



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

October 2020
Vol. 34, Issue 10

Thank you, Dream Defenders

by Joe Courter

Never in my nearly 70 years on this planet has there been as much heightened consciousness about systemic racism and brutality dished out on people of color as right now.

Thanks to cell phones and people not afraid to get them out and record, as well as the requirement that police wear body cameras, and that their dash board camera footage can be forced to be released, has the public actually seen what has been going on for, well, centuries.

Rodney King, in 1991, was one of the earliest recorded examples of police brutality on a Black man. People realized that without that footage, there never would have been a case. And if there had been, it would have been localized to a Los Angeles courtroom. Now, with social media, the power of images such as these has multiplied exponentially.

The awareness of police conduct and their use of violence has been growing and growing. The shootings, the tasings, the takedown of teenagers by burly cops, the verbal bullying – like what happened to Sandra Bland – and the wrist slaps or lesser judgements against cops who kill

See DREAM DEFENDERS, p.20

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Alexandra St Tellien of Goddsville Dream Defenders speaks to the approximately 200 people circled up in front of the Alachua County Courthouse on Saturday, Sept. 26 following a march from Bo Diddley Plaza for a "Say her name: Breonna Taylor" rally. Photo by Quincy Masters.

VOTE!

*by Jeremiah Tattersall,
from thestrawhat.org*

Note: The Iguana is happy to have Jeremiah Tattersall's permission to run his voter guide again. He is a hard working organizer with the AFL-CIO and a committed watchdog on local issues. While he is a bit flip and loose, it does not take away from the serious consideration given each item. Also, please know that on Oct. 4 the League of Women Voters had their candidate forum via Zoom, and things being what they are, that will also mean it should be available for all the see at their Facebook or website, so check it

out. We will note that the recommendations here are not just Jeremiah's, but also largely correspond to voting guides of local organizations such as Women for Wise Growth, the Democratic Executive Committee, the Human Rights Campaign and Sierra Club, the only differences being Judge retentions and State Amendments 5 and 6.

So yes, this is short and a little more bitter than a usual voter guide. Leave a comment and I'll respond for clarification. And I don't want to hear it about not voting. Just

See VOTER GUIDE, p.16



MONDAY thru FRIDAY

8 AM and 1 PM

WGOT.org / WGOT 100.1 FM

Gainesville's Community Radio

Trump Contracting Covid 19

by Joe Courter

With publishing there are schedules and deadlines. Breaking news for a monthly is problematic, it means you won't have any mention of a really big story, you put in a short acknowledgment, or you do the classic "Stop the Presses!"

The *Iguana* faced this when airplanes flew into building in Sept. 2001. Something big had just happen, the ramifications of which we knew would be big, but would not be known for days and weeks. We were wrapping up production. This feels similar.

How this plays out we do not know. The physical outcome for Trump to the invading virus and effectiveness of treatments they give him...unknown. How will this affect campaigning in the days left before the election? Unknown. Will this overshadow everything else with a big sympathy vote? Unknown. But here we are, October 5. Ink is hitting the paper today. Let's hope he lives to see the vote in November, and that it is a massive repudiation of his incompetent leadership. 🐢

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.



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515 N. Main Street, Suite 300
Gainesville, FL 32601-3348
VoteAlachua.com



Letter to the Editor:

Alford has experience, ethics

During my advocacy work in Columbia Co. during the last ten years or so, I have had the opportunity to travel to many of the counties in North Central Florida and I always admired the overall progressive quality and ethics of Alachua County's Commission.

Mary Alford is highly qualified and likely to continue this heritage. Endorsing her is simple and easy because I have known her personally for several years, since she shows up often in the right places doing admirable things to improve her county and state. These efforts are usually volunteer and provide her with lots of experience in working with local government.

I do not know her Republican rival, but upon researching her, the first thing I found is that Keith Perry endorsed her, and that is enough to know that she does not have the mindset to improve life in Alachua County. Further research bore this out, as her accomplishments absolutely pale compared to Mary Alford's.

Mary Alford is smart, hard-working, capable and experienced.

Jim Tatum
112 W. Minnehaha St.
Tampa, FL 33604
(352) 213-3916 🐢

From the publisher **Get out the vote**

I watched the first Presidential debate to get some clarity on writing this Publisher's Note for the last Iguana before the Nov. 3 election. I had fortified myself by reading Carl Hiaasen's great new book *Squeeze Me* one of his best and a brutally funny take down of Trump, his devotees, and wealthy South Florida elites. And pythons. I finished the book at 7:30pm Tuesday night and at 9pm I was ready with glass and bottle of \$3.99 wine. It was something ...



Joe Courter

So, clarity? It is that we must motivate a massive turnout to defeat Donald Trump. We will need the people in other states to dump their Republican Trump-enabling Senators so we can change the dynamic in Congress. And with regard to this election, we have to be ready to defend our right to vote and to have our votes counted.

I personally will early vote in person: that way I see my ballot go right in the machine, and make it easier for election workers. We need to overwhelm the voter intimidation and voter suppression with a huge GOTV: Get Out The Vote! We may even need to deal with a refusal of Trump to concede, and have to deal with the intimidation and aggression of his private army of zealous racist followers. They unfortunately are a longtime presence in America, but Trump and the internet have fertilized and nurtured their growth to toxic levels. I sure hope it doesn't come to that, because frankly I am not sure this country has the will to resist an authoritarian takeover at this point in time. And even with a smooth transition, these Trumper folks will not be going away.

So yes, we must vote Biden in, and hopefully we are successful. That said, we must realize that he is not the answer to where we need to go to make this country deal with the systemic problems that it has, and has had for decades, even centuries. There actually are strong left movements bubbling right now in this country, and they are manifesting on a number of fronts. Some credit goes back to Occupy and the 99 percent concept that grew there, but much more to the audacity of Bernie Sanders and his presidential runs in 2016 and 2020 inspiring people to want more than what mainstream Democrats were asking: things like single payer health care, free tuition and relief from student debt, a rise in the minimum wage, and facing up to the Climate Crisis. There is a huge awareness of police violence and systemic racism against Black folks, and after Black lives not mattering for 400 years, Black Lives Matter now.

Biden is a halfway measure, and we can't go to sleep as we did in 1992 and in 2008. We cannot let the concept of "Defund the Police" be dismissed. We must insist that priorities change within municipal budgets so that there is less need for cops to deal with all that is dumped on them now: more jobs, healthcare (physical and mental), drug treatment, and housing. The ideals of the Green New Deal should not be diluted or dismissed. Joe Biden unsurprisingly waffled on these things in the debate. That doesn't mean he is bad person we should dismiss; it means we have our work to do to fulfill our part of this participatory democracy. Count on vigorous opposition. The struggle continues.

So do what you can to make votes happen: Call relatives and old friends, donate time and/or money, support local candidates, help people get to the polls, do whatever fits your abilities and time. This is a pivotal election for our future and the future of this country.

Don't throw away your shot. We need to do this. 🐸

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

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On political parties

In George Washington's Farewell Address he warned about political parties. Parties, he said, "may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion." ❦



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

Comments on Coronavirus ...

by Joe Courter

So Trump and others in the administration tested positive. October Surprise #1. How this plays out regarding campaigning, debates and the election remains to be seen. I can't help but wonder if we are being played. You, who are reading this now, know more than I do writing this on Oct. 2.

The University reopening has predictably led to many scenes of unmasked students clustered together at bars and on the sidewalks. We people who live in town and have been doing a good job of masking and distancing are rightly appalled. And not just for ourselves, but for the service workers, store workers, and university employees who may become infected due to the University's decisions. Yes, they are covering their asses with strict rules on campus, but we in the community are suffering the consequences of the off-campus behavior.

Kudos to our local governmental entities for early awareness and continued vigilance on safety concerns. Currently they are also doing what they can to help local restaurants downtown with street closures to facilitate outdoor eating areas, and having free parking in the downtown parking garage. Our community kept many of these places afloat with take-out orders, this option is still available, too.

Special note should be taken to applaud many of our local establishments who are openly resisting the Governor's decree to open up on the seating restrictions. It says a lot about their valuing their workers' and customers' safety over the extra money they could make. Support these places, wear your mask and tip generously.

Thanks to this country's failure at dealing with this pandemic, it is stretching out way longer and more devastatingly than in any other country. It is often so tempting to loosen up on our own personal vigilance, especially when seeing others do that.

Please don't. Be sensible and avoid indoor gatherings as much as possible. Eat well, go outside, take care of yourself. Use your phone for needed conversations with friends new and old – we are all starving for human contact these days. Support each other.

And great thanks to those who teach, who are being forced to do a juggling act with minimal support and great personal risk. It is horrible that this nation and state so value boosting the economy at human expense, rather than supporting people the way so many other countries have. Also huge thanks to our health care workers who are caring for people, doing the testing, and living in dread in that high-risk environment. If you know folks on the front line, send them some love. ❦



Environmental Protection

Our water, air, and land resources are the foundation of our well-being and we must protect them. I will prioritize preserving the health of our environment as a matter of public good, economic development, and justice.

Social Justice

My years of work in our community have shown me that disparities are our greatest weakness. I am committed to helping us become a place where all our citizens can thrive. I will fight for inclusion, equal rights, and economic opportunity for everyone.

Local Economy

I believe providing support for small businesses and start-ups is critical for a healthy economy. We must also enhance the assets that all businesses need, like an educated workforce and strong infrastructure.

Vote Anna Prizzia for Alachua County Commission, District 3

www.annaforalachua.com

Paid for and approved by Anna Prizzia, Democrat for County Commission District 3

Science bus coming to town

by Nkwanda Jah

This fall, the Cultural Arts Coalition will introduce our Science Bus, an interactive Science experience for students throughout Alachua County.

The exhibits aboard the bus are similar to those pioneered by Brian Jones of University of Colorado, Ft. Collins and his "Little Shop of Physics."

These exhibits have two main features: They capture and frame otherwise unusual physical phenomenon, and they will use inexpensive and readily available materials to construct demonstrations.

For example, one exhibit features a mattress-inflating blower that levitates a string by the Coanda effect. Another, powered by a kitchen hand-mixer, makes a traveling wave in a chain stand still. A microwave oven with neon bulbs inside will demonstrate the nodes and antinodes in the interference patterns of electromagnetic waves.

Exhibits made from discarded materials are very approachable to kids, and help them to realize that physics is something fascinating that anyone can explore.

A bus full of exhibits is an efficient way to do outreach. Once initially outfitted with exhibits, the bus simply travels to its destination and opens its doors.

The inside of the bus is lined with contiguous, child-height tables bolted to the walls and covered with colorful felt.

Densely packed exhibits are stuck right in place with velcro. This innovative arrangement means that the Physics Bus can literally pull up to any school, park, or community center — even on short notice, no need to book an exhibition space — open its doors, and be ready to serve the public.

Given suitable surroundings such as a quiet corner of a parking lot or near a park or grassy area, the awning can be extended and extra exhibits pulled out of the under-table storage on the bus and displayed outside. The awning effectively doubles the exhibition space as well as the number of children that can be served at once, and it serves as a demonstration arena for larger exhibits such as a giant vortex cannon made out of a clothes hamper.

These interactive stations on our Science bus will include physics, biology, astronomy, entomology, geology and food

science. We will share books, games and creative ways to make science fun. Our Art wall and scavenger hunt will give students an opportunity to use their creativity to learn.

We need your financial help to assure that we are able to offer this project for this school term. To make a donation and learn more about Cultural Arts Coalition, please visit our website at www.culturalartscoalition.org, or make checks payable to Cultural Arts Coalition and mail to 321 NW 10th St. ,Gainesville, FL 32601. 🐾

Do you miss or want to discover great local music?

Gainesville Music Livestream Hub at <https://www.musicgmv.com/livestream-hub> has an ongoing list of upcoming livestreams as well as an archive of streams you may have missed.

Also, Sofar (Songs From a Room) has a great archive of local music at www.sofarsounds/gainesville, as well as links to music from around the world. 🐾



De-Privatize and Expand Medicaid, NOW!

by F. Douglas Stephenson, *Informed Comment*

The COVID-19 pandemic shows the urgent need for expansion of the Medicaid health insurance program. In too many states, political decisions by state legislators to deny health insurance to thousands of their citizens has resulted in an almost non-existent social and health safety net.

Decisions in 2016/2017 by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act resulted in an estimated 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in, according to researchers at Harvard Medical School and the City University of New York. The researchers found that because of the states' "opting out" of the Medicaid expansion, 7.78 million people who would have gained coverage remained uninsured.

To worsen the situation, many states have over the last decade privatized administration of their Medicaid program into a managed care program administered by the private profit health insurance industry. The companies are paid by state government, and their profit depends on spending as little as possible on Medicaid patients.

It's hard to imagine any greater disconnect between public good and private profit: the interest of private health insurance companies lies not in the obvious social good of delivering quality health care to patients but in having as few as possible treated as cheaply as possible. No better example exists of a private capitalist enterprise that feeds on the misery of man.

You might think that we learned the lesson of discredited managed care in the 1990s. The term "managed care" is confusing to many, but really amounts to managed reimbursement rather than managed care. A set prospective annual payment is made by federal/state governments, as in the case of state Medicaid managed care, to cover whatever services patients will receive over the coming year. There is therefore a built-in incentive for managed care organizations to skimp on care and pocket more profits.

Unfortunately, privatized Medicaid managed care was facilitated further by the Affordable Care Act. More than one-half of Medicaid beneficiaries are now in privatized plans, which have been enacted in many states based on the unproven theory that private plans can enable access to better coordinated care and still save money.

That theory is not just unproven, it is patently wrong as the state of Florida discovered. In 2016, Medicaid ate up 45.9

percent of growth in general revenue, ballooned by approval of a 7.7 percent increase in payment to private managed care plans. Privatized programs have high administrative costs, built-in profits, and do not save money or improve care. Their route to financial success is by finding more ways to limit care and deny services.

Without evidence or disclosure by the private Medicaid plans business/profit interests, private HMOs claim they save the state millions annually. Shockingly, we let many state administrations get away with this illusion by forgetting that adding a "profiteering middleman" to manage health care delivery always adds cost, and does not lower them.

The Florida and other state GOPs, for example, lobbied hard for Medicaid managed care. Using scare tactics, they claimed that more than 3 million recipients (Fla.) would receive better care and also save the state money, sternly warning the roughly \$23 billion a year Medicaid bill was consuming the state budget.

John P. Geyman, M.D., former chair of the University of Washington Department of Family Medicine and one of the most published family physicians in the U.S., asks, "Why do we still worship at the altar of privatization in U.S. health care, especially for the poor and most vulnerable among us?"

Four answers stand out:

- (1) there is a lot of money to be made by insurers operating health programs subsidized by state governments;
- (2) exploitive privatized programs are perpetuated by well-funded "free market" think tanks, their followers in Big Business, and compliant politicians responding to industry lobbyists;
- (3) regulations are inadequate to prevent gaming by insurers at patients' expense;
- (4) as a society, we still don't seem to care when people have bad health outcomes and die because of failed health care policies."

US citizens should demand that private corporate HMOs be removed and banned from the administration of our public health insurance programs in all states.

Privatization of Medicaid increases costs, without any corresponding increase in quality or access to care. Private insurers maximize profits by mainly limiting benefits or by not covering people with health problems. The greed of casual inhumanity is built in the business model and the common good of citizens is ignored.

Excluding the poor, aged, disabled and mentally ill is sound business policy, since it maximizes profit. As long as health care remains so lucrative for private insurers, patients' needs and the public interest are disregarded by health insurance profiteers.

After we expand Medicaid to meet today's immediate COVID-19 challenge, tomorrow we need to insist that the federal government finance a nationwide, not-for-profit, Medicare for All system of universal, single-payer coverage, based on medical need and not ability to pay.

This would resolve persistent problems of failed market policies, and would resolve what Martin Luther King, Jr. once described: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." 🐸



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

Young people resume global climate strikes calling for urgent action

Greta Thunberg leads protests as Covid rules restrict numbers compared with last year

by Fiona Harvey, The Guardian

School pupils, youth activists and communities around the world have turned out for a day of climate strikes, intended to underscore the urgency of the climate crisis even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Social distancing and other Covid-19 control measures dampened the protests, but thousands of activists posted on social media and took to the streets to protest against the lack of climate action from world leaders. Strikes were scheduled in at least 3,500 locations around the globe.

Friday's strikes – some in the form of mostly socially distanced physical marches on the streets, and some purely online meetings – were on a smaller scale and far more subdued than last year's September week of action, in which at least 6 million people around the world were estimated to have taken part.

Greta Thunberg led a strike in Sweden, which was limited to 50 people by the country's lockdown laws – “so we adapt,” she tweeted, with a picture showing strikers more than 2 metres apart. The day of action also marked the 110th week of her own school strike, which began in August 2018.

“Fridays For Future and the youth climate movement are striking again around the world, in a safe way and following Covid-19 guidelines, to demand those in power treat this like the urgent crisis it is,” she said.

One innovation brought on by Covid restrictions was a 24-hour Zoom call, featuring people from across the world speaking about the issues in their region, interspersed with activism-related activities for callers.

Fridays for Future, the global youth movement that coalesced after Thunberg's pioneering strike, said demonstrations were planned in at least 150 countries.

Protesters gathered on the lawns of Australia's parliament in Canberra, with posters calling on politicians to “fund our future – not gas”, and recalling the catastrophic bushfires that raged through the region earlier this year.

In the Philippines, marchers and banners linked the strike to concerns over terror laws being used to outlaw protests, and to the plight of developing countries ignored by the rich world. Mitzi Jonelle Tan, an activist, said: “We Filipinos are among the most impacted, ranking second in the latest global climate risk index, yet our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions are so little. The least affected are often those who have contributed the most to the climate crisis – and what are they doing now? Nothing. It is time for world leaders to wake up to the truth of the climate crisis.”

There were strikes and protests in major cities in India, with placards complaining that “it's getting hot in here”, reflecting predictions that hundreds of thousands of people could die each year from heatwaves in India in coming decades, if global heating continues to rise at current rates.

“Countries like India are already experiencing a climate crisis,”

said the activist Disha A Ravi. “We are not just fighting for our future, we are fighting for our present. We, the people from the most affected are going to change the conversation in climate negotiations and lead a just recovery plan that benefits people and not the pockets of our government.”

There were strikes and protests in major cities in India, including New Delhi. Photograph: Rajat Gupta/EPA

Strikes in Bangladesh drew attention to the threat to the country from rising sea levels, as tens of thousands of people are already refugees after their homes were inundated.

Hundreds of people marched through Pretoria, in South Africa, calling for the government to declare a climate emergency. Across Africa, protesters gathered in the streets and on the steps of public buildings to call for political action. Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, a Fridays for Future activist in Uganda, contrasted the action taken to control the coronavirus with the far weaker progress on the climate.

“In order to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, governments have taken strong and bold measures, pulling on the brakes, deciding on a long lockdown. We've stopped striking temporarily – but we know that the only way we can contain climate change is by our actions. That's why we are striking again today, and will keep on mobilising in the future,” she said.

The most northerly strike was at the edge of the Arctic ice, north of the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, where Mya-Rose Craig, an 18-year-old ornithologist known as Birdgirl, was with the Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise.

“I'm here because I want to see for myself what's at stake as this crucial protector of the planet, the Arctic Ocean, melts away at a terrifying rate,” she said. “Fridays for Future activists from all over the world are standing up to call for urgent action against climate breakdown.”

Earlier this week, scientists confirmed that this year's Arctic sea ice minimum was the second smallest in the last 40 years of continuous records.

World leaders have been meeting online this week, and a few in person in New York, at the UN general assembly, which has for the first time taken the form of a virtual event.

China surprised the rest of the world by announcing a new goal to become carbon neutral by 2060, and to cause its greenhouse gas emissions to peak and then decline before 2030. The Climate Action Tracker thinktank estimated that the commitments, if followed through, would reduce global temperature rises by between 0.2C and 0.3C.

If borne out, that would go a long way to keeping within reach the Paris agreement target of holding temperature rises to well below 2C, with an aspiration of a 1.5C limit.

Ahead of the assembly meeting, the EU also announced a strengthened target, of cutting greenhouse gases by 55 percent

See CLIMATE STRIKES, p.13

City of Gainesville considering moratorium on development in historically Black neighborhoods

by Deidre Houchen, Member, Moratorium Committee

The City of Gainesville Commission is considering a moratorium on major development in historic and historically Black neighborhoods. On Oct. 15, they will meet again in what we expect will be another long discussion on the merits of this proposal. We urge the Commission to vote for a moratorium. We urge you to contact your commission to support this proposal.

On Aug. 31, the City Commission voted to direct the City Attorney and the City Manager to come back to the Commission with the first draft of an ordinance to enact a moratorium for a period of time to be determined by the city attorney and city manager effective immediately, for major residential and non-residential development with a map of boundaries encompassing Fifth Ave, Pleasant Street, Springhill, Duckpond, Duval, Sugarhill, Porters, North Lincoln Heights, Oakview and Northeast Neighbors, not including Downtown.

We want to live in a Gainesville that dares to dream that it can respect the life and vitality of our long term residents and balance

that with the needs of our student and university populations. We do not want to live in a Gainesville that only respects our students, our wealthy residents, and those with political power.

Many have watched as our historic African American communities dwindle in population – as they lose character and citizens to large student luxury housing complexes. We worry about those residents. Where did they go? Are they better off? They are not better off. They are just out of sight. I'd like Gainesville to be a part of a better solution.

First, the Commission will review the "Finding of Fact" drafted by City staff. The finding of fact will provide the City with information to base the moratorium upon. Each of these steps is one more crucial hurdle to overcome in the process to attain a moratorium.

A time-limited moratorium is a good idea. It will provide the City with the opportunity to pause and create equitable policies that strategically lead development and growth in some of our most important neighborhoods. It also allows the City to design a thorough community engagement process to learn the perspectives of each of us, our citizens.

Development pressure is already impacting Gainesville – especially historically Black neighborhoods close to the campus, which is leading to loss of affordable housing and steadily rising rents. Neighborhoods like Seminary Lane and Porters have already undergone dramatic shifts due to "studentification" – the process by which specific neighborhoods become dominated by student residential occupation.

Gentrification and studentification are detrimental, especially to lower-income people of color, who often experience stress, depression, downward mobility, and displacement as a result of unfair housing policies. Especially now, given the economic and social climate created by the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the moment to pause and think equitably.

Equitable development would strategically create policies and practices to ensure that everyone participates in and benefits from new buildings, homes, businesses, and economic growth and change—especially low-income residents, communities of color, immigrants, and others at risk of being left behind. It requires an intentional focus on eliminating racial inequities and barriers, and making accountable and catalytic investments to assure that lower-wealth residents live in healthy, safe, opportunity-rich neighborhoods that reflect their culture (and are not displaced from them).

What do we have to lose in enacting a moratorium? Nothing at all. The City of Gainesville's own policy advisors stated that "the effects of a development moratorium are almost entirely dependent, not on the moratorium itself, but on the policies implemented by the city during the moratorium period." That means that the moratorium itself does no harm. We risk nothing by catching our breath. We risk everything by moving ahead without intention. If we craft equitable, sound development policies during this period, we can grow our city mindfully, soberly, in a socially just way that supports all of us in Gainesville.

We can do better. Call, email, or write letters to your commission urging them to vote yes for community, vote yes for Black neighborhoods and vote yes to a moratorium! 🐢

**Realty's
A
Ride**

GET INSIDE!

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

1.5% listing fee (call for details)

Save Seminary Lane: once a vibrant, diverse community

by Neighbors Standing with Seminary Lane

Once upon a time there was a beautiful neighborhood in the center of Gainesville. It was called Seminary Lane.

It had a school (currently named A. Quinn Jones Education Center, soon to be renamed), barber and beauty shops, nurseries for children, mom and pop places to eat, locally owned funeral homes and a place where music played and people danced.

People thrived in their community. African-American people. They had homes they could afford in a place they loved. Having been pushed there during the Jim Crow area, they built a vibrant, diverse, historically African-American community which is now prey for developers seeking to build luxury student rental housing.

Then desegregation came. Children were bused out of the neighborhood. The people lost the heartbeat of the neighborhood; some folks scattered. A section of federally subsidized housing, in the area of NW 5th Ave and NW 12th Street, was allowed to go into disrepair.

In 2009 it was razed with the promise that it would be rebuilt with affordable housing.

That didn't happen.

For over ten years, the land has remained vacant after stewardship was passed to the Gainesville Florida Housing Corporation, a nonprofit corporation created by the Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA).

The purpose of the GFHC is to develop affordable housing on the Seminary Lane property under the supervision of the GHA, which must approve any sale of the property. The GFHC's sole asset is the Seminary Lane property.

Much to the dismay, consternation and aggravation of the existing Seminary Lane and surrounding neighborhood residents, with approval of the GHA, the GFHC has agreed to sell the six and a half acre property to an Orlando developer, Trammell Webb, that will be developed into a complex of luxury apartments and parking garages for, guess who?

Not local residents, but students.

The GFHC board of seven local African-American citizens planned the sale without resident input. The City of Gainesville Department of Sustainable Development approved the plan as permitted under the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and Land Develop-

ment Code with staff review only, without public hearings, despite clear language in the Code intended to protect neighborhoods with a special character and history.

It is a travesty.

The residents are supposed to be happy that the \$8.5 million being paid for the land will be used for affordable housing. Not in Seminary Lane. Not for anything that has been planned. Just with the promise that somewhere, somehow, affordable housing might be built.

That's not good enough.

A group of dedicated supporters of Seminary Lane has filed an Administrative Hearing Appeal. We are in the middle of legal proceedings to have the approval of the plan overturned. We are pointing out that the plan breaches the Gainesville Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code in several ways and is incompatible with the character of the neighborhood.

On June 19 more than 100 people attended a Zoom hearing. For nearly eight hours citizens spoke with near unanimous opposition to the development. On Sept. 14 and 15 we presented experts who pointed out the deficiencies of the plan. On Oct. 1 and 2 the appeal hearing continued with the developer's witnesses and final arguments.

This is a noble effort for the integrity of all urban neighborhoods. We resist the GFHC selling out to a developer without talking to residents, we resist the city process that allowed this to happen without citizen input, we resist the continuation of preying on an African-American community and we resist allowing massive development for the express purpose of new student housing in the belly of any of our neighborhoods.

We could use your support. We can't predict how the administrative hearing officer/judge will decide the case. Janice Garry has a list of supporters who receive updates on the status of our appeal. We've had great Zoom attendance at the hearings that have been noticed by the hearing officer.

Additionally, we need financial support. We have an attorney who is working at 1/3 his usual fee, but it still adds up. We've just been hit with fees for transcribing hearing records that could be as much as \$8,000.

If you would like to receive updates or if you can help with a donation (every little bit helps), send an email to janice.garry@gmail.com with Seminary Lane in the subject line.

The goal for Seminary Lane is to build African-American workforce housing, perhaps through a Community Land Trust, and to encourage locally owned businesses.

That's not too much to ask. Thank you for taking the time to learn about our quest. ✨

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!

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Free the Ocklawaha: World Fish Migration Day Oct. 24

by Jennifer Carr, President,
Florida Defenders of the Environment

According to NOAA Fisheries, it is estimated that more than 2 million dams in the U.S., and even more culverts and other barriers, block fish from migrating upstream. This has contributed to the decline of many fish populations.

It was recently mentioned in the *Florida Specifier* that the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership has an online prioritization tool for dam removal. The Rodman/Kirkpatrick ranks as one of the three highest priority dams for removal out of over 2,500 aquatic barriers in Florida, based on the amount of habitat to be gained and the condition of the watershed.

This would explain why the Ocklawaha River was ranked by American Rivers as one of the top ten Most Endangered Rivers of 2020. The Ocklawaha River is supposed to be the life force connection between Silver Springs and the St. Johns River, which flows out to the Atlantic.

But ever since that dam was constructed 50 years ago, the migratory fish populations, like Atlantic striped bass, have



Free the Ocklawaha supporters gather at Cannon Springs during last years draw-down. The swimable clear spring is now shoulder deep in black river water due to the Rodman Dam. Photo by St. Johns River Keeper.

plummeted. However, for the first time in one FWC employee's 18 years on the job, an Atlantic striped was caught downstream of the dam in May 2020.

We can still make the Ocklawaha great again.

October 24 is World Fish Migration Day so Florida Defenders of the Environment would like to invite you to meet us that day at the Rodman Recreation Area at 10 a.m. to help us bring awareness to the

benefits of dam removal for migratory fish and manatees.

Make a large cardboard cut-out of a striped bass or a Free The Ocklawaha sign and we'll take a socially-distanced group photo of participants spread out along the dam.

Rodman Recreation Area is at 410 Rodman Dam Rd, between Palatka and Salt Springs off of Highway 19. 🐬

HELP! Protect and Save our Rivers and Springs



oursantaferiver.org freetheocklawaha.com

Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

And the good news is ...

Bloomberg, others rack up \$20M to register Florida felons after time served

by Gary Fineout, Politico Florida

A group trying to help felons sign up to vote in Florida says it has raised more than \$20 million to pay off outstanding court debts for thousands of former prisoners seeking to register in a battleground state crucial to President Donald Trump's reelection.

Billionaire and former presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg is among those who have helped with a surge in fundraising for the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition in the 10 days since a federal appeals court upheld registration restrictions put in place by the state's felon voting law. The group had just recently crossed the \$5 million mark but the help from Bloomberg and others — including entertainers such as John Legend — pushed them to their latest milestone.

"The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy and no American should be denied that right," Bloomberg said in a statement. "Working together with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, we are determined to end disenfranchisement and the discrimination that has always driven it."

Bloomberg's decision to funnel money into paying off court debts came shortly after he also pledged to spend \$100 million to help defeat Trump in Florida.

Trump narrowly won the state with less than 113,000 votes four years ago and both Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden are in a push to find any advantage that helps them in the margins.

Florida's voter registration deadline was Oct. 5 and as many as 775,000 felons may have had outstanding court debts — which include fines, fees and restitution — that precluded them from registering under the law passed last year by the Republican-controlled state Legislature.

Neil Volz, the coalition's deputy director, said the group had already paid off fines and fees for nearly 5,000 people so far and averaged to about \$1,000 per person. He said that the average could drop because "our goal is to help as many people as fast as possible" but he said the infusion of new help could lead to 20,000 people having their legal financial obligations paid off.

Voters in 2018 overwhelmingly passed Amendment 4, which ended the state's lifetime ban on voting for most former prisoners. GOP legislators contended they were clarifying the law, but their legislation drew an immediate lawsuit from a group of ex-felons represented by voting rights and civil rights groups. A lower court judge threw out most of the law as

unconstitutional, saying that part of the measure was an unconstitutional poll tax.

But in early September, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the law on a 6-4 ruling, handing a significant victory to Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Legislature. One of the judges who voted to uphold the law is Barbara Lagoa, who is now a contender for the U.S. Supreme Court after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition had previously received support from people such as NBA superstar LeBron James before the ruling. But coalition leaders say that the court ruling has sparked a huge outpouring of aid and they have now taken 44,000 donations in total.

"This outpouring of support for returning citizens is reminiscent of the type of support we received from people from all walks of life during our Amendment 4 campaign," said Desmond Meade, executive director of the coalition. "Just as in our campaign, this effort is about placing people over politics. The democracy that we envision is not one where an American is forced to choose between putting food on the table or voting."

Bloomberg's contribution to the coalition was first reported by The Associated Press. 🐢

More federal housing aid available

by Laura Cassels, Florida Phoenix

Renters and homeowners struggling to pay for housing may qualify for more help from the state following the release on Sept. 4 of \$45 million for pandemic relief.

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that the Florida Housing Finance Corp. approved distribution of the funds to local governments specifically to help Floridians struggling with rent and mortgage payments because of COVID-19-related job and business losses.

Another \$75 million was released to local governments for similar purposes in July.

The combined \$120 million came to Florida through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and was earmarked by DeSantis for housing aid. Another \$120 million went to affordable multifamily rental housing, estimated to help more than 10,000 households; and \$2 million is earmarked for housing for people with special needs and homeless households.

For details: <https://tinyurl.com/iguana1116>. The number for the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Impacted Homeowners and Renters is 1-888-362-7885. 🐢

October 12 is now Indigenous People's Day

Be happy to know that Gainesville permanently dumped Columbus Day (a federal holiday since 1937) in 2018. We are the only city in Florida to have made the change. No celebrations will occur this year due to Covid, but there very likely will be a proclamation at the Oct. 12 City Commission meeting and an acknowledgement on the City's Facebook page. This all came about from the grassroots spearheaded by Sylvia Paluzzi, of Morning Meadow Pre-School and Kindergarten working with the City Commission. Current Mayor Lauren Poe is supportive of bringing attention to the Native people who preceded us on this land, and has promised that in 2021, if we're out of the pandemic woods by then, a series of City supported events will be held to mark this overlooked history. 🐢

Adam Christensen's vision for the future

by Hannah Jacobs

The Adam Christensen for Congress Campaign to fill the vacant seat in Florida's 3rd district has become a powerful force in the progressive movement growing among all demographics.

The campaign has been endorsed by prominent figures across the spectrum, including former presidential candidates Marianne Williamson and Andrew Yang, as well as organizations No Dem Left Behind, Florida College Democrats, Humanity Forward, and the local chapter of Our Revolution. The support from social media followers and constituents in the district is proof of the traction Adam Christensen's political philosophies have earned him.

Adam has built his campaign on the belief that if you work eight hours a day, you should be able to thrive, not merely survive. His comprehensive and detailed policy platform depicts how a successful country should operate. With a focus on job creation, middle-class tax cuts, trickle-up economics, environmental protection, access to health care, quality education, and criminal justice, his platform is sure to make significant strides toward a more fair, equitable, and dignified country.

Visualize a future world in which he is in Congress, as Representative Christensen, having replaced Ted Yoho:

The pandemic is over due to our beliefs in science and experts. Our favorite local bagel store has remained in business despite months of an economic shutdown due to the \$2,000 monthly pandemic stimulus check and proper PPP funding he provided. As we explore our streets free of masks, we notice that the air is cleaner, the homeless population has decreased, and that the threat of crime feels less ominously immediate. In general, people seem to be doing well financially and mentally, our citizens are more healthy, and the role of the family has repositioned itself at the forefront of our daily lives.

- Rep. Christensen has worked with other representatives to sign a law that allows anyone to attend college or trade school through public funding, which has proven to increase wellbeing and to lower crime rates. The financial barrier to quality education can no longer impede our ability to be collectively more educated as a society. Our teachers are more motivated and able to provide

quality lessons to students with their new pay raise, and our children are more engaged in their schoolwork.

- Several economic laws have been implemented to ensure that we can work with dignity while maintaining quality personal lives. For instance, new parents can now continue working thanks to guaranteed childcare. No longer are insurance companies the obstacle to access to quality health care — under the health care for all plan, we can redirect our funds to the important things in life. With the understanding that health care is a human right, everyone is able to be proactive with their medical conditions, and we are also able to keep each other safe from spreading any diseases, a lesson taught by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We can now afford our prescription drug prices, which have been effectively halved under laws like the Prescription Drug Price Relief Act. With the enactment of the Freedom Dividend proposed by former presidential candidate Andrew Yang, every American can opt in to receiving \$1,000 per month, which is enough to alleviate the pressures of monthly living expenses on our salaries and allow us to instead reinvest it in our local businesses. We know that these efforts all serve as middle-class tax cuts because they directly reduce the massive expenditures imposed on our working class.
- People have an overwhelming sense of civic duty because we know that corporations, billionaires, and super PACs no longer control our politics as a result of campaign finance laws. We also have faith in the electoral process because voter suppression efforts have been identified and torn down, and there are federal regulations for protecting voting machines. The hurdles in the way of submitting a ballot have been greatly reduced with laws enabling every one of voting age to be automatically registered and less restrictive absentee ballot options available in all states. Election day is a national holiday, freeing those who are financially obligated to stay at work from the pressures that prevent them from exercising their civic duty.
- Our taxpayer dollars are finally being put toward the betterment of our society, and we are seeing long-awaited, tangible results. Rather than paying for

each unhoused person in our community, our taxes are being used to house the homeless and those in need of affordable housing, something that has proven to be cheaper than the former option. Not only this, but also those who are seeing their lowest points can more readily get back on their feet with job training, health care, and similar services now guaranteed by our representatives. Our funding of the local police force, still active and very much in use, has been partially reallocated to community programs that will benefit all of us in some way, directly or indirectly.

- Our police are also respected and appreciated for their services because of the collaborative effort of our leaders. Rather than being viewed as power-hungry instigators of violence against community members, our police have been able to build their reputation as trustworthy protectors of our lives and public spaces. Our officers have been relieved of the exhausting range of daily tasks, including drug use, domestic violence, mental health concerns, immigration issues, and more, leaving them better able to focus on protecting us. Black and Brown communities and schools are no longer threatened by the presence of police. Community oversight programs have been funded and well-established to take on some of these tasks, there is a refreshing sense of trust in our police system. Adding to this overarching feeling is the fact that police are now held more accountable for their crimes against citizens, which was achieved by establishing independent agencies to review police-citizen crimes, enacting stricter use-of-force regulations, ending qualified immunity, and requiring more comprehensive de-escalation and inclusivity training.
- Going along with our newfound sense of faith in science and empirical evidence, we now do everything we can to run sustainable towns. The Green New Deal has created thousands upon thousands of jobs, all of which serve to protect our planet while saving energy and costs. Our local farmers, once under-appreciated, can also reap the benefits of our agricultural practices, which have been capitalized on by big ag businesses for far too long.

Let us rein in our thoughts and return to

reality. We are living in a world where our country has deeply felt the financial hurt and mortality caused by a global pandemic, we cannot trust the integrity of our democratic processes, most of us constantly struggle to make ends meet with looming financial obligations, we are unable to put our health and happiness first, our families are no longer placed in the center of our lives, our planet is crumbling, our police are not respected or able to do their jobs well, systematic racism and sexism plague every institution, and our children cannot be guaranteed a quality education. Our leaders have failed us, and people are searching for a glimmer of hope.

Adam Christensen has offered a starting point of solutions we need to grow and better ourselves as a society. He has created a comprehensive plan for tackling each and every major threat to American livelihood, being sure to account for everyone. Mr. Christensen is guided by science, his faith, and his campaign slogan, "For the Many, Not Just Me."

The Christensen Campaign would like to invite anyone who is interested in realizing this version of a better world which we have laid out to join our fight. We encourage everyone, no matter their party, race, gender, class, background, religion, or personal characteristics, to join our movement toward creating this better world. Our hope of the world is one in which every person is respected, works with dignity, has a say in the future of our democracy, and is able to enjoy the virtues of the American Dream.

If you are interested in making Adam Christensen's world a reality starting with our district, please visit our website: ForTheManyNotJustMe.com ☘



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/GNVFSG>

Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

Leave message: at 352-388-1586

From CLIMATE STRIKES, p. 7

compared with 1990 levels by 2030. That would be the strongest commitment of any major economy, though green campaigners pointed out that the new target was looser than the old as it takes into account the impact of increasing carbon sinks such as forests.

The US, the world's second biggest emitter, is scheduled to withdraw from the Paris agreement this year, and under a second term of Donald Trump as president would hold to that timetable. The Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, has pledged to rejoin.

The UK, which is to host the next UN climate summit – called Cop26 – in November 2021, has also stepped up its diplomatic push. The prime minister, Boris Johnson, and the UN secretary general, António Guterres, will convene an interim summit of the world leaders from major economies this December, on the fifth anniversary of the Paris agreement.

At that interim meeting, all countries will be expected to come forward with their national plans – called nationally determined contributions, or NDCs, in the UN jargon – to strengthen their carbon-cutting efforts, as required under the 2015 accord. Current commitments would result in temperature rises of 3C, which would wreak devastation and extreme weather over swathes of the globe.

Youth activists in the Fridays for Future movement are planning their own mock Cop26 conference this November, when Cop26 was originally scheduled before its delay owing to coronavirus. School strikers from around the world want to contrast the urgency they feel with the slow progress in international forums. ☘

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The United Nations on Its 75th Anniversary: Alachua County, City of Gainesville proclaim Oct. 24 United Nations Day

by Jacob U. Gordon, Ph.D., Chair
UN Day 2020 Working Group
UNA*USA Gainesville

The United Nations was founded on Oct. 24, 1945 in San Francisco. Its purpose was to promote international cooperation after the devastating World Wars I and II.

The Gainesville Chapter, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA*USA) will commemorate the UN's 75th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9am to 1pm. This program will take place as a virtual conference via Zoom, due to the coronavirus. This will allow us to have an international audience.

UNA*USA Gainesville

UNA*USA is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to promoting support of the United Nations mission and goals among the American public.

Vision: A peaceful, secure, just, and sustainable local and global Community.

Mission: To educate, inspire, and mobilize our community to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations.

Why the United Nations matters

- Provides food to 80 million people in 80 countries.
- Vaccinates 45 percent of the world's children, saving 3 million lives a year.

- Works in 180 countries to halt deforestation and degradation of agricultural soils.
- Assists over 65 million people fleeing war, famine, or persecution.
- Keeps peace with 117,000 peacekeepers on four continents.

The UN's World Health Organization (WHO), erroneously maligned by the U.S. President, provides resources and has a plan to stem the spread of coronavirus in the most vulnerable countries.

The UN Day 2020 theme is "The Future We Want; the United Nations We Need."

The conference will present critical reviews of the UN, its mission, structure, and effectiveness; and address how to improve this essential global organization. It will feature a panel of expert speakers and two interactive sessions for all to participate including asking questions, voicing ideas, and offering recommendations.

Featured panelists are:

Kwame Akonor, Ph.D., Author and Associate Professor, Seton Hall University. His publications include: *UN Peacekeeping in Africa: A Critical Examination and Recommendations for Improvement* (2017); "UN's Failure to Act on Race," in InterPress Service, June 24, 2020.

Sophia Rodriguez, UNA*USA National Fellow, pursuing degree in Business Administration and International Relations, University of Florida. She strives for transformative change through International Policy and Sustainable Development.

Jeffrey Weisberg, Executive Director, River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. He is well known in the Gainesville community, nationally, and internationally for his work as lead trainer in Restorative Justice, Police-Youth Dialogues, and Conflict Coaching. His book, *Little Book of Police-Youth Dialogues*, is forthcoming.

Registration is free and available from Oct. 10-23 at our website: <https://una-usagainesvillefl.org>

Become a UN Day Co-Sponsor: Your organization can be a co-Sponsor and your name, logo, and description will be displayed in color on our website and during Zoom program breaks. Cost is \$50. Contact Lisa Renner as soon as possible for payment information and the co-sponsor form at: ljrenner@hotmail.com



Celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

► **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 ► **Time:** 9:00am - 1:00pm (ET)

► **Theme:** "The Future We Want; The United Nations We Need"

**Featured Panelists:



Dr. Kwame Akonor, Associate Professor, Seton Hall Univ.
"Re-imagining the United Nations"
Human Rights, Global Racism, Equitable Security Council



Sophia Rodriguez, UNA-USA Fellow, Intl Relations, Univ.FL
"A World of Global Justice"
Envisioning a world of equality & justice for all



Jeffrey Weisberg, Executive Director, River Phoenix
Center for Peacebuilding
"International Peace" begins with peacebuilding in the
local community, schools, prisons, law enforcement

**Session Moderators:

Rick Gold, Cody Hebel, Harleigh Freiberg, Saeed Khan, Agnes Leslie, Steve Kalishman



**And, YOU:

YOU have the opportunity to ask questions
& share your opinions in two interactive
moderated sessions. We want your ideas!



Free Zoom Registration, October 10-23, at our Website:

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

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

🦎 A Possible Strategy for the Democrats for the Supreme Court

by Cinnabear / Daily Kos / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1123>

RGB's seat on the Supreme Court will probably be stolen by the Republicans, says History Professor Bill Svelmoe. However, there is a multi-faceted approach we can take to delegitimize the process. His strategy is brilliant.

🦎 Election Law Blog

by Rick Hasen / <https://electionlawblog.org>

Law professor and author Rick Hasen provides numerous up-to-date articles and links on a topic we'll hear a great deal about in the next two months, if not longer.

🦎 "He has the virus. His wife has the virus. His advisor has the virus ..."

by Jon-Marc McDonald / Facebook / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1124>

McDonald, Former Editor-at-large at the Metropolitan Review, on Trump and the virus: "... I want him recovered. And then I want him prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Because I don't want to see him die of this disease. I want him to spend what time he has left in a jail cell."

🦎 'One of The Low Points in American History': Dan Rather Goes Long on Our Defining Moment

by Ryan D'Agostino / Esquire / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1115>

In a wide-ranging interview, the legendary reporter gives a clinic on journalism, its intersection with politics, civil rights, and the future of American culture.

🦎 Transgender students from Florida, Virginia score victories in landmark lawsuits

by Allison Stevens / Florida Phoenix / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1122>

Lawsuit victories make it harder for school districts to justify transphobic policies. As a result, fewer students will be forced to use restrooms that don't align with their gender or are separate from other student restrooms, and fewer will experience the trauma of suing for equal bathroom access while in high school.

🦎 A Sports Story from Kansas City

by Ahsan Latif / Facebook / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1125>

This was posted on Facebook by a Kansas City resident on Sept. 11, and has been shared over 3,000 times 🦎

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JAZZ

ROBBIE STEVENS

WEEKENDS: 8-11AM



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Vote for Biden. I know. I know. But **just shut up and vote for Biden**. One of the few ways we can avoid something really scary is if Biden wins in a blowout. That would keep this election away from the packed courts and remove as much doubt as possible.

Representative in Congress (District 3)

Vote for Adam Christensen. Yes, I also saw him on [Fox News](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1118) (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1118>) and yes, like most of you I saw that coming a mile away. But still, vote for him. Maybe the census won't be screwed and Florida will get one or two more congresspeople with one of the new districts having to be in North Central Florida because of the sheer size of CD3. And maybe the Republicans won't try to challenge the constitutionally required [Fair Districting](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1119) (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1119>) with DeSantis' new Florida Supreme Court. And maybe Alachua County will get a new district without Clay County, and maybe this seat will be competitive in 2 years. That'd be nice, but until then **vote for Adam Christensen**.

State Representative 21

Vote for Kayser Enneking. If you live in HD 21, which is Western Alachua, Gilchrist, and Dixie, you should get all your neighbors, friends, and whoever else you can drag to the polls to vote for Enneking. This is one of the few competitive seats in Florida and we could really, really use more friends in Tallahassee.

Alachua County Commission Districts 1

Vote for Mary Alford. She's a badass and deserves your support. I'm sorry I'm not writing more on Alford but honestly, if you're reading this and not voting for Alford you're in the wrong place.

Alachua County Commission Districts 3

Vote for Anna Prizzia. I cannot express to you how excited I am to have her on the commission. Yes, this is short but like before, you wouldn't be reading this blog if you weren't already voting for Prizzia.

Judges

To my knowledge, no Judge in Florida has ever not retained their office. And if one of them does lose their seat Governor Ron DeSantis gets to appoint someone who will most likely be younger and more conservative. That said, I will be voting **yes for Scott Makar and Joseph Lewis and no for everyone else**. As far as I can tell these are the

most reasonable conservatives on the bench and would be the only ones DeSantis could replace with worse people.

Florida Amendment 1: Citizen Requirement for Voting Initiative

This is silly and racist. The Florida Citizen Voters are leading this campaign and are very, very conservative. This does nothing. Only U.S. citizens can currently vote and the purpose of this amendment is to drive anti-immigrant voters to the polls, hoping that they will also vote for Trump and his cronies. **Vote no** against the anti-immigrant crusaders.

Florida Amendment 2: \$15 Minimum Wage Initiative

Amendment 2 would increase the state minimum wage from \$8.56 in 2020 to \$15 in 2026. It will go up to \$10 on Sept. 30, 2021, and go up \$1 every Sept. 30 until 2026 where it'll be adjusted annually for inflation. It's slower than I'd like but it's still good. **Vote yes** unless you hate low wage workers.

Florida Amendment 3: Top-Two Open Primaries for State Offices Initiative

This doesn't do what many people think it'll do. What's being proposed isn't an open primary, this is a [jungle primary](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1120) (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1120>). The short and long of it is that it'll keep progressives from being able to win state office. **Vote no** on this bullshit.

Florida Amendment 4: Require Constitutional Amendments to be Passed Twice Initiative

Because the districts are gerrymandered the politicians don't represent the will of the people, so the people have to pass progressive initiatives themselves. This is being proposed to stop progressive initiatives like Felon Rights Restoration, the \$15 minimum wage, medical marijuana, and others. **Vote no** on this attack on direct democracy.

Florida Amendment 5: Extend "Save Our Homes" Portability Period Amendment

This is the baby of Sen Brandes. You don't need to know anything about him except that he sucks (official Straw Hat position). This is a tax cut that goes mostly to the rich, but increasing the transfer from two years to three does make it more inclusive. The reason most people are supporting this is that it's very popular and might be politically hard to publicly advocate against. **Vote yes**.

Florida Amendment 6: Homestead Property Tax Discount

for Spouses of Deceased Veterans Amendment

Like Amendment 5, it would be almost impossible to publicly stand against this. It's a tax cut for the surviving spouses of deceased veterans. It won't cost much and doesn't really do much. But people can feel good about supporting veterans instead of, you know, supporting veterans in a substantive way. **Vote yes**.

Renewal of the Existing One Mill Ad Valorem Tax for School District Operating Expenses

This is an extra tax (\$1 per \$1,000 taxable value of a home) that pays for ~320 nurses, councilors, etc. Some of the specifics on how this works and how it can be more equitable will be revisited when the new School Board is seated. Please **vote yes** for this.

County Charter Amendment Establishing County Growth Management Area

This is a major charter amendment that will help us preserve wild spaces and encourage infill growth. An issue with growth has been when large property owners annex themselves into rural municipalities in order to get more favorable zoning changes and lax environmental standards. This is the cheaper and more environmentally damaging way of developing as opposed to following the [Alachua County Comp plan](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1121) (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1121>) which encourages more sustainable development in urban clusters. This amendment would help put a lid on that nonsense. **Vote yes** on this amendment.

Relationship Between County and Municipal Ordinances for Protection of Certain Natural Resources

Like the above proposed amendment, this one would help preserve environmental standards. Simply put, if there is a conflict between a city and the county over an environmental ordinance, the stricter one would apply. This amendment would prevent municipalities from trying to pass lax environmental regulations to circumvent more comprehensive programs. **Vote yes** on this amendment.

Identification and Elimination of Racial and Gender Bias in Alachua County Policies

This would require a comprehensive review of all current and proposed policies for racial and gender bias. I'm not sure what enforcement mechanism there is for it, but I think it's a good proposal. **Vote yes** to mandate this review.

County Charter Amendment

Establishing Alachua County Affordable Housing Trust Fund

This doesn't do everything that it should, but it does lay the groundwork. The Trust cannot legally be funded in the charter but this would establish it. We need a bucket full of cash to address the affordable housing crisis in Alachua County and this amendment is the bucket. When the new County Commission is sworn in, it's up to us to get them to fund it with linkage fees, a new tax, or transfers. **Vote yes** on creating the framework for the Alachua County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

County Charter Amendment Concerning Candidate Treasurer Report Requirements

Currently, candidates have to submit a paper and an electronic copy of their treasurer reports. It's a minor inconvenience to have to submit a paper copy but there's no way to do away with this requirement except for updating the charter. **Vote yes.**

County Charter Cleanup Amendment Removing Unconstitutional Provisions

There's some really queerphobic stuff in the County Charter that should be taken out. They're not in effect because they've been ruled unconstitutional but they're still there. And like above, the only way to take them out is by voting on them like this. **Vote yes.**

City of Gainesville Charter Amendment Changing the Name of the Charter Officer "Clerk of the Commission" to "City Clerk"

This doesn't matter. It makes no difference but the only way to change the name is to vote on it. **Vote yes.**

City of Gainesville Charter Amendment Eliminating Restrictions on Construction of Paved Surfaces on City-Owned Land

This is the only prosed City charter change that actually does something. In 1998 when the City was building up parks along Hogtown Creek, a group of angry White people started a movement to prevent the accessibility of these parks. It was done because they didn't want Black people in or around their backyards. Sorry for the bluntness in this analysis, but I don't have time to lead you to this conclusion in a less jarring way. What they did was change the charter to prevent the use of funds to make paved paths along Hogtown Creek. This prevented us from expanding the park (ADA compliance requirements for federal/state grants) and directly led to the over development of the area around the corner of University Avenue and W 34th Street. If not for these White people's fear of Black

people, the Publix and much of the plazas and apartment complexes would be a large nature park instead of one of the most polluted bodies of water in Gainesville. **Vote yes** to undo this mess.

City of Gainesville Charter Amendment Limiting Commission Authority to Dispose of Certain Utility Systems

This would make it harder to sell off parts of GRU. We do a lot of new things that we didn't do way back yonder, like GRUcom (city fiber), and we need to update our charter to make sure that the utility owned by the people stays with the people. **Vote yes.**

City of Gainesville Charter Amendment Creating a Preamble to the Charter

Sure. Why the hell not? We're voting on a lot of cosmetic changes to the City and

County charters, what's one more. **Vote yes.**

For more info, contact jtattersall@flafficio.org ☞

Meanwhile...

Oh, and 49 people had evictions filed against them last week in Alachua County (hit up the Alachua County Tenants Association at acta@laborcoalition.org to get involved in the fightback), UF is deciding to furlough workers instead of spending down their \$2 billion endowments (get involved at <https://www.facebook.com/SafeWorkersUF>), and COVID-19 is ripping through our communities. And as you may have heard, Covid has invaded the White House. Maybe masks should have been portrayed as "Facial Walls." ☞

Short hand voter guide

(you can bring this with you to vote)

President, Representatives, Commissioners: *Vote Democrat*

Judges: *Yes to Lewis and Makar; No to others*

State Amendments: *Yes on #2; No on #1, 3, 4; Leaning No on #5, 6*

County Referenda: *All Yes*

Gainesville Referenda: *All Yes*

Rural school districts expanding mental health services

by Danielle J. Brown, Florida Phoenix

The new academic school year continues to be a stressful time for students, with kids adjusting to a social distance learning environment at brick-and-mortar schools or dealing with the challenges of online learning.

At a roundtable discussion on mental health this week, Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis said that "mental wellness was something we needed to prioritize before the pandemic — this has just made it even more important."

She announced \$2 million to bolster mental health resources for 18 of Florida's rural counties. The counties are: Bradford, Calhoun, DeSoto, Dixie, Glades, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hardee, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Union, and Washington.

The funds come as a part of the CARES Act, a 2.2 trillion dollar stimulus package from the Trump administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Money can be used for everything from additional school-based mental health services involving professionals and providers as well as enhancing telehealth access to help serve students.

The funding comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The Florida Department of Health reported 687,909 COVID-19 infections and 13,416 deaths of Florida residents in early October.

Florida ranks 3rd in the nation for the number of COVID-19 infections, following California and Texas, according to a New York Times analysis, with high rates of infections in several north Florida counties. ☞

History and the people who make it: Gainesville Women for Equal Rights - Part 3



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

This is the 62nd in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection; other parts of this excerpt appeared in the July-August and September Iguanas.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

C: Remember when we investigated the Department of Welfare?

First, we found out that one of the county commissioners' parents were on welfare. So we thought, "Well, we'd really like to look at the rolls and see who's on welfare." And we never could. I won't mention her name, but every time we went, there was some reason we couldn't see the rolls.

Then, we heard that she was off at a convention in the Bahamas for welfare directors, and we said, "Right." Put on our white gloves, went down, and said that Ms. So-and-so had said that we could come here and pick up the policy of the welfare department. The girl said, "Oh, okay. Here it is!"

So, we sit down and read the policy, and — "Alachua County Department of Welfare is to serve the needs of the poor White people of Alachua County."

We went to [Alachua County Commissioners] Sid Martin and G.M. Davis and said, "Here's the policy! Get rid of her." And they said, "Okay, but we need another vote on the commission. If you help us get Edgar Johnson elected, we will fire the director of welfare." We said, "You're on."

We made little walk maps; Grace Knight helped us with that. We went door to door campaigning for Edgar. He got elected, and they fired the director of welfare. That's how we got the Welfare Department integrated. But everything that got integrated took intelligence, hard work, chicanery, and a lot of acting.

H: And perseverance. Just the perseverance, not to let it go.

C: Then, when we took on the state welfare department — it was just as bad, but it was statewide.

We researched welfare policies in Holland, and Canada, just all over. We'd go up to Tallahassee, I remember we had a Pabst Blue Ribbon beer box just full of file folders. There we were with our rubber thong sandals, and our little cotton dresses.

We always went up as an integrated group, and when we drove through Perry, if a Black person was driving, the White people would duck down. If a White person was, the Black people would duck down. Because it was not safe to drive through the town of Perry with Black and White people.

The head of the committee was a League of Women Voters woman from Tampa, she was wonderful to us. We got to the point that, a couple of nights before every committee meeting, they call us, and say, "What do you think of these wordings? What do you think of this idea?" So, we really helped. GWER members really helped write that state law. Yeah.

H: I remember the night that the GWER board met at my house to entertain Chief of Police Joyner. There were twenty-six of us there. He walked in, and his eyes got like that—"This is your board?" [Laughter]

I had persuaded him to do something about what they were doing in Atlanta, in community policing, and he sent one of his lieutenants up to get training. He brought him that night, to introduce us around.

He was using us as a wedge, which he could move in behind and do a few things that would not pull him apart when he went back to what was a very racist department.

C: I remember that meeting, or was it the next one, where we had then done some research on what he was paying the sheriffs. We compared it with other departments in more progressive cities, and we presented him with this payroll, and we said, "A man can't support a family on what you're paying them."

He said, "Oh, really? Is it low? I didn't know." He was a wealthy man! He didn't know that you couldn't live on two thousand dollars a year. He was genuinely shocked. He was getting some pretty rough people who were bitter because they were underpaid, and they were probably poorer than you, Cora, as an underpaid African American schoolteacher. [Laughter]

F: It really was some interesting times.

C: We used to all march.

F: Yeah, we'd all march. I remember my husband calling home from work and saying, "I understand there's going to be a march on University Avenue. And they're going to sit in the center of University and Main Street. Please don't let me see you on the six o'clock news." I said, "Well, don't turn on the TV, because if they march and sit, I will be there." [Laughter] I didn't make it to jail, but I was always out there trying. Mhm. [Laughter]

C: Now, when David went to jail, it was with the Student Government for Equal Rights, wasn't it? David? What organization sent you to jail? It wasn't GWER, but it was—

DC: Not organizational. Dan Harmeling, and Brownie had gone, and sat in jail. Dr. King was there, and they wanted White people, White bodies; they weren't getting any attention. So, the two students, who were both members of the Student Group for Equal Rights. Then because they went faculty went: Marshall Jones, and Jim Brown, and several others. Because they'd gone, then several others of us went. Jean and Felicity Trueblood were ready to go next. But this was not organization.

C: Most of the jailings were just individuals going off, getting into trouble.

H: There were other ways in which we had interactions back when the rest of the country was pretty much on fire after the assassinations.

H: I came back from the summer having left as vice-president of GWER, to find that the president had moved away in my absence. [Laughter] Sarah called me one afternoon and said, “You have to know something: there are carpetbaggers coming from some of these Northern cities where they’ve had a great time bagging up goods in these fires that have been going on. They’re thinking about setting fires here in Gainesville. And they’re thinking about the city manager, and the district attorney. You have to know that, and I can’t talk any longer. Goodbye.”

What do I do? So, back to see Chief Joyner again. [Laughter] And said, “I have no idea where this is all coming from, or how much truth there is to this, but this is what I’m told. So, I’ll leave it with you to decide what you’re going to do about it.” We did have some fires.

C: Carlene Hussey’s house was bombed. Carlene was the attorney that helped us — she’d write our amicus curiae briefs for us — and her home was bombed. I’ve never quite known what happened there. It was about the same time Carol Thomas was in prison.

H: That was a little later, in the [19]60s.

C: Let me see. Jim would’ve been two years old, because I took care of Carol Thomas’s children the summer she was in prison. That’d be 39 years ago! [Laughter] Yeah. It was easy to get put in the prison.

R: You could get put in prison for just eating at a lunch counter downtown.

C: That’d be ‘69, that summer of ‘69.

The November-December issue of the Iguana will wrap up this GWER oral history transcript. See a full video of this interview by searching for “GWER 2009” at youtube.com. Find 14 related interviews at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral/results/?t=gwer>.

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. ☼



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From DREAM DEFENDERS, p. 1

have built up a bubbling resentment and righteous indignation.

But certain incidents take it to another level, like the cold-blooded killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. We all saw the police officer's knee on Floyd's neck, with his hand casually in his pocket, looking right at the camera.

Those seven plus minutes reverberated around the world. The visual penetrated into the sports world, into soccer stadiums, hockey arenas, basketball arenas, football fields and onto athletes' jerseys. After 400 years of not mattering, now, a turning: Black Lives Matter.

The killing of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky in March, while there is no film as of yet, has had powerful reverberations as well. No-knock raids were already controversial, and there have been a bunch that have gone bad. But the circumstances of this one – not only how it went down, but who she was, and then the long stonewalling, followed by the grand jury decision to charge only one officer with shooting errant bullets hitting walls in another apartment – well, that was unacceptable, and now, in an unusual move, Grand Jury members are requesting the transcripts be made public.

With that in mind, the Gainesville Dream Defenders organized a rally for Breonna Taylor on Saturday, Sept. 26.

About two hundred people, all masked, many in their 20's, Black and White, heard speakers and poetry. During an open mike, UF students reflected on the

racism they feel at UF, including within their student government, and the lack of progress addressing the buildings named for racist persons.

Opposition to gentrification was expressed. A supportive father accompanied his 10-12-year-old daughter who spoke about how she did not want to grow up into a racist world, and the pain and hopes she felt. Adam Christiansen, a candidate for U.S. congress (and actually the youngest candidate for Congress in the country) spoke. (Read more about Christiansen on page 12.) The adults need to be ready to follow, because youth are on the move.

Rally organizer Dream Defenders came into being following the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012. They are radical in their views, thinking big, and challenging the status quo. They embrace the term abolitionist:

"We are fighting for a world without prisons, policing, surveillance and punishment. We know that prisons aren't about safety or accountability but about control and domination over large segments of the population, especially Black people, in order to make a profit."

"We are different from prison reformers because reformers often create situations where incarceration becomes even more entrenched in our society. Instead, we are fighting for solutions that will produce decarceration, fewer people behind bars and a future world without prisons."

"In order to get us closer to this vision, we must begin to build community alternatives to dealing with harm and violence. Dream Defenders practices transformative justice, an abolitionist way of dealing with conflict and holding people accountable in opposition to the punitive nature of the prison system that treats people as disposable, locks them up and throws away the key."

One of the direct action programs they embrace is After Care.

"When the pandemic hit, we knew some communities in Gainesville would be hit harder than others. Concerned for our people locked inside of Alachua County Jail, we formed the 352-Freedom-Fund in partnership with Florida Prisoner Solidarity and other local organizations."

"Our effort to release people from our local jail stemmed from the mutual understanding that public officials in Florida perpetuate the negligent treatment of people in jails, prisons, and

detention centers. In these centers for incarceration, social distancing is not possible and administrations show no concern for public health. To support the folks we release, we formed the After Care team. Our group of over 15 volunteers performs weekly check-ins with the 50+ people we have released since late April. We support them emotionally as well as materially with food, bill support, and navigating the injustice system."

"We firmly believe that alternatives to incarceration are possible and are committed to building these alternatives. The community support for people on the margins of society is essential for the revolution. To support us in supporting our people please donate to our cashapp so we can continue this work: \$GoDDsville" ✨



UF finally cuts contracts with prison labor

Gainesville is enriched for having Dream Defenders' vibrancy here to inspire the community. They also collaborate with other groups to make change.

It was just announced that the Coalition to Abolish Prison Slavery (CAPS) at UF has won their fight against the university to finally cut its contracts with prison labor.

This momentous win came with the support of organizers from Florida Prisoner Solidarity, Divest UF, the Goddsville Dream Defenders, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and others. ✨

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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, alachuaugreen@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, Brookier, 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. bgsoutuf@gmail.com, [facebook ufbgso](https://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://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.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://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@gainesvillerollerrebels.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 comprehensible 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://vfp Gainesville.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 ✉

October events include farmers markets, art show

Every Thursday: A Downtown Market is being hosted by Heartwood Soundstage at 619 S. Main St. on Thursdays from 4-7pm with music and vendors. Masking and distancing is required. The first one was Oct. 1 and had a good turn-out with a similar vibe to the Wednesday Bo Diddley Market, which was suspended due to Covid. Not a lot of farmers at the first one, but it may grow. Other markets continue at Cypress & Grove on Mondays from 4-7pm, at Celebration Point on Wednesdays from 4-7 and Haile Plantation on Saturdays from 8:30am til noon.

Saturday, Oct. 17, in conjunction with the Women's March in DC, a local Women's March event will be held at Bo Diddley Plaza from 10 am until noon.

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 3pm, to mark the Civic Media Center's 27th anniversary, *Solidarity not Charity* is a Zoom event on Mutual Aid, citing examples from history with the Black Panthers and others to current efforts in Gainesville. More information is listed in the article below.

Friday, Oct. 23, South Main Art Hub at 435 S. Main St. will host Spacial Inclinations, an indoor/outdoor socially distanced mask-requiring art show. Parking and entry from SE 5th Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 24 features the UN association Zoom event (see page 14), and an actual outdoors out-of-town event at Rodman Dam on the Ocklawaha River (see page 10).

And of course this year no FEST, no theater, minimal live music, but Zoom meetings, blocked off city streets, parks and nature remain ... hang in there, we'll get through this. 🐢

October is Civic Media Center's anniversary month

by JoJo Sacks, CMC Coordinator

As we move into fall and remain at home during the pandemic, the Civic Media Center, though closed for events, has been putting together online programming to keep our community engaged.

In September, volunteers organized our first virtual CMC book club, reading adrienne maree brown's *Emergent Strategy*. Organizers held a discussion about the need to stand for Black communities and against the gentrification of the historic Seminary Lane neighborhood. (See related story on page 9.)

In addition, Gainesville organizations fighting for justice came together online for Radical Rush, to reach out to university students and get them engaged with community work. Folks put together a webinar hosting individuals from DIY and infoshop spaces across the country, highlighting some of the similarities between them and the CMC. Most of these Zoom events can be viewed on our Facebook page. And the Free Grocery Store fed more than 300 people each week with their delivery program.

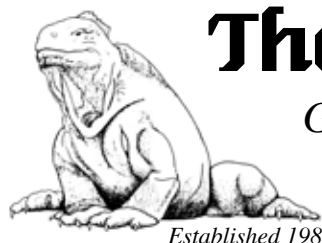
Looking ahead, October marks the 27th anniversary of the CMC. We have a packed month with some great programs coming up.

Join us as we close out Hispanic Heritage Month with Dr. Paul

Ortiz. On **Oct. 12 at 7pm** over Zoom, Dr. Ortiz will host a book talk and Q+A of his most recent book, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*. Later in the month, the CMC Virtual Book Club will be reading the book – see our social media or send us an email to get involved in the group discussions. Third House Books will be offering 10 percent off the book for participants.

Our 27th anniversary event, titled *Solidarity Not Charity*, will be Sunday, **Oct. 18** over Zoom at 2pm. It will be focused on the amazing mutual aid organizing that is happening in and around Gainesville. Local organizers will talk about the history of mutual aid in the Black liberation struggle and about what organizers in Gainesville are doing today. You'll hear from folks doing bond work in Alachua County, food justice organizers with the Free Grocery Store, and about the legacy of SNCC freedom schools from moderator and CMC Board member Dr. Zoharah Simmons. Another world is possible when we care for each other in the ways we need, spreading resources to folks who need it.

Stay tuned on our social media accounts for the details to register for these upcoming events. And as always, you can donate to the CMC virtually through our Venmo @CMC4ever and Paypal at [paypal.me/CMC4ever](https://www.paypal.me/CMC4ever). 🐢



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To list your event or group, contact us at:

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