



The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

**October 2021
Vol. 35, Issue 10**

National abortion rights NOW!

by Jenny Brown

This article was originally published by Jacobin on Sept. 3. See more at <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/09/abortion-rights-law-texas-filibuster-congress-roe-v-wade>.

The Supreme Court is useless. Now is the perfect time for feminists to campaign to end the filibuster and pass a federal law codifying abortion rights.

The Supreme Court on Sept. 1 allowed Texas to ban abortions at six weeks, before most pregnancies are detected. To enforce their compulsory childbirth law, the Texas legislature encourages anti-abortion activists to sue Texans who provide (or give themselves) abortions after six weeks.

To listen to the pundits, you'd think there's nothing that can be done. But our reproductive freedom is not at the mercy of this unelected panel of anti-abortion justices. In fact, Congress could pass a law making abortion legal and available throughout the United States, and there's not much the Supreme Court or the Texas legislature could do about it.

The Women's Health Protection Act, which makes it illegal for states to restrict abortion before viability, has been introduced in Congress starting in 2013. The law is based on federal rights

See ABORTION, p. 20



Jane Pollack holds a sign that captures the mood at the Gainesville rally for reproductive rights on Oct. 2. Photo by Candi Churchill.

Alachua County responds

In just a few short weeks after Texas' restrictive abortion law was green lighted by the Supreme Court, plans for massive nationwide resistance hatched, and Alachua County was right in the mix. Organized by National Women's Liberation and North Central Florida Indivisible and a host of other organizations, twin marches from the UF Campus area and from Depot Park converged at newly dedicated Cora Roberson Park Saturday afternoon Oct. 2.

Here, and nationwide the message was clear: women demand autonomy over her own bodies, that reproductive decisions are hers and hers alone to make. Speakers and marchers spanned from youth to elders, and the broad lawn of the park was filled with people, perhaps a thousand or more. ☘

No to proposed rezoning of S. Main St.

Too much of a good thing, way too much

by John Barrow

Just a few years ago I, along with many others, participated in a series of workshops to develop a vision for the South Main Street corridor. City of Gainesville staff and their consultants turned our vision into reality, designing and rebuilding South Main into a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly, and multi-modal street, which is already transforming the corridor.

See REZONING, p. 19

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For our well-being and survival, we must have true people's representative democracy

The text below is a letter submitted to the Gainesville Sun on Sept. 24. It was penned by William Gilbert and has been signed by June Littler, Harry Patterson, Paul Ortiz, Scott Camil, Sherry Steiner, Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, among others.

We do not have a people's representative democracy. If we did, we would not have the following protracted economic, environmental, and social problems.

Among industrialized nations, the United States is number one: in prison population with 2.3 million people incarcerated, first in teen birth rates, and some of the highest STDs, first in illiteracy, poverty, homelessness, income disparity, child hunger, drug use and drug-related deaths, use of antidepressants, racial violence, firearms deaths, not providing access to health care for all of its citizens, not providing child care for working parents, the most military spending, hazardous waste production, recorded rapes, and the poor quality of its public schools, a failing police and criminal justice system.

If these problems are not addressed, we will see more frustration, despair, divisiveness, fear, conspiracy theories, hatred and violence.

No significant action has been taken to stop human induced global warming/ climate change that will soon overshadow all other problems that now confront us.

Continuous war must be stopped as an instrument of foreign policy. We must, in the United Nations, stand up and declare war on our true enemies in

the world! They are those conditions that cause racial, social, economic, and environmental injustice.

Poll after poll have indicated that people want these problems solved. I call the inability of government, over the years, to solve these problems warp-speed decline. Some political critics use more direct and colorful wording.

Most of us know how the system works. Huge financial contributions are funneled through thousands of lobbyists representing big corporations and special interests (i.e., banking, pharmaceutical, oil, armament manufactures, utilities, big agriculture, etc.) to political candidates and members of Congress for the support of their election campaigns. The payback for their support has been for the politicians to vote for the interests of their contributors. The lawyer-lobbyists, who contribute the most money, are even writing the bills for congressional members to consider for passage into law. This is simply bribery and should be illegal.

Robert F. Kennedy said fascism, in essence, is ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or by any other controlling private power. "While communism is the control of business by government, fascism is the control of government by business." Years earlier, Benito Mussolini, the Italian fascist's insight was, "Fascism should more appropriately be called corporatism because it is the merger of state and corporate power."

People have the authority to institute a new political system, accountable to them, because our Declaration of Independence

of the Constitution of the United States tell us that we have that authority, "...certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, [and Women], deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,... " [White women's right to vote in 1920 and Black women's Voting Rights Act of 1965.]

To combat extremism and further discontent I advocate that People stand up and peacefully demand that our political system be reformed, returning its control back to the People as intended by the wording in the above Declaration.

1. We, the People, must see to it the For the People Act be passed in Congress, which would restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and strengthen voting rights and ethics laws, and close campaign finance loopholes.
2. We, the People, must see to it that Congress eliminate the Electoral College so every person has one vote.
3. We, the People, must see to it that Congress and the Supreme Court overturn the 1886 Supreme Court decision of Santa Clara v. Southern Pacific Railroad that mistakenly gave corporations the "rights of human beings."
4. We, the People, must see to it that Congress and the Supreme Court overturn the 1976 Supreme Court decision of Buckley v. Valeo ruling that rich people owning their own personal politicians was constitutionally protected because the money they were using to buy legislators and legislation was "free speech."
5. We, the People, must see to it that Congress and the Supreme Court overturn the 2010 Supreme Court decision of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. This decision made the bribery of our politicians of both political parties legal, and it must be overturned.

We need a peaceful revolution that would hold our representatives and senators accountable. They must state publicly their support for the five items above, or be promptly voted out of office. ✨

Noam Chomsky: American empire after 20 years in Afghanistan



Professor Noam Chomsky discusses whether Biden's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan signals the end of American imperialism, what the US owes the Afghan people, and what future antiwar movements can learn from the protests against the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Full interview, courtesy of Jacobin is at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1266>
See more at jacobinmag.com. ✨

Photo of Noam Chomsky, by *jeanbapiste-paris*, is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

From the publisher ...

Fundamental changes

This month brings us to within a year of a very pivotal election. We can all see that the road ahead has a lot of problems. It gets hard to prioritize what to do, and can be overwhelming to contemplate.

An overriding worry for many of us is climate change, but the impact of our human activity manifests in so many ways, from weather patterns to mass migrations, ocean rise to the breakdown of cultural mores as social media trumps science and knowledge. This is exemplified by extreme polarization and the rise of authoritarian leaders in many nations.

What are the fundamental things that need to be addressed? Can we stop global warming and climate change? No, it is in motion, but we can make alterations in how we live and how we use our finite resources for the sake of future generations, and thus mitigate its impact. This country's energy policy is insane, especially the natural gas industry, This is a finite resource, increasingly harder to obtain without ecological damage, yet we are exporting it like mad, just so mega corporations can make money! Energy priorities need to change.

The war industry of this country must be confronted. Much of our country's expenditures goes to the Pentagon, and to building weaponry, which is then sold to other countries, depleting their treasuries and in many cases wreaking havoc. (see Yemen, Afghanistan, etc). The military as solution increases suffering and migrations all over the world. And it does not work, unless the goal is destabilization and weakening of those victims of our weapons. That money needs to be reallocated to human needs.

Women must be granted autonomy over their bodies and the rights to education and equality. The scourge of entrenched male supremacy needs to be fought around the globe. Access to family planning would create smaller healthy families. Harnessing women's brain power and organizational skills would help men and women live better. Paying better wages and recognizing the need for universal healthcare adds to better living standards, and less desperate people trapped in poverty. And good grief: value comprehensive education and acknowledge white supremacy while you are at it.

Election integrity must be supported and prioritized, both here and abroad. Social media, corporate dominated mass media, and the de-emphasis of civic responsibility undermines democratic, representative government. Especially here in the USA there is an active attempt to thwart democracy, measures to suppress voting must be exposed and rolled back. Voter suppression and dark money are producing a virtual coup d'etat by greed driven corporate interests. Unless we can unify and get more progressives into Congress, no legislation to address any of the above is possible.

Locally, the mad rush of development must slow down. A line must be drawn, and S. Main Street (see page 1) seems like a good place to do it. GRU providing energy to UF an important aspect for the future, and that will be coming into play in a year or two, and would help our City owned utility thrive, yet the climate at City Hall has sunk to such depths who would want to go near negotiating a deal to wean them (UF) off Duke Energy?

Going to a strong mayor and expanded commission a few years ago may have been a bad idea, but here we are. Also be aware that in fall of 2022 there will be four vacancies up for election on the City Commission. Elections matter.

And speaking of 2022 elections, to turn out Kat Cammack in District 3 would be wonderful. And statewide Senator Rubio and Governor DeSantis are both up for re election and dumping them would be sweet and appreciated nationally. Can we do it?

It will take organizing both locally and statewide to overcome gerrymandering and a state Democratic party with a less than stellar track record in recent elections.

Remember; DeSantis just barely won. The votes are out there. Fundamentally it comes down to getting out the votes, and getting the votes counted! 🐘



Joe Courter

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The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter.

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The Iguana has been published monthly or bimonthly by volunteers for over 30 years. Circulation for this issue is 4,000.

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Cover drawing of iguana by Daryl Harrison.

Printed on recycled paper.

Reuse Planet's grand opening October 9

Brought to you by The Repurpose Project

The Repurpose Project is excited to announce the grand opening of Reuse Planet, its second reuse store that will feature larger items such as furniture, cabinets, appliances and more.

The grand opening will be held at the newly purchased 20,000 square foot building at 1540 NE Waldo Road in Gainesville on Oct. 9 from 10am to 6pm, with a ribbon cutting at 10am. The local reuse economy is getting larger, and that is a great thing for this community and the planet.

Reuse Planet is Phase II of The Repurpose

Project's plan to build a network of reuse stores to model what a large-scale local reuse economy can look like.

Reuse is an overlooked, but important, part of the climate change solution. The mining, harvesting, manufacturing, packaging, and shipping of material goods are extremely energy intensive, and the environmental degradation caused during the extraction of resources is causing catastrophic harm to the natural world and the animals and people who live here.

Animal habitat loss is driving much of the

biodiversity decline, and solutions must be found in order to protect the delicate balance of this amazing planet we call home.

Building a circular economy is good for the planet, and it's also good for our local community members. The east side of Gainesville is lacking in retail services, and The Repurpose Project and Reuse Planet are committed to providing this underserved side of town with access to low cost materials.

Phase III, a goal of developing convenient and efficient delivery, pickup, and cleanout services, is well underway, with one objective being to remove barriers that keep people (specifically those without vehicles) from being able to purchase lower cost used items.

This expansion would not have been possible without the incredible and generous outpouring of support during The Repurpose Project's building fundraiser. Over 500 individuals donated to make this expansion a reality during the short 60-day fundraiser. Seven community members came through in a pinch over the course of just 10 days to provide private loans when the bank loan fell through.

This incredible display of generosity and trust shows how much people believe in, and want more of, the services that are being offered. The Repurpose Project is looking forward to delivering on the promise to expand reuse and create an alternative retail system that helps people and the planet.

The Repurpose Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to innovating reuse infrastructures and systems to build a robust reuse economy. To learn more about The Repurpose Project and Reuse Planet visit their website at www.repurposeproject.org.

*Recycling turns things
into other things.
Which is like ... MAGIC
- Anonymous*



Phase II of our reuse plan to save our precious planet
Brought to you by THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

GRAND OPENING

Saturday, October 9th, 2021
10am - 6pm (ribbon cutting at 10am)

Reuse is an overlooked climate change solution. The Repurpose Project has a plan to build a network of reuse stores to model the reuse economy we need in order to protect our precious planet.

Come celebrate the expansion of our local reuse economy with the opening of our 2nd store! Reuse Planet will feature larger items such as furniture, cabinets, and appliances!

Save Money, Save the Planet, Buy Used!

1540 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, FL
www.repurposeproject.org

Once upon a time: Free the Ocklawaha

by Jim Gross

Once upon a time in the United States of America we built dams all across our land. We built them because it was the 20th century and because we had become the greatest power on Earth. We built them for power generation, water supply, and flood control. We even built some for commercial navigation. It was an age of innocence. We built dams to a large extent because we could, with little if any consideration of whether we should.

The golden age of dam building in the U.S. did not make it to the end of the 20th century. The heyday of dam building came to a halt by the mid 1970s, shortly after the first Earth Day in 1970. By then we had begun to realize that the costs of our dams exceeded the dollars needed to build and operate them. Our dams had devastated aquatic ecosystems from mountains to sea. Entire species of fish disappeared from our rivers, particularly migratory species that moved back and forth from river to ocean as part of their natural reproductive cycles.

Florida was not left unscathed by the dam building era. The dream of building a canal across Florida had simmered in the imaginations of generations, all the way back to the Spanish colonial era. This dream awakened in the early 1960s when the U.S. Congress authorized construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. By 1968, the Rodman Dam on the Ocklawaha River was built.

Not everyone in Florida supported the Canal project. An emerging environmental movement recognized that the project was a boondoggle. These early environmentalists knew that the overall costs far outweighed the benefits. They organized themselves to oppose the project and founded Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE) to stop it.

FDE sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1969. Two years later a federal judge in Washington, D.C., ruled in favor of FDE

and ordered the Corp of Engineers to stop construction of the project. The Canal project was never completed, but its remnants still sit astride the landscape as a reminder of the boondoggle.

Decades have passed with the Rodman Dam still in place. Environmental degradation has continued, adversely impacting not just the Ocklawaha River, but also the Silver and St. Johns rivers. But the good news is that restoration is still feasible.

The original planning work was completed by the 1990s. Restoration work was temporarily halted in 1999. However, the St. Johns River Water Management District launched a series of studies to assess the feasibility of removing the dam. These studies were completed by 2016.

Florida is now poised to move forward with restoration. At this very moment, citizens have been invited to provide input on restoring the Ocklawaha River.

The St. Johns River Water Management District has provided the general public the chance to express its views on river restoration via an online website (<https://floridaswater.formstack.com/forms/rodman>). You have the opportunity to join FDE and its many partners who together have formed a Coalition to restore the "Great Florida Riverway."

There is a wealth of information on the Coalition website to help you understand the issues (<https://www.freethocklawaha.com>). The information illustrates that the benefits from restoration are not just ecological. There will also be significant economic benefits to Florida as a whole and especially to the communities along the riverway.

The survey is only open until Oct. 22. Please take this opportunity to voice your support for restoring a free-flowing river. There may not be a better time to do so.

Jim Gross is the Executive Director of Florida Defenders of the Environment and teaches Earth Science at Santa Fe College.

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‘Don’t pass gas’: Reject UF’s proposed gas-powered energy plant

by Debra Trione

Transforming the global economy to run on clean energy instead of fossil fuels, like natural gas, will be a task of almost unbelievable proportions. Thankfully, we don’t have to tackle that problem in full. Our focus needs to be on Gainesville and UF. We do have some control over what happens here.

Scientists use scenario analysis to predict what might happen under a range of uncertainties. In the case of climate change the most relevant uncertainty right now is not scientific, but political.

This past June, the UF Board of Trustees approved an outrageously backward plan to install a 34-megawatt gas-fired Central Energy Plant, with a 50-year lifespan, right off Gale Lemerand Drive.

It’s impossible to overstate just how foolish this plan would be. Imagine signing a contract that commits you to use last year’s telephone technology for the next 50 years. No thank you. We’re just not that dumb.

Over the last decade the price of solar energy has fallen nearly 90%, while the cost of natural gas has doubled and then doubled again.



Around 40 UF students and area residents protest plans for a gas-fired Central Energy Plant at UF on September 24. Photo by Anton Kernohan.

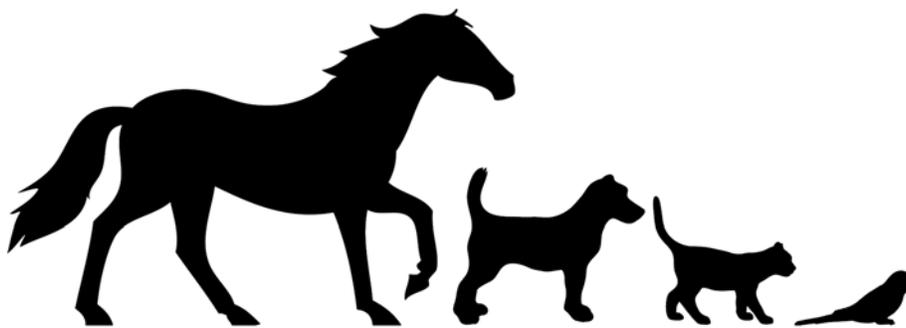
This trend is on course to accelerate well into the future, as solar technology improves, and the climate crisis explodes. It’s time to demand UF move toward solar instead of gas.

The UF Board of Trustees needs to hear loud and clear resistance to this gas plant project, right now. The Board meets again in early December to give its final seal of

approval, so there’s no time to lose. To get involved or learn more, contact Debra Trione at debtrione@gmail.com. “Don’t Pass Gas” is the most urgent message we all need to send to the UF Board of Trustees today.

For more on the issue, check out Debra Trione’s op-ed in the *Gainesville Sun* on Sept. 17: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1251>. 🦎

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And the good news is ...

In unanimous ruling, Mexican Supreme Court decriminalizes abortion

One reproductive rights organizer called the decision "an enormous step toward legalization in the entire country."

This is a condensed version of an article originally published in Common Dreams on Sept. 7. See the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1248>

by Brett Wilkins

Standing in stark contrast with a newly effective anti-abortion law in neighboring Texas, Mexico's Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a state law criminalizing abortion is unconstitutional, setting a precedent that advocates say is likely to ultimately lead to full legalization in the nation with the world's second-largest Roman Catholic population.

The Washington Post reports Mexico's high court found that a law in the northern state of Coahuila punishing women who have abortions with three years' imprisonment

violates the nation's constitution. Women jailed for undergoing the procedure may now be freed following the decision.

"Today is a historic day for the rights of all Mexican women," Supreme Court Chief Justice Arturo Zaldívar said after the ruling was announced. "It is a watershed in the history of the rights of all women, especially the most vulnerable."

While the ruling does not legalize abortion nationwide, it establishes precedent that reproductive rights advocates say they will use to challenge laws criminalizing the procedure in 29 of Mexico's 32 states.

Only Oaxaca, Hidalgo, and Veracruz, plus Mexico City, have legalized or decriminalized abortion.

The court's decision follows years of grassroots organizing by feminist and human rights groups.

"The wave turned out to be a green tide," tweeted attorney and activist Estefanía Veloz, referring to the color synonymous with the campaign for safe and legal abortion in Latin America. "[This is] for all the women who died in clandestine abortions, for my friends who could not choose their motherhood, and for the girls who will grow up in a freer country."

Rebeca Ramos, executive director of the reproductive rights organization GIRE, called the court's decision "an enormous step toward legalization in the entire country." 🌱

'A win for civil rights': Federal judge blocks Florida GOP's anti-protest law

This is a condensed version of an article originally published in Common Dreams on Sept. 10. See the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1249>

by Kenny Stancil

Civil liberties and racial justice advocates are celebrating after a federal judge ruled Thursday that Florida's anti-protest law is unconstitutional and therefore unenforceable.

In his 90-page decision granting civil rights groups' request for a preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Mark Walker said the law—passed by Florida's GOP-controlled House and Senate and signed in April by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in response to demonstrations

against police violence and racial injustice—violates rights to free speech and peaceful assembly as well as due process protections.

The ACLU of Florida explained that a key provision of H.B. 1 "redefines the crime of 'riot' and imposes harsh penalties for those arrested under the law," including peaceful protesters.

Alluding to Florida's history of slapping anti-segregationists with baseless charges of incitement and rioting during the Jim Crow era, Walker enjoined DeSantis and three Florida sheriffs from enforcing the riot definition established by Section 15 of the law.

"If this court does not enjoin the statute's enforcement," Walker wrote, "the lawless actions of a few rogue individuals could effectively criminalize the protected speech of hundreds, if not thousands, of law-abiding Floridians."

The court's ruling came in response to a motion filed in July by the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, the ACLU of Florida, the Community Justice Project, and private attorneys on behalf of Dream Defenders, the Black Collective, Chainless Change, Black Lives Matter Alliance of Broward, the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, and the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville. 🌱

New college survey for 'intellectual freedom' has spawned a lawsuit

This is a condensed version of an article originally published in the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 24. See the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1250>

by Danielle J. Brown

Months ago, Gov. Ron DeSantis approved a controversial law that would require Florida's colleges and universities to conduct a survey intended to gauge whether institutions of higher education promote "intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity."

At the time, critics questioned what those surveys will ask, how intellectual diversity will be measured, and what will happen with the results.

Three months later, very few of those concerns have been answered or addressed and there's also a lawsuit.

In August, the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) joined a federal lawsuit against state education officials, arguing that aspects of the law threaten the right to free speech. The federal lawsuit was filed at the U.S. District

Court for the Northern District of Florida by faculty members and students of Florida's college and university systems.

"Any law that relies on the good will of legislators and politicians over the protections of the Constitution is not a good law," said Andrew Gothard, the UFF president. "And that is why we are challenging HB 233 (now the law) in court and that is why we do not believe that these viewpoint diversity surveys have any place in higher education in this state." 🌱

WGOT: Community radio: Nothing without supporters

By Fred Sowder, WGOT Station Coordinator

One habit I've engaged in more often during the pandemic is participating in trivia nights. They're outdoors, distanced, and fun. Just this week, a friend joined our team who's well known for co-founding a former music venue here in Gainesville. I mentioned to her in passing that WGOT has been struggling financially through the past 18 months, and she immediately sent us a very generous donation. It's now become my mission to speak of the virtues of community radio.

To those who've helped with generous donations through this tough time, thank you. It's because of said generosity that we're able to continue our mission of bringing voices and independent music to the airwaves that you normally wouldn't hear. We'd of course also be nothing without our volunteer show hosts, and some of them, such as Markus Alexander, have stepped up to add donating to their already noble work as show hosts; Markus bringing you two each week, Departure and Sweet Retreat.

But those who make a difference with sustaining donations via our Patreon page also play a vital role in keeping our bills paid, including monthly tower rent to GRU. New patrons such as Randy, Lauren, Brian, Sidney, Lainey, and others play a vital role in keeping us on the air and online during these leanest of times. We are thankful beyond words.

And finally, even though his praises have been no doubt widely sung lately in these pages, the late James Thompson deserves our celestial and eternal thanks as his company Thompson Painting sponsored programming on our airwaves for several months. Our neighbors at Daily Green have been longtime supporters as well.

So please, feel free to drop us a line so we can tell you all about the virtues of community radio and why it's worth your time and financial support at info@wgot.org. We look forward to hearing from you. And thank you. 🍀

Screening of 'Behind Closed Doors: The Dark Legacy of the Johns Committee'

Oct. 21, 7pm - Free In-Person Program

The Matheson History Museum and Pride Community Center of North Central Florida invite you to join them on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7pm at the Matheson for the screening and discussion of the 2000 documentary *Behind Closed Doors: The Dark Legacy of the Johns Committee*. This program coincides with one of the Matheson's current exhibitions—McCarthy Moment: The Johns Committee in Florida.

For the safety of staff and attendees, capacity will be limited to 50 people and masks are required. Admission is free but registration is required. Registration information is at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1255>

This award-winning documentary was produced by Allyson A. Beutke, a graduate of the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications. The film explores the dark legacy of the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee, better known as the Johns Committee, which was created by State Senator Charley Eugene Johns in 1956 to uncover subversive activity in Florida.

From 1958 to 1959 the Johns Committee tried to weed out Communists and homosexuals from the University of Florida. Committee members threatened people with exposure and prison if they did not cooperate. This reign of terror led to dozens of professors and students leaving the university.

This program is sponsored in part by Visit Gainesville/Alachua County, FL and by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of the Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida. 🍀

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**WE ARE GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY RADIO STATION
CELEBRATING 13 YEARS ON AIR!**

Local writers read from UF Press's 'Wilder Heart of Florida'

Three local writers will read and discuss excerpts from their essays on the precarious beauty of North Central Florida that are included in a recently published anthology from the University of Florida (UF) Press, *The Wilder Heart of Florida: More Writers Inspired by Florida Nature*.

The event, co-sponsored by Our Santa Fe River and the Ichetucknee Alliance, will begin at 6:30pm on Nov. 4 at Rum 138, 2070 SW County Road 138, Fort White, Florida, northwest of Gainesville and High Springs.

The Wilder Heart of Florida is a collection of 34 original essays written by well-known and emerging writers, poets, and environmentalists from around the state. The book's thematic focus on Florida's varied and singular natural beauty—and the urgent need to protect and restore it—is a continuation of the 1999 classic, *The Wild Heart of Florida*, that was also published by UF Press.

Local writers reading from their essays at the event are Lucinda Faulkner Merritt, Lars Andersen, and Margaret Ross Tolbert. They will be joined by the book's co-editor and Rollins College Environmental Studies Professor Leslie Kemp Poole, who

will introduce the book and moderate the event. Copies of *The Wilder Heart of Florida* will be available for purchase, and each writer will sign copies after the readings and discussion have concluded.

The event is free and open to the public, and doors will open at 5:30pm. Masks are required, and Rum 138 follows all recommendations on social distancing and other public health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Rum 138's cafe will be open to purchase dinner as well as beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages. Copies of *The Wilder Heart of Florida* may be purchased between 6 and 6:30pm and after the reading.

For more information, contact David Vaina at david.vaina@gmail.com or 352.281.7132. ☘

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Immigrant Neighbor Initiative aims for equity, inclusion

by *Ethan Maia de Needell, Rural Women's Health Project*

In 2016, Mayor Poe proclaimed Gainesville to be a “Welcoming City” for its immigrant population. However, the list of criteria to certify this claim are still unmet.

Many of our immigrant neighbors currently face challenges because limited language access results in a lack of access to transportation, broadband internet, and identification. Our inequitable system has prevented them from fully integrating into our community and taking advantage of critical benefits and services offered in the city. And these obstacles are present despite the immense, positive impact our foreign-born neighbors have on our community and local economy. For example, immigrants in Gainesville contribute over \$20 million in state

and local taxes, and are disproportionately represented in the workforce in relation to their population.

In response to the discrepancy between where some of our public officials believe we are, and where Gainesville actually is, the city created the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Initiative (GINI). As part of its work to push Gainesville towards becoming more equitable for, and inclusive of, its foreign-born neighbors, GINI has formed several different working groups made up of local residents from diverse backgrounds and cultures. These groups meet to discuss strategies on how the city can address the biggest barriers immigrants face, each with a particular focus such as Health, Safety, Civic Engagement, or Education (to name a few).

One of the issues that appear to intersect all the working groups is the lack of language access for many of our foreign-born neighbors. For example, our schools and hospitals are either inadequately prepared or simply unable to treat or serve community members who are not fluent in English. Something as simple as booking an appointment for the doctor or reading the bill after receiving care can be incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for those who are not fluent English speakers.

This is an unacceptable situation that many of the roughly 15,000 immigrants in Gainesville face every day. On October 28, the GINI Steering Committee will present a report from the national non-profit, New American Economy, which will demonstrate just how key the immigrant community is to Gainesville. The report will focus mainly on the economic impact our foreign-born neighbors have on the community, and will hopefully help illustrate the point GINI is making: our immigrant neighbors are a critical part of our society and we need to start treating them with the respect and recognition they deserve. ☘

SAVE THE DATE!
Friends of the Library Book Sale
October 23–27

Saturday, Oct 23: 9am - 6pm
 Sunday, Oct 24: Noon-6pm
 Monday, Oct 25: Noon-6pm
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For more information, visit:
https://folacl.org/n_sale_dates.html

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

MONDAY OCTOBER 11

Gainesville City Hall 200 East University Avenue
 6:00 to 6:45 pm FREE+OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Indigenous People's Day (IPD) Task Force and the City of Gainesville invite you to an honoring of the first peoples of this land. A proclamation will be read and a permanent marker unveiled recognizing the indigenous inhabitants of Florida. The Potano, Timucua, and their ancestors lived and established villages and towns through north central Florida. Gainesville is the only municipality in Florida to no longer recognize Columbus Day, an official change accepted 3 years ago.

Come help us celebrate the shift in our telling of history.

For info contact Sylvia: morningmeadow9@gmail.com

North Florida Native American Family Group
 Gordon Hines Museum of Natural History

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Bat Fest 2021: Welcome back!

Lubee Bat Conservancy is excited to welcome everyone to our 17th Annual Florida Bat festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 23 from 10am-5pm.

Admission is \$8 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 5-12, and kids 4 and under are free. The beer garden costs \$25 for online purchases and \$28 at the gate -- the festival entry is included.

Tickets are available at <https://www.lubee.org/event-details/fl-bat-festival-2021>. Funds will be used for the Conservancy's ongoing research, conservation, and community education programs.

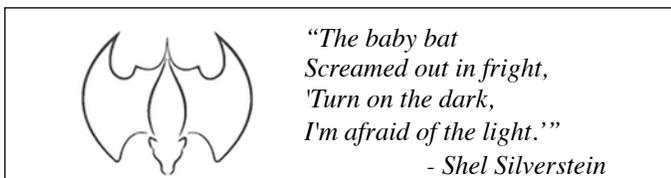
At the festival you can view the world's largest bats, enter a silent auction featuring local restaurant/shop gift cards and Florida zoo tickets, check out the Kids Zone area featuring bounce houses provided by Space Walk of Gainesville and listen to educational talks.

Several festivities are new this year:

- Baby bats - Say 'hello' to our five pups born this year.
- Visit our new education center - we are thrilled to announce the grand opening of our new education center.
- New games and vendors - we like to keep things interesting and fun so we've added new vendors, along with new games for kids and adults.
- Expanded beer garden and food offerings - Enjoy brews from your favorite local breweries including five newcomers. We listened to our guests and now have food for everyone, including vegan and vegetarian options.
- Live music from Jig to a Milestone.

The festival will be held on the beautiful grounds of Lubee, located at 1309 N.W. 192nd Ave., Gainesville.

For more information, check out our event page at <https://www.lubee.org/batfest>. Buy tickets at <https://www.lubee.org/event-details/fl-bat-festival-2021>.



“Social media gives legions of idiots the right to speak when they once only spoke at a bar after a glass of wine, without harming the community. Then they were quickly silenced, but now they have the same right to speak as a Nobel Prize winner. It’s the invasion of the idiots.”

Umberto Eco



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City elections Nov. 16, candidate forums on Oct. 23

by Joe Courter

With the unexpected resignation announcement of At-Large City Commissioner Gail Johnson a couple months ago, the need for a special election has happened. That election will be Tuesday, Nov. 16, with early voting November 12-14. It is open to all City of Gainesville registered voters.

There are five candidates who have registered for the election. The most well-known and strongest in the field is former Mayor and City Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut, who served office in the City from 1987 to 1990, and then was a County Commissioner from 2002 to 2006. She has been very active in Democratic party politics over the past decades. She is also the candidate Gail Johnson has endorsed to carry on her agenda, which she cut short for various personal reasons just months after having been reelected in 2020.

The second strongest candidate is political newcomer Matt Howland, who already has an active grassroots campaign in full swing. He is a former Gainesville Middle School teacher who stepped away from teaching and became active in the non-profit sector, currently running a youth fitness program. From his website: "... (we) should focus on actionable issues that are inclusive and sustainable, such as renewable energy and waste collection, public transportation and safe streets, supporting small businesses and cutting red tape."

The other three candidates have not really begun campaigning. Scherwin Henry was a commissioner from 2006 to 2012 and is a retired food scientist. Patrick Ingle (no relation to James

is retired from the software industry and currently drives for Uber and Lyft. And Gabe Kaimowitz is a former lawyer and frequently comments and complains at Commission meetings.

One for sure candidate forum will be Saturday, Oct. 23, by the League of Women Voters at 1pm, and will be available then and after on Zoom from the LWV Facebook page. If no candidate gets 50 percent +1 there will be a runoff in December (too bad we don't use rank choice voting). Your vote counts a lot here, because it will likely be a low turnout election, with this race the only one on the ballot. More next month. 🐾

Supervisor of Elections alerts voters of unofficial mailings

Once again two Washington, D.C.-based nonprofits, the Center for Voter Information and the Voter Participation Center, are sending potentially misleading mailings to Alachua County voters and other residents.

The two groups, which routinely send similar mailings across Florida, announced they will collectively send more than 13,000 pieces of mail to Alachua County. In 2020, the same groups sent more than 30,000 mailings. Residents started receiving the unofficial mailings last week.

Intended for residents who are not registered to vote, the groups' mailings have previously confused and angered some voters, with notices sent based on incorrect or out-of-date information. Prior mailings have resulted in pre-filled voter registration applications sent to already registered voters, deceased persons, minor children, and even pets.

Both the Center for Voter Information and the Voter Participation Center are not affiliated with the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections. The Alachua County Supervisor of Elections does not provide the address information used to conduct the mailings.

Individuals with questions or concerns regarding these mailings are encouraged to contact these groups directly and can unsubscribe from future mailings using the following links:

Center for Voter Information
Toll-free 866-290-1599
info@centerforvoterinformation.org

Voter Participation Center
Toll-free 877-255-6750
info@voterparticipation.org

The Alachua County Supervisor of Elections is the official source for information related to voter registration and elections in Alachua County. Residents can verify and check their voter registration status at <https://www.votealachua.com/My-Registration-Status> or by calling 352-374-5252.

For more information, contact the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252. 🐾

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2021 City of Gainesville
Special Election
November 16

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"Our political leaders will know our priorities only if we tell them, again and again, and if those priorities begin to show up in the polls."
- Peggy Noonan



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- OCTOBER**
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 - 8 LP3 featuring Dr. Neu
(jam band, funk)
 - 15 Morningbell
(originals, recreating their Basso Profundo album from 2011)
 - 22 The Impostors
(The Beatles tribute)

Each Friday a new band brings original and cover tunes to the Plaza concert stage 8-10pm, May through October

111 E. University Ave. All shows may be subject to change <http://gnvculturalseries.org/free-fridays-concert-series/>

In memoriam:

James Thompson, Rest in Power

by John Thompson

A caveat: capturing James in a few words is unthinkable, almost criminal, when considering his own verbose writing style. As his brother of 46 years, I am still unpacking who he was and how much he meant to me, his loved ones, and the rest of his community.

I may be an unreliable narrator; this is how I see my brother with a heavy heart. I do not wish to be limited by the following remembrance, as I expect we will all continue to glean additional insights from the wondrous life James shared with us all.

James was a dynamo. To be in the same room meant hearing his voice, being intrigued (or challenged) by his ideas, and feeling his loud, distinct laugh that he was gifted from his mother. For all the electricity he spun, whether it was helping a kid learn how to ride a bike, reciting a poem, or challenging local political norms, his heart never quit giving a sincere energy. He wanted his passion to be shared, and for the good to be procured. He was continuous without stopping. He was genuine and pure.

James was a community activist, or rather a Marxist Anarchist Christian. He didn't make mention of being born in California, nor that people mislabeled him as a Democrat. He may have offered spoken and written words with eloquence, but he kept his mission simple: know better, do better.

Voting wasn't a celebration, but rather a battle in the war. He believed local folk were the bedrock of making real change. Visiting with prisoners to discuss forced labor, educating local council on the homeless, fighting for the sanctity of land use, marching against fascists on his home turf, listening to anyone who needed their voice to be heard, this was James. James was the voice for the voiceless. In that, his spirit shined.

James was a great intellect, a voracious self-learner and artist. Songs, poems, gourmet meals (and some god-awful misfires), public speeches, computer programs, political essays, ink drawings, bike repairs, election campaigns, violin

pieces, letters to the editor, strategies on unionizing, landscape paintings, house painting, dissertations — James could really do it all. It could be intimidating to be honest, or maybe even tick you off a touch. He didn't own many books, but he read more than one could imagine. I did find a copy of James Baldwin on his table. He made use of a Puritan work ethic. Idle hands and all.

James was a runner and a cyclist. Both of these endurance sports carry an aspect of his character. Running was an escape, not from people, but from being alone with his thoughts. In his later years, people would ask him how far he had gone, and he'd reply, "A couple of hours." He'd break new trails and leave water and snacks for later treks into the wilderness.

Cycling was similar, but carried a communal aspect. This is where James learned camaraderie and the importance of team.

He never boasted about winning, but about how the team functioned together, how the new riders carried the load. He found community. He found a purpose in welcoming novices and organizing effort into success. He liked to win, but as a result of the communion.

James was Gainesville. Some places hold magic for people, and Gainesville held the right ingredients in damn fine people, institutions, a plethora of sun, beaches and lakes, cycling, and community. He fought so hard for every aspect of this town.

When I came to visit my father a few years back, James drove me by a park for kids he had helped build. He beamed. Not with pride, but for the future. Everything in Gainesville mattered to James. And everyone. Whether you agreed with him or not, if you needed support, he had your back. After all, when you share the same roof, best to make the most of the house.

James was many other things: an unapologetic eater of leftovers, a binge watcher of bad TV, an expert on Frank Herbert's *Dune*, an endless resource on



James Thompson, courtesy of John Thompson

all facets of coffee, a listener with grand intentions, a suspect dresser with his rad plaid, the most educated on both sides of his family, a proud blue-collar laborer who came from blue-collar roots, the favorite "uncle" to many of his friends' kids, a dear friend who was always a call away, a partner (who wanted nothing more than to spend his time with Melissa), a first son, and a brother to one. He was more than we will ever know.

James and I would end our calls with a proclamation, "Carry the fire." It was a line lifted from Cormack McCarthy's *The Road*, but it holds so much more gravitas. It is Promethean in its charge to be creative with the gifts that the old titans have provided us. And that is what we must do now—carry the fire within our warm hearts and in our worn hands so that we can light the way for all those around us. With just a little spark and sweat we can fashion the reality that James struggled so desperately against into new palimpsests of grandeur, filled with dignity.

In this new story, James will be the hero. "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet." Ecclesiastes 5:12 🍀

Suicide – say its name

by Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson

Every life ended by suicide was unique. And so is the impact of suicide on loved ones—the “survivors” who sometimes are left to wonder why, and always what they could have done.

The activists among us may be particularly vulnerable; their fervor is part of what we love about them—that inspiring selflessness, clarity of passion, and their willingness to sacrifice personal comfort for a greater cause. For them, and us, to carry on the fight, we must all do more to encourage self-care within our ranks.

Self-care is also personal—it can be deep meditation or strenuous exercise; yoga or dance; being together or quietly alone—whatever provides a rejuvenating break from the depression, anxiety, anger, or confrontations which are the mountains and valleys of the mental landscape in social and environmental justice circles.

It requires courage to talk about suicide with friends and colleagues; but talking about it does not make it more likely—it means the person knows somebody cares deeply. Fortunately, the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health crises is decreasing. And in our community, there are people and places who want to, and are able to help—but only if we reach out.

Mental Health First Aid takes the fear and hesitation out of initiating conversations about mental health and substance use. Thousands of people have taken the class in Alachua County, and you should too. To register yourself or organize a group training, contact Maddie_Adkins@mbhci.org.

The Alachua County Crisis Center offers around-the-clock crisis and suicide intervention with phone counseling by trained volunteers. They also field Care Teams for traumatic episodes and provide support to sexual assault survivors. Call anytime: **352-264-6789**.

Gainesville Peer Respite is a support community that offers alternatives to psychiatric hospitalization in a non-clinical home-like environment. With an inclusive perspective on how individuals can seek wellness, at GPR we help transform experiences of distress into opportunities for learning and life enhancement. Learn more at www.GainesvilleRespite.org.

Co-Responder Teams consist of two

partners: a police officer with Crisis Intervention Training and a licensed Mental Health Clinician. They respond to calls involving persons in a potential mental health crisis or emotionally charged situation, and work to minimize contact with the criminal justice system. Dial 9-1-1, and ask for “the Mental Health Squad” or “Co-Responders.”

Meridian Behavioral’s Crisis Services offers a full emergency staff who perform evaluations and crisis intervention for adults and children 24/7/365. They can address the needs of those facing an acute episode of

psychiatric illness or substance use disorder. Learn more at <https://www.mbhci.org>.

Survivors of Suicide are people impacted by the suicide death of a loved one. Services include the “SOS” group and individual counseling. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:15 to 9:15pm. Services are delivered by professional staff, volunteers and a number of survivors. Anybody who has been touched by suicide is invited to attend as often as they wish. Call **352-264-6782** for information. ✨



The Survivors of Suicide Memory Garden in Cofrin Nature Park is a place of comfort, meditation, and healing for those who have lost a loved one through suicide. The International Survivors of Suicide Day Vigil will be in the Garden, with music, words, and companionship beginning at 10am on Nov. 20. The Garden is at 4810 NW 8th Ave. in Gainesville. For more information go to: www.FriendsoftheCrisisCenter.org.

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It stinks: Alachua Development Review Committee OKs Micanopy Dollar General

by Homer Jack Moore

For background on the now-approved Dollar General in Micanopy, visit www.gainesvilleiguana.org and search for "Dollar General."

On Sept. 9, Stewart, a Native American and a member of the Florida Indigenous Alliance, gave wise counsel at a recent meeting of the Alachua Board of County Commissioners on a matter pertaining to a proposed Dollar General convenience store at a scenic gateway to the town adjacent to the Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve. "No matter how much you polish a piece of excrement," he explained, "a piece of excrement's gonna be a piece of excrement."

Then turning toward Matt Cason, president of the Gainesville Concept Companies, a development firm that plans to build the Dollar General, and leaving no doubt for the commissioners about whom he was speaking, Stewart continued, "A piece of excrement stood in front of y'all and said, 'No matter what y'all do, no matter what anyone does, my money says everything.'"

Stewart's indictment of Cason was prescient. Contrary to the will of the county commissioners, and notwithstanding the overwhelming opposition in Micanopy to the Dollar General development project, and in spite of six hours of public testimony clearly showing that the development plan was based on phony information provided to the Alachua Growth Management Department, and that it failed to conform to Alachua's Comprehensive Plan and Uniform Land Development Code in many ways, the Development Review Committee, being an unelected and unaccountable panel of mid-level county employees, then with essentially no further discussion voted unanimously to approve the Dollar General.

Yes, money says everything. It's power. And its influence is present inside the government at multiple levels. That's why it's possible for a developer like Concept Companies, that doesn't even own the land, to come in and logroll a small historic community as well as the entire county, and put in a Dollar General convenience store where it's not wanted.

It begins innocently enough with the fact

that the developer is in the business and understands the process. But the citizens are just folks who have a job and a life, and are just trying to get by. The developer has the money to hire the necessary attorneys, engineers, and consultants. They work for him, and their work products are necessarily compatible with his needs. Would Concept Companies hire a consultant to say the land is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or that it is habitat to threatened species? On the contrary.

Then, the county's Growth Management Department is co-opted by the developer. In effect it also becomes the developer's hiring. After payment of a fee, county staff reviews the development plan and informs the developer of changes needed for it to pass muster. After several rounds of back-and-forth, the developer makes the modifications that staff deems necessary, and voilà, staff recommends approval of the plan to the Development Review Committee. Growth Management was paid by Concept Companies; then Growth Management assisted Concept Companies in bringing the development plan to fruition. Never mind that the larger share of Growth Management staff salaries come from the taxpayer.

Meanwhile the affected community does not have the resources to hire attorneys, engineers, and consultants. Micanopy in particular is not an affluent community. Residents are not well informed about the process because it was never in their line of work to begin with. And even if they were, they do not have the financial wherewithal to fight back.

The more sinister part of the developer's money advantage is influence inside government. Potentially it goes as far as out-and-out bribery, but it doesn't have to. Money buys relationships

In the case of the Micanopy Dollar General project, the first instance of insider influence to become apparent was at the state level. As part of the development review process, Concept Companies was required to submit a Cultural Resources Assessment Survey to define any and all archeological or historical factors potentially affecting the property. For this purpose Concept Companies hired Dr. Lucy Wayne who styles herself as an

archeologist and operates a Gainesville consulting firm called SouthArc. Dr. Wayne produced an impressive looking monograph full of maps and technical jargon that basically concluded, "nothing-to-see-here." Who would have guessed.

Unfortunately, Dr. Wayne omitted a critical historical event that did occur on the property, namely, the 1836 Battle of Micanopy of the Second Seminole War. That was an oversight that would not have escaped the attention of anybody with even a particle of interest who might, for example, have visited the kiosk at the adjacent Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve. Dr. Wayne's shoddy work was taken to task by some real historians, namely, Professor Chris Monaco, author of *The Second Seminole War*, and Gary Ellis, CEO of the nonprofit Gulf Archeology Research Institute. These two had extensively researched the location of Fort Defiance in Micanopy that was the epicenter of that conflict.

So Dr. Wayne had to submit a revised Cultural Resources Assessment Survey. It was sent up to Tallahassee for review by Florida's Division of Historical Resources. Jason Aldridge, the Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, responded that the Battle of Micanopy was, indeed, a significant historic event. Thus, the battlefield would potentially be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Bye-bye, Dollar General.

In an apparent panic Dr. Wayne responded in a long letter to Mr. Aldridge explaining why it could not possibly be the case that the property was NRHP eligible. Then she made several follow-up phone calls. But Aldridge was out of the office.

Strangely, out of nowhere, a St. Augustine attorney named Douglas Burnett parachuted in, having never been seen before, nor ever heard from again. Attorney Burnett's special qualification, it would seem, was that he was on a first-name basis with Aldridge's boss. That would be Timothy Parsons, the State Historic Preservation Officer. Burnett sent Parsons an email. "Tim," he said, "We really need this signed off so we can proceed with our development plans...."

Within two hours Parsons replied back countermanding his own Deputy. "I

already knew,” said Parsons, “...the battle may have taken place in this location, [but] the area doesn’t retain integrity such that it is eligible for the National Register.” Case closed.

It would be interesting to know what Attorney Burnett’s fee was for his little email to his pal Mr. Parsons.

How could such a thing happen? Well, presumably Mr. Parsons likes his job. And presumably he would like to keep it. And his boss happens to be a Republican governor.

It turns out that the CEO of Concept Companies is a man named Brian Crawford. It turns out that Crawford’s father-in-law is a man named Avery Roberts. Roberts is a multimillionaire and a big Republican donor. It turns out that Avery’s daughter Amber, Crawford’s wife, is a Lake Butler realtor who flips the Dollar Generals her husband builds. Investors buy the buildings and then harvest the lease income from Dollar General over a number of years. On the flip, Amber and her husband collect additional transaction fees above and beyond the profit made on the development. To suppose that none of these relationships matter would be to willfully ignore them.

Then a second instance of inside influence surfaced, this time at the county level. The Development Review Committee met in December 2020 to consider the Dollar General preliminary development plan. That meeting was originally scheduled earlier in the month but was cancelled and rescheduled ostensibly because it had not been properly advertised in Gainesville Sun legal notices. But as a strange coincidence, the delay enabled a newly appointed member of the Development Review Committee to appear and participate. That new member was Beth Dodd, an employee of the Public Works Department. Ms. Dodd, it turns out, was newly hired by the county. Her previous employer was CHW, Inc., the principal engineering firm retained by Concept Companies for the Micanopy Dollar General development.

Ms. Dodd was a bit careless when she arrived for the December committee meeting. It is reported that she was carrying a CHW coffee mug of her recent former employer. She was overheard to say to Christine Berish, an employee of Growth Management, that she [Dodd] ought to put the mug out of sight, or words to that effect. To this Ms. Berish replied, “Oh, it’s okay, you’re one of us now.”

It is absolutely clear that Dodd was conflicted. And she knew it, and thought to conceal it.

After the staff presentation of the preliminary development plan, and following further discussion, Forrest Eddleton, Dodd’s counterpart on the December committee, moved to disapprove. But with her former boss sitting in the room, Dodd sat silent. In a committee of three, Dodd was the only one who might have offered a second, even for the sake of further discussion. So Eddleton’s motion died. Ivy Bell, the committee chairperson, passed the gavel to Mr. Eddleton effectively taking him out. Then Dodd and Bell got together and concocted a motion to approve with conditions that passed on a 2-to-1 vote (Dodd and Bell).

This overt conflict did not go without protest from the community. Missy Daniels, director of the Growth Management Department, asserted that there was actually never really any conflict. What else would she say? Evidently we in Micanopy are not supposed to believe our own eyes and ears.

So now, at the second Development Review hearing this September, with the panel once again consisting of unelected and unaccountable county employees, Concept Companies got

its go-ahead. After six hours of public testimony, and testimony of competent authorities retained at considerable expense by Micanopy residents, the committee concluded with no further discussion by unanimously approving the Dollar General development plan.

You have to wonder. Did the developer have inside influence this time, too?

Inside influence is like dog shit. You don’t see it. But when you step in it, you can sure smell it. 🐕

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- ✿ The late James Loewen, best known for *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, inspired a website of US history record-setting-straight, including sections on race relations, gender issues, and education - which actually brings fun to each topic: <https://justice.tougaloo.edu>
- ✿ **A hinge point for voting rights: If passed, the Freedom to Vote Act will advance election-safety provisions in five major ways**
by Norm Ornstein and Dennis Afergut / *The Atlantic* / Sept. 14 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1259>
Amy Klobuchar, Joe Manchin and several of their Democratic colleagues in the Senate have produced the Freedom to Vote Act, a stellar election-protection compromise bill that safeguards both the right to vote and the integrity of future federal elections.
- ✿ **Biden administration rolls out new rule to bolster DACA as lawsuit continues**
by Ariana Figueroa / *Florida Phoenix* / Sept 27 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1256>
The Biden administration unveiled a proposed new rule that would strengthen the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to protect undocumented people in the program from legal challenges.
- ✿ **'Coal Is Dead': New global pact announced after China's bold step: "Consigning coal to history is crucial to avoiding catastrophic climate change."**
by Julia Conley / *Common Dreams* / Sept 24 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1265>
Just two days after Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the world's largest coal producer would stop funding overseas coal projects, seven countries on Friday pledged they would also cease building new coal power plants.
- ✿ **Florida moms have gotten expanded Medicaid coverage following childbirth, but not many people knew it**
by Issac Morgan / *Florida Phoenix* / Sept 29 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1263>
A major initiative pushed by Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls to expand Medicaid coverage for women and babies has been happening for more than a year — a surprise to lawmakers who were getting antsy about the launch of the new program for postpartum moms.
- ✿ **Florida [saw] its first phase of the minimum wage boost — \$10 an hour — on Thursday, Sept. 30**
by Issac Morgan / *Florida Phoenix* / Sept 29 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1261>
Workers in Florida earning minimum wage saw a significant bump in pay — from \$8.65 to \$10 an hour — the first phase of a wage hike connected to a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2020.
- ✿ **How to have a safe abortion — even in Texas**
By Gloria Oladipo / *The Nation* / Sept 17 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1260>
Elisa Wells, a Plan C cofounder, discusses the future of reproductive care after SB 8. Calling Texas's SB 8 "abhorrent," she stressed that, despite the new and escalating restrictions, another option exists: the self-managed abortion, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2000.
- ✿ **Praise be to those who refused to kill**
By Paul Buhle / *The Progressive* / Sept 7 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1264>
Two 2021 books take a fresh look at the unheralded heroes of the Vietnam War: Vietnam's Prodigal Heroes: American Deserters, International Protest, European Exile, and Amnesty by Paul Bendikt Glatz and Dissenting POWs: From Vietnam's Hao Lo Prison to America Today by Tom Wilbur and Jerry Lembke.
- ✿ **Rapid shift to electric vehicles could create over 150,000 jobs in US by 2030**
by Kenny Stancil / *Common Dreams* / Sept 22 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1257>
A new report says "smart" pro-labor policies by lawmakers would transform the "inevitable" shift to EVs "into a new beginning for U.S. producers and the rebuilding of a foundation for good jobs."
- ✿ **Right livelihood award recognizes 'courageous mobilizers' defending people and planet**
by Jessica Corbett / *Common Dreams* / Sept 29 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1258>
Known around the world as the "alternative Nobel Prize" to honor and support "courageous people solving global problems," the Right Livelihood Award was granted to three activists from Cameroon, Canada, and Russia as well as a legal group in India.
- ✿ **'The tide has shifted': Harvard to divest from fossil fuels after a decade of pressure**
by Jake Johnson / *Common Dreams* / Sept 10 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1262>
"This is what they told us for a decade they couldn't do, and today, the students, faculty, and alumni have been vindicated."
- ✿ **What can democrats do to fight Texas's abortion ban? Lots.**
by Elie Mystal / *The Nation* / Sept 2 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1254>
There are countless examples of Democrats' sad-sack attitude from the last six months, but there is something they can do. They can get creative and be willing to challenge norms. They can act like Republicans. ✿

From REZONING, p. 1

As is generally the case, following good planning and design of public infrastructure, the private sector is investing in and rebuilding the businesses and property along the corridor. Most would agree, that's a good thing.

But apparently for some it's not big enough, or fast enough, or both. The City Commission is poised to vote on land use and zoning changes proposed for a large property on South Main Street just south of the Cade Museum and adjacent to our beloved Depot Park (a project that was 30 years in the making).

I am a longtime advocate of quality urban infill with higher density that supports multi-modal transportation, but I am vehemently opposed to these petitions being considered by the City Commission. Keep in mind that "higher" is a relative term.

The consensus from the required neighborhood workshop for the proposed rezoning was clearly supportive of the ongoing redevelopment of the area, but participants felt strongly that this parcel, given its location, should not have the same zoning as the downtown core, and that such a rezoning would be a bad precedent for the South Main Corridor all the way to 16th Avenue.

Based on much of the discussion at the workshop and that I've heard and read since, the rezoning, as proposed, is not consistent with the "community vision"

for this corridor, and it is certainly not in keeping with my vision for the corridor.

It is problematic, to say the least, that the rezoning would be from the lowest density and shortest (Industrial 2) to the highest density and tallest (Downtown) allowed by City Codes on a parcel this far from University and Main and adjacent to Depot Park.

If approved, this radical change in land use and zoning would be textbook "spot zoning." As such it would potentially be precedent setting for property anywhere in the City limits.

In a separate but related petition, PB-21-13 TCH, the City staff report states, "In designating Transect zones, the code assigned transects that are tailored to the unique character of the specific geographic area of the City." This section of South Main currently has and should maintain a different character from that of the downtown core, which is properly zoned DT.

Not to get too wonky, but the paramount concept of Transect Zoning is that development steps down, in height, scale, density and intensity, as it gets farther away from the city or town center.

These parcels and others along South Main Street should be considered for rezoning to facilitate redevelopment of the corridor, but the new zoning should provide for a transition from the downtown urban core to the residential neighborhoods farther down Main Street and around the corridor.

An appropriate "Transect" zoning, and

one that would be more consistent with the Comprehensive Plan (and our community vision), would be U6 or U7. This zoning would allow for appropriately scaled mixed-use development at four to six stories. Whereas the proposed DT zoning would allow a 200 foot tall, 14 story monstrosity.

Approving this rezoning would actually be counter to the continued redevelopment of our downtown core. Underdeveloped parcels in the downtown area north of Depot Avenue, which are already more difficult to develop for a number of reasons, would likely be skipped over if this property is zoned DT and the property around it follows. This is "leapfrog" development, just on a smaller geographic scale and with much taller buildings.

Gainesville citizens are grateful for Depot Park and the major improvements to South Main Street. It would be counterproductive to start rezoning parcels in the corridor that would allow grossly out-of-scale projects. I hope that the City Commission will vote down the rezoning as proposed and they should suggest that the property owner comes back with a reasonable request to upzone in a way that is appropriate for the area.

John Barrow is a former Gainesville City Commissioner, Chair of the CRA, Chair of MTPO, Urban Design Consultant for Florida Main Street.

His UF Master of Architecture Thesis was a Redevelopment Plan for the Porters Neighborhood (a few years back). ☘

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From ABORTION, p. 1

to regulate commerce and the liberties and equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Polls show 61 percent of people support it.

The anti-abortion right has long argued that there is no right to abortion in the US Constitution. And it's true: when the Court decided Roe v. Wade in 1973, the justices detected abortion rights within the charter's general rights to freedom from government interference. The Court found abortion rights there in response to an upsurge of women's liberation organizing and lawsuits — and the very real possibility that abortion laws would be vacated by lower courts, leaving the country with no abortion restrictions at all.

But neither is there anything restricting abortion in the Constitution. In 1789, when the Bill of Rights was ratified, there were no laws against abortion until “quickenings,” around eighteen or twenty weeks, when you can feel the fetus move. This is why anti-abortion groups have been trying for decades to get an abortion prohibition into the Constitution through a “human life” amendment.

At the urging of feminists, abortion rights have been codified in New York, California, Illinois, and several smaller blue states. But no legislation has been seriously attempted on the federal level.

Democrats in Congress could have pushed through a law codifying the right to abortion anytime they had a majority in the last few decades, but they never prioritized it. As abortion access winked out in state after state, the cry has been “Save Roe!” as though the Court was the only place these rights could be protected. “Remember the Supreme Court,” they told feminists every election year. That's no longer a viable

election strategy, as the Court is now six to three against abortion.

This puts establishment Democrats in an awkward position. As they sold out our welfare programs, health care, labor rights, schools, and even put Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block during the Clinton and Obama years, defense of abortion has become one of their last remaining unique selling propositions. If they don't act now, they risk losing another constituency.

It's possible the Court has overplayed its hand. In response to its actions, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has pledged to bring up the Women's Health Protection Act when Congress reconvenes in mid-September. Currently, every Democrat in the Senate is a cosponsor except Joe Manchin (West Virginia) and Bob Casey (Pennsylvania). Even Kyrsten Sinema (Arizona) supports the bill. No Republicans have signed on, though Susan Collins (Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) nominally support abortion rights.

Could it pass? In the House, maybe, but never in the Senate, we're told, because of the filibuster — the same reason we can't win labor law reform, voting rights, a Green New Deal, a higher minimum wage, or universal health care.

Feminists must demand an end to the filibuster. The Right has no compunction about changing the rules when they think they can benefit: In 2017, they ended the filibuster for Supreme Court appointments, which is why the court is now packed with right-wingers.

There's now a pile of important legislation blocked up behind the filibuster, and a lengthening list of constituencies who want it ended. The Court's brash move on abortion could add a big constituency to

that list if movement activists and political leaders make a strong case for it. A popular campaign to end the filibuster to pass the Women's Health Protection Act is within reach right now. For example, New York senator Kristen Gillibrand called for exactly that in response to the Court's decision.

Unless we force them to act, support for the Women's Health Protection Act could become yet another empty gesture by Democrats. They can't hide behind the Court anymore, but they can still hide behind the filibuster.

A campaign to end the filibuster in order to actually pass the law would force Democrats to take a stand, and expose those who refuse as supporters of forced childbirth.

The Women's March and several other feminist and reproductive justice groups have signed onto a mobilization on October 2, with marches in every state, just before the Supreme Court starts its fall term, with abortion on the docket.

But the Court is not the right target at this point. Activists should turn our attention to Congress and take the planned mobilization as an occasion to pressure those who aren't yet on board. And since the Women's Health Protection Act does not address abortion funding, we should also clearly demand Medicare for All, which includes full payment for all abortion and birth control options.

Above all, we should remember that it was feminist agitation that won us the rights we have in the first place. No court gave them to us. They were secured in the context of a general upsurge on the Left. With the Court's decision causing outrage across the nation, now is the time for another offensive, this time focused on ending the filibuster and codifying the right to abortion in law. 🐸

National Women's Liberation

Follow-up abortion rights meeting(via Zoom)

Wed., Oct. 20

for information or to register:
<https://bit.ly/3Fa3fxx>

Battle over abortion rights

The issue over abortion rights is heating up. Last month a bill similar to the Texas law was filed in the Florida State House, and the US Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging Roe v. Wade out of Mississippi in December. The fight is on, and we must remain vigilant. For other enlightening perspectives on anti-choice legislation, check out these stories:

- “Texas doctor says he violated nation's most restrictive antiabortion law to challenge it,” by Silvia Foster-Frau, *Washington Post*, Sept. 18, <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1252>.
- “Doctors in neighboring states feel the brunt of Texas' abortion law,” *Here & Now*, WBUR Boston, September 14, <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1253>. 🐸

Spotlight on ... Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Initiative

The Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Initiative (GINI) is a city-led initiative that has been working in conjunction with local nonprofits, social service agencies and government offices to drive Gainesville toward becoming a more welcoming city for its immigrant population. GINI has formed several Working Groups that focus on different social arenas where our foreign-born neighbors encounter barriers to receiving services or integrating into our city. Areas of concentration include Health, Education, Civic Engagement, Language Access, and Safety.

Each of these groups are made up of diverse groups of people with different backgrounds and perspectives, ensuring that this effort is reflective of our diverse community. These groups are developing strategies to overcome barriers, with the goal of presenting the City Commission with a list of actionable items that they, or local nonprofits, should undertake to make Gainesville a truly Welcoming City. The final Plan will be presented in January. For questions or interest in this initiative, contact the GINI Community liaisons at: rwbp@cafl.com 🐉

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unless otherwise noted, all phone number are in the 352 area code.

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 373-1078 / www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Alachua County Greens is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm, contact for location: 871-1995 / alachuagreens@gmail.com / <https://gainesvillegreens.webs.com>

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and a living wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm on Zoom. 375-2832 / info@laborcoalition.org / <http://laborcoalition.org/>

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 / <http://acornclinic.org>

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at firstcoastclu@gmail.com / <http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org>.

American Promise Association is 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. <https://americanpromise.net>

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 514-5606 / www.arcinst.org

Black Graduate Student Organization helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. bgsoatuf@gmail.com / facebook: UF BGSO

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfldsa@gmail.com / Facebook: North Central Florida DSA

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 / btancig@gmail.com / https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville/

Civic Media Center is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville / 373-0010 / coordinators@civicmediacenter.org / www.civicmediacenter.org

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com / www.chispasuf.org / Facebook: chispasUF

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Join our Facebook group at: [Codepinkgainesville / CodePink4Peace.org](https://www.facebook.com/Codepinkgainesville/)

The Community Weatherization Coalition's mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. info@communityweatherization.org 450-4965 /

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 376-4770 / info@conserveflorida.org / www.conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 352-373-1730 / www.alachuadems.org

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

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 and surveillance companies. www.divestuf.org, Facebook: @Divest UF

Goddsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. Facebook: Goddsville Dream Defenders

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject

Families Against Mandatory Minimums works to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614 / gnewburn@famm.org / 682-2542 / Famm.org

Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 / final.friends.org@gmail.com / www.finalfriends.org

The Fine Print is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. <http://thefineprintmag.org>

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice provides space for meetings, retreats, workshops, camps, and educational activities that promote peace, human rights and social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment programs

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and environmental discovery and awareness.
352-603-3680 / florida4peace.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery is a clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs regarding midwifery.
338-0766 / info@midwiferyschool.org
www.midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands and provide quality environmental education.
475-1119 / floridadefenders@gmail.com /
https://fladefenders.org

Florida Prisoner Solidarity is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts are focused around the needs of all incarcerated individuals, their care networks and the people in community with them.
P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 /
850-895-1505 / flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com /
www.flprisonersolidarity.org/
facebook.com/FLAbolition

Gainesville Area AIDS Project is a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida that provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 377-8915 / info@gaaponline.org
https://gainesvillepride.org/gaap/
www.facebook.com/GAAPONLINE/

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 378-1690 / mark1343@juno.com / 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. GNV4ALL@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/GNV4ALL

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 / Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com / www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization of Women focuses on six issues: reproductive rights; ending sex discrimination / constitutional equality; promoting diversity and ending racism; economic justice; stopping violence against women; lesbian rights including marriage equality. For NOW meeting info, contact Lisa@450-1912 / info@gainesvilleNOW.org / www.gainesvillenow.org.

Gainesville Peer Respite is a non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. A peer support warmline is available along with wellness activities and support groups over Zoom. Warm-Line: 559-4559 / business line: 278-0529 /
www.gainesvillerespite.org

Gainesville Quakers work peacefully for social justice and share a way of life, rather than a written set of beliefs. Values include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and

stewardship. Request info on virtual worship on Zoom using the "contact us" link on website or call 372-1070 / www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvilleroilerrebels.com /
https://gainesvilleroilerrebels.com

Graduate Assistants United Union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 575-0366 /
organizing@ufgau.org / www.ufgau.org

Grow Radio, a non-profit podcast station provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of Gainesville community. 219-0145 /
BRYSON66@gmail.com / http://growradio.org.

The Humanist Families of Gainesville aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children, based on members' interests. Facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville (leave a message).

Humanist Society of Gainesville are people who believe that the problems of the world can only be solved by responsible human actions based on rational analysis and decision-making free of dogma or the guidance of imaginary supreme beings. They meet to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist and agnostic social influences.
gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com /
www.gainesvillehumanists.org /
www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on ensuring the restoration, preservation and protection of the ecosystems along the 5.5-mile length of the Ichetucknee River, including its associated springs. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday every other month via Zoom. 386-454-0415 /
ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com
http://ichetuckneealliance.org/

Indivisible Gainesville seeks to build an inclusive community fostering diversity and encouraging citizen action, and to educate and inform the people of Florida's 3rd Congressional District in order to increase voter turnout and participation in the civic process.
projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org
https://indivisiblegnv.org

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status.
gainesvilleiww@gmail.com / https://iww.org

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who have fought since 1920 to improve our system of government and impact public policies such as fairness in districting, voting and elections, through citizen education and advocacy. info@lwv-alachua.org /
http://www.lwvalachua.org

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join advocates who protect elders' rights

in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes. Training and certification provided.
888-831-0404 / LTCOPInformer@elderaffairs.org
http://ombudsman.myflorida.com

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization working to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect.
msfgainesville@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/MSFGainesville/

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 328-2511 / Facebook: MindFreedom Florida

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, and educating parents on responsible gun storage. For events in Alachua County, go to
https://momsdemandaction.org/events/

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 information.
www.facebook.com / MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL/

National Alliance on Mental Illness / Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders.
320-0457 (information) / 335-7770 (helpline) /
www.namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to promote and preserve threatened programs for senior citizens and to keep seniors independent and productive. Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.com /
http://www.ncpsm.org

National Lawyers Guild consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements.
gainesvilleng@gmail.com / www.nlg.org

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 / nw1@womensliberation.org /
http://womensliberation.org

North Central Florida Association for Women In Science is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors.
ncfawis@gmail.com /
https://sites.google.com/site/ncfawis

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.facebook.com/occupygainesville

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

Our Santa Fe River is a non-profit composed of concerned citizens working to protect the waters and lands supporting the aquifer, springs and rivers within the watershed of the Santa Fe River. 386-243-0322 / <https://oursantaferiver.org>

PFLAG Gainesville is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm. Confidential helpline: 340-3770 / info@pflaggainesville.org / <http://pflaggainesville.org>

Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv / 377-0881 <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1150>

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

Pride Awareness Month is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, to celebrate the history and identities of the LGBTQ+ community through events centering on marginalized sexualities and genders. ufpridemonth@gmail.com / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1152> (Gator Connect)

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

ty values every citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and believes that the best government comes through an open and respectful exchange of ideas. For info on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano @ 475-3012 / <https://www.putnamdems.org/index.php/>

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop / 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. Check website or call for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv / 363-8902 / info@RepurposeProject.org / www.repurposeproject.org

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and provides services including mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. 234-6595 / info@centerforpeacebuilding.org •

www.centerforpeacebuilding.org

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran @ 372-1095 / info@rwhp.org / www.rwhp.org

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

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties. 528-3751 / www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. 376-8600 / steve@gnvsistercities.org / <http://www.gnvsistercities.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. <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1149>
facebook: student animal alliance/
instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org / brett@sfalliance.org / <http://www.sfalliance.org/>
Facebook: Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. / sundayassembly32601@gmail.com
<http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter is the local chapter of Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter for email news, action alerts, meeting alerts at <https://www.climateactproject.org/apply/chapters>. climateactprojectgnv@gmail.com, <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateRealityProjectGainesvilleFlorida> <https://climateactprojectgnv.wordpress.com/blog/>

UF College Democrats is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus. 407-580-4543 / president@ufdemocrats.org / www.ufcollegedemocrats.org / [Facebook.com/UFcollegedems](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

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

non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities.

ufpridesu@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/ufpsu/

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty and 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. 519-4130 / officemanager@uff-uf.org / www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Assn., Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/
[facebook.com/UNAUSA Gainesville FIC chapter/](https://www.facebook.com/UNAUSA Gainesville FIC chapter/)

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 332-4636 or simply 211 / uw211help@gmail.com
<http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/21>

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 375-2563 / <http://vfp Gainesville.org/>
www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/

Wayfaring Painter is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy through a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops. www.facebook.com/wayfaringpainter

WELLS Healing and Research Collective explores and promotes the liberation and wellness of Brown, Trans, and Queer folk. WELLS stands for: wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality. www.facebook.com/wellshrcollective/about

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC. info@wgot.org / www.wgot.org

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has been promoting peace since 1915. Donate or join the at-large Jane Addams Branch. Local info: juned@stevellittler.com / <http://wilpfus.org>

Women's March Gainesville is an extension of the national group, and organizes the yearly Women's March to show our strength, power and courage. wmm@hearourvoicegnv.org / <https://m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/> / www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/ / [Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/) / [Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/](https://www.twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/)

World Socialist Party of the United States 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. / <http://wspus.org>. 🌐

Journalism matters. Your support matters.

Yes, the Iguana is plugging the *Gainesville Sun*.

The newspaper industry is a changed place now with so many sources available online. Home delivery has gotten pretty pricey.

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- Joe Courter ☘

CMC celebrates 28 years

by JoJo Sacks, CMC Coordinator

The Civic Media Center will celebrate its 28th anniversary on Monday, Oct. 18 at 7pm. Sandra Parks, Stetson Kennedy's wife, will present the program "Stetson Kennedy: Living a Life of Purpose" in an online presentation via Zoom.

The program will explain the strategies Kennedy used for effective activism, such as his combating anti-Semitism in high school, infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan in the 1940's, and plotting to thwart Gainesville's Koran-burning pastor in 2011.

Known for his civil rights activity, he was active in the Florida Coalition for Peace and Freedom and was a life-long environmental protection advocate.

Kennedy, who was a folklorist, journalist and a pioneer in oral history began his writing career editing the Florida slave narratives and gathering folklore with Zora Neale Hurston during the Federal Writers Project in the 1930's. His home in St. Johns County is the nation's only Literary Landmark dedicated to two writers, Kennedy and his friend Woody Guthrie, who often visited and stayed there.

Before his death in 2011, Kennedy donated his extensive personal library to the Civic Media Center, which has designated its collection in his honor.

You can register for the Zoom event at <https://cmcanniversary.eventbrite.com>

Donations to support the CMC marking its anniversary are welcome and needed. Checks can be mailed to the CMC at 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601, through the CMC's Paypal at Paypal.me/CMC4ever, or on Venmo@CMC4ever. ☘

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