kept them in homes. I remember when they opened the daycare center, Mr. Lenard – what was Lenard's mom? Ms. Bell.

R: Jackson. Lenard Jackson, but she was Bell.

F: That was a big deal. There, we started organized daycare.

C: It was Bell Nursery that inspired us to integrate United Way. United Way would only fund White organizations. To be a member of United Way, all you had to do was contribute. So, a whole group of us contributed money to the United Way. Then came the annual election of officers, and we all marched up there with Rosa! [Laughter] We were all sitting in the audience, and they presented a slate, “Are there any nominations from the floor?” “Nominate Rosa Williams.” “Second.” “All in favor?” “Aye.” “Rosa Williams.” [Laughter] United Way, and Bell Nursery got United Way-funded.

To be continued in the October Iguana. See a full video of this interview by searching for “GWER 2009” at YouTube.com. Find 14 related interviews at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1114>.

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. 🐘



East End Eatery

LUNCH: M-F / 10-2
inside & carry out
(weather permitting)

DINNER: M-F / 5-6 - carry out only

1202 NE 8th Avenue • 378-9870

From AUGUST ELECTIONS, p. 1

candidates poured massive personal wealth into the campaign and raised a combined total of nearly a quarter of a million dollars – making this the most expensive race per vote cast in county history. McGraw won the money arms race, and her expansive campaign outside of Gainesville, her outspokenness on policy at public events, marches, and repeated School Board meetings, and assertive stances on school reopening and equity issues also carried the day.

McGraw is expected to join returning incumbent Dr. Leanetta McNealy and sitting Board Member Tina Certain on a new majority. Expect impact fees to be finalized (all candidates and incumbents support them, to be fair), and a retooling of the power relationship between the superintendent and the Board. Banko was highly credentialed but presented herself through endorsements and supporters as a status quo candidate in a year where County residents and school teachers almost unanimously expressed a desire for change in Board policies during public Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook meetings that broke decades long records for county-wide attendance.

The County Commission races were raw as well. Anna Prizzia scored a huge vic-

tory against out of town developers and a Trojan Horse candidate. She won the District 1 Democratic Primary (At-large) with just under half the party vote against Kevin Thorpe, a corporate-sponsored third-time County candidate masquerading as a progressive pro-environmentalist.

Thorpe won key conservative property-rights precincts, but public knowledge of his alliances and contributions with right wing interests, and his stances on McMansion wetlands development during the 2016 battle over Plum Creek, led many of his prior Black and White supporters towards Prizzia. The capable progressive Jason Stanford initially worried electioneers with a potential split in the progressive vote against Thorpe, but voters put County interests – and defeating Thorpe – before this promising candidate.

In the County Democratic Primary for District 3 one of the most credentialed candidates in recent memory, Mary Alford, unseated incumbent Mike Byerly with a platform looking to continue much of his policy legacy while advancing some issues that Byerly seemed to grow apart on or failed to communicate his work on to the public. Commissioner Byerly stated in the *Gainesville Sun* that the County Commission remains in good

hands. His five-term experience will be crucial, along with retiring Commissioner “Hutch” Hutchinson, to continued excellence in County land use, mental health, and public services policy.

Former Alachua City Manager and Florida House District 20 Representative Clovis Watson, Jr. handily defeated long-time incumbent Sheriff Sadie Darnell.

The Hon. Watson Jr.’s campaign did not make the explicit promises left-leaning progressives would have liked, but relative to a police executive campaign his stances on jail operations and cash bail signal potential change.

Sheriff Darnell threaded the partisan needle endorsing state office right wingers one year, and local progressives the next (Rick Scott and Andrew Gillum respectively). This, and a perfectly dialed campaign execution, earned Watson the spot. Let’s remember that Sheriff-Elect Watson cannot hire all new deputies. We should, shall, and will maintain our vigilance over police and deputies.

County Property Appraiser was secured by Ayesha Solomon, the first Black woman in such a position. Each candidate made disappointingly conservative promises to serve property owners and held compelling quali-

From RENTERS RIGHTS, p. 1

more about your experience as a renter in this community. Right now, Commissioners friendly to this initiative tell us that they’re being swamped with calls and emails from business interests who oppose this initiative – we have to counter them!

We also welcome letters to the editors of the *Gainesville Sun* and *Independent Alligator*.

Three years ago at the start of this housing campaign, ACLC wrote an op-ed which opened with, “Our community has a severe shortage of affordable housing. With 3,000 new residents projected to be moving into Alachua County every year, the Alachua County Labor Coalition supports a variety of measures to help increase the overall number of affordable housing units in the future. However, we also believe this community must address existing housing costs and conditions for our community’s most vulnerable residents now. Renters in this community are due basic rights and protections such as a safe place to live, freedom from discrimination, affordable utility bills, and disclosure of their rights and responsibilities as tenants.”

First the county, then the city has already updated their anti-discrimination in housing codes over the past year which the ACLC introduced and pushed through. It prevents discrimination based on income source, citizenship status, gender preference and being a survivor of domestic violence.

The ACLC has been contacted many times by community members who were unable to use their housing vouchers to rent in many neighborhoods. We have been contacted by people who

were asked by landlords about their citizenship status and by people who were denied housing because of being a survivor of domestic violence. Unbelievably, there were also people who most recently have landlords who did not want to accept CARES ACT vouchers as payment for their rent. We directed all of them to the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office where the new housing codes are enforced, which then contacted the landlords and set them straight.

If you’re able to help out as this campaign reaches its final stages email us and we’ll get you plugged in. We will pivot to the county next. info@laborcoalition.org. Check out Alachua County Labor Coalition Facebook page and group for updates and share our information. For background on the Safe and Healthy Housing campaign go to <https://laborcoalition.org/>. You can also find letters of endorsement at our website.

You can also sign our easy on-line petition which generates a letter to the City Commission here; <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1109>. While on the website, check out our work on Eviction Resistance; we are actively in the community outreaching to those people who have been served eviction notices. Eviction Lab, run out of Stanford University expects 4,000 renters will be evicted in Alachua County when the state eviction stay notice is lifted.

Lastly, the ordinance will come before the Gainesville City Commission on Sept. 17 for a first vote. Please tune into that meeting to voice your support for this important ordinance which will try to bring all housing in Gainesville up to code and codify mechanisms for tenants to be able to fight for their human right to safe and healthy housing. 🐬

fications, but Ms. Solomon convinced more of us she would be responsible to the County's public interests. The second place Matt Geiger amassed great personal wealth for this race. He took money from right wing politicians and real estate interests. Those were big red flags in a Democratic Primary.

In a win-win for progressives in Florida House District 20, Yvonne Hinson (Dem) overcame Rodney Long (Dem) in a "universal primary" where everyone could vote because there were no non-Democratic opponents. Both ran pro-environment, pro-

worker, pro-racial justice, and pro-public education campaigns. We hope Representative-Elect Hinson will maintain the same 100 percent progressive rating from the Democratic Progressive Caucus that Hon. Clovis Watson did during his service there.

Tax Collector John Power (D), Supervisor of Elections Kim Barton (D), Clerk of the Court J.K. "Jess" Irby (D), County Commissioner Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV (D) and County Judge Kristine Van Dorst (Non-Partisan Race) were re-elected unopposed. Alford, Priz-

zia, Watson, and Solomon face weak Republican and NPA (non-party) candidates in the November General Elections for County Commission, Sheriff, and Property Appraiser. We expect they will urge their voters to Get Out the Vote for Kayser Enneking and Adam Christensen as they sail into office.

James Thompson is a local community activist who has campaigned for School Board, County Commission, Statehouse, Presidential, and Gainesville City Commission candidates. ✨

Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email gainesvilleiguana@cox.net with updates and additions

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed. Please confirm times of meetings with individual organizations, as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic.

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

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. gainesvillegreens.webs.com, alachuagreen@gmail.com, 352-871-1995

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaigns for Medicare for All and a living wage. <http://laborcoalition.org/>, info@laborcoalition.org, 352-375-2832, Mail: PO Box 358201, 32635; Office: 235 S Main St #206, 32601. Meetings at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave.

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that provides low-cost, high-quality medical and dental care, and social services for people with and without health insurance. The clinic primarily serves residents of Alachua, Bradford and Union Counties. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteer physicians, nurses, dentists, hygienists, pharmacists and counselors. 23320 N. State Rd 235, Brooker, 352-485-1133, <http://acornclinic.org/>. Note: unfortunately they are closing their medical clinic Oct 31 due to Tallahassee budget cuts. The dental clinic will remain open.

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

American Promise Association A cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People - not big

money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests - govern the United States of America. <http://americanpromise.net>, info@americanpromise.net

Amnesty International UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; www.facebook.com/ufamnesty or UFAmnesty@gmail.com.

Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) is a non-profit research organization working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. www.arciinst.org

Black Graduate Student Organization aims to build fellowship at UF. bgsoatuf@gmail.com, [facebook ufbgso](https://www.facebook.com/ufbgso)

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America A local chapter of Democratic Socialists of America focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. General meetings are on the 4th Monday of every month at the Downtown Library in Gainesville in Meeting Room A. centralfldsa@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/centralfldsa

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies, btancig@gmail.com, 352-214-1778

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, 433 S Main St., Gainesville, 32601

The Coalition for Racial Justice gnv4all@gmail.com

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. www.chispasuf.org, chispasuf@gmail.com, [facebook: chispasUF](https://www.facebook.com/chispasUF)

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, 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

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

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm. in the Alachua County School Board Meeting Room at 620 E University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, alachuadems.org

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change, youngersn@outlook.com

Divest UF is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms & surveillance companies. <http://www.divestuf.org>, Facebook @Divest UF

Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization, a safe space for people of color. Facebook: [goddsville dream defenders](https://www.facebook.com/goddsville.dreamdefenders)

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, 352-682-2542

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

Final Friends helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to employing a commercial funeral home. We are an independent group of volunteers who provide free education, guidance and support to anyone who prefers to care for their own deceased loved ones prior to burial or cremation. www.finalfriends.org, final.friends.org@gmail.com, 352-374-4478

The Fine Print Quarterly magazine founded in 2008 with political, social and arts coverage, thefineprintmag.org

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 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

Gainesville Area AIDS Project provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. www.gaaponline.org, 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 6pm first Tuesday every month at Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave., 352-378-1690, www.fadp.org.

Gainesville for All The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities including Criminal Justice, Education, Voter Registration, Family Support, and Health & Transportation, or email GNV4ALL@gmail.com.

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, www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com, 352-377-6577

Gainesville NOW www.gainesvillenow.org, info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912

Gainesville Peer Respite A non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. Peer Support Warmline is available 6pm-6am; we offer wellness activities, support groups and brief overnight respite stays. Call 352-559-4559, gainesvillerespite.org

Gainesville Roller Rebels - a womens' Flat Track roller derby team needs skaters and volunteer assistance, join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com

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, www.ufgau.org

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

The Humanist Families of Gainesville meet the last Thursday of the month from 6 to however long they want to stay, play, talk, buy veggies, eat, dance, at One Love Cafe. Visit us on FB Humanist Families of Gainesville and leave a message.

Humanist Society of Gainesville meets at 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 or facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville; 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: emailufhumanistsoncampus@gmail.com, alternative: j.bontems@ufl.edu, phone- 561-374-3537

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on activities in order to save the Ichetucknee River.<http://ichetuckneealliance.org/>, ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com, 386-454-0415, P. O. Box 945, High Springs.

Indivisible Gainesville* is one of 5800 local chapters of the national Indivisible movement, working to peacefully and systematically resist the Trump agenda. We are a group of local volunteers fighting against agendas of division, inequality, financial influence in government, and policies that neglect to benefit all American citizens equally. indivisiblegnv.org, projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), branch of IWW, GainesvilleIWOC@gmail.com

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union for all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status. Meets 1st Sunday of the month at 6 pm at CMC. Contact: gainesvilleiww@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men which has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies (fairness in districting, voting and elections, e.g.) through citizen education and advocacy. <http://www.lwvalachua.org/>, info@lwv-alachua.org<<mailto:info@lwv-alachua.org>>

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>

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization that works to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure that all are treated with dignity and respect. Email: msfgainesville@gmail.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. Contact Alachua County Green Party for info.

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

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: Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.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, support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedom for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. Founded 1968. Join us: www.womensliberation.org, P.O. Box 14017, Gainesville, 32604, 352-575-0495, nwl@womensliberation.org

NCF AWIS - an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (except holidays) from 5:30 -7:30pm, Millhopper Branch, Alachua Cty Public Library. Meetings open to public. ncfawis@gmail.com or www.ncfawis.org

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 world. www.occupygainesville.org and <https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville>

Our Revolution North-Central Florida, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party, contact@ourrevncfl.com

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. Meets 3rd Weds at 6:30 in Rum Island building, 2070 SW CR 138, Ft White. 386-243-0322, <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. Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email 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

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery promotes natural burial practices that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org, 352-317-7307

Pride Awareness Month is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, ufpridemonth@gmail.com

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the LGBT+ community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org

Protect Gainesville Citizens Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensive information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org

Putnam County Florida Democratic Party, <http://www.putnamcountyfloridademocrats.com>, check website or call for upcoming meetings, 107 S. Sixth St., Palatka - For information on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano at 352-475-3012

Quaker Meetinghouse Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St. Facebook/GainesvilleQuakers for events or request Meetinghouse space at www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop and community center, diverts useful resources from the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Let's all help protect the planet and buy used. Open to the public. Tues-Sat: 10am-7pm, Sun noon-5. www.repurposeproject.org (NOTE: Temporarily closed due to Covid-19 - check website for updates)

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. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization developing materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran 352-372-1095

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. <http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

Say Yes to Second Chances Florida is a coalition of nonpartisan civic and faith organizations who are working for Florida's Voting Restoration Amendment to allow people who've paid their debt to society to earn back their right to vote. <https://www.floridiansforfairdemocracy.com/>

Sierra Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Life South Building, 4039 W. Newberry Rd, 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. (across from Gainesville HS). <http://www.gnv-sistercities.org>

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county's unincorporated areas; it protects valuable wetlands, standbyourplan@gmail.com; <http://standbyourplan.org/>

Student Animal Alliance UF based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events. facebook: student animal alliance, instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

Students Demand Action is a youth led gun violence prevention group. sdagainesville@gmail.com

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"

Students for Justice in Palestine, a cultural and political organization, sjpuflorida@gmail.com

Sunday Assembly, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 11 am at the Pride Center located in the Liberty Center at 3131 NW 13 St.. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. See <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

UF College Democrats (UFCD) meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in Little Hall 121. 407-580-4543, Facebook.com/UFcollegedems

UF Pride Student Union LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students,

non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter Run by and for faculty, the University of Florida Chapter of United Faculty of Florida (UFF-UF) represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. UFF's origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, and end racial discrimination at UF. www.UFF-UF.org, 352-519-4130.

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. <https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org>

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, <http://vfgainesville.org/>

Wayfaring Painter is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy. Through offering a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops, we hope to strengthen and promote individual thought and demonstrate the value of art in community education. <http://wayfaringpainter.org>, or on social media @wayfaringpainter

WELLS (wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality) is a healing research collective aiding UF marginalized communities, especially QTPOC, facebook WELLS healing and research collective

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM Community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC. info@wgot.org, www.wgot.org

Women's March Gainesville meets on the second Monday of each month: for location and agenda information, please see: m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/; www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/; [Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/); [Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/](https://twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/) and/or email wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org. Together we can do anything... Join Us! We Need You. Let's build this peaceful movement together!

World Socialist Party of the United States (WSP-US) welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog-Devil take the hindmost world created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality at boston@wspus.org. Upon request the Party will provide membership applications, <http://wspus.org>.

Zine Committee works to preserve and promote Travis Fristoe Zine Library at the CMC, new meeting time TBD - see Facebook, cmzinecommittee@gmail.com ✨

The time for tenant power is now

By Cristina Cabada
Alachua County Labor Coalition
Coordinator

It's no surprise that Gainesville has been suffering from a housing crisis for decades. However, the almost radioactive effects of the covid-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession have led to the worst housing crisis of the century.

The statewide eviction moratorium has effectively delayed hundreds of evictions from being filed. In spite of this, as soon as Governor DeSantis' order expires on Sept. 1, hundreds in our community will be facing wrongful evictions.

Housing is a human right, to strip someone of this right through the filing of an eviction during a public health crisis and an economic recession is both inhumane and wrong. Gainesville residents deserve better than this; they deserve to be protected from unjust evictions.

Before the eviction moratorium is lifted, we need to prepare and organize. Landlords and developers have had far too much influence in Gainesville, it's imperative for tenants to rise up and build power to fight against corporate and private interests.

The Alachua County Tenants Association was formed out of the Alachua County Labor Coalition housing project to empower tenants in Gainesville and ensure that every person is granted their fundamental right to safe, affordable and sustainable housing.

Gainesville Socialist Alternative is an integral part of the group and its members have stepped into leadership

with organizing enthusiasm. No person deserves to face an eviction – it's an indefensible process for a tenant that only makes it harder to find future housing as they are deemed risky. Moreover evicted tenants will be burdened with another security deposit, additional fees and, at times, first and last month's rent payment to secure housing for themselves.

The Alachua County Tenants Association is made up of the canvassing, data, and mail teams. The most essential team is the canvas team which goes door to door to people who have evictions filed against them to explain their rights as a tenant, provide them with resources to help them fight their eviction and for the team to get a better understanding of the needs of the community.

The mail team sends out letters with resource information to households facing eviction every week. We are connecting people with Three Rivers Legal Services who are providing free legal services about evictions and the eviction process. The mail team is also providing information about the Alachua County Cares Act

and other resources to help people stay in their homes.

Right now we are addressing the eviction crisis reactively, as we are only reaching out to people who are already facing evictions. However, we want to transition our strategy to aggressively attack the problems tenants face in Gainesville.

Our next steps are to begin flyering and surveying neighborhoods with high numbers of evictions and to identify the properties owned by landlords who are filing a large number of evictions. The information gathered here will allow us to better understand the housing crisis here in Gainesville and allow us to tailor strategies to prevent people from being evicted in the first place. We want to facilitate neighbors organizing with each other to establish long term tenant power within Gainesville.

Help us build tenant power in Gainesville and join The Alachua County Tenants Association to tackle the current evictions crisis. Email info@laborcoalition.org for more information and to get involved.

**VOICE YOUR SUPPORT
FOR THE RENTERS' RIGHTS
ORDINANCE AT THE
GAINESVILLE CITY
COMMISSION MEETING**



**PASS THE RENTERS'
RIGHTS
ORDINANCE!**

The meeting is on
Sept. 17. For more
info, contact ACLC at:
352-375-2832
or email:
info@laborcoalition.org

RSVP to the ACLC
Facebook Event so
we know that we have
your support!



The Gainesville Iguana
Gainesville's progressive newsletter and events calendar
Gainesville Iguana, P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

(352) 378-5655 GainesvilleIguana@cox.net
www.gainesvilleiguana.org facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

*Articles from current and past issues since 1996, and PDF's of print
issues since 2012 are available at www.gainesvilleiguana.org*

Subscribe!
Individuals: \$15 a year
(or more if you can)
Low/No income: what you can
Groups: \$20 a year