



Community Update

May 15, 2009

A Report on the Activities of Aalachua County Government

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2009/10 Poverty Reduction Funding (CAPP)

The Aalachua County Board of County Commissioners is seeking applications from 501(c)(3) organizations for the Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP) poverty reduction funding program. Agencies must have a physical location in Aalachua County and current 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. The funding is available for programs that reduce poverty among Aalachua County residents. Programs must fall into one of the following four categories: Basic Assistance, Healthcare, Housing/Supportive Living or Child/Youth Education, Safety, Growth & Development. The categories are explained further in the application instructions and will be covered in the pre-application workshops.

All applicants are required to attend one pre-application workshop. There will be an abbreviated workshop for applicants who received CAPP funding in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. If an applicant did not receive CAPP funding in 2007-2008 and in 2008-2009, the applicant must attend one of the two new applicant workshops. If a workshop is not attended by a representative of the organization, the organization will not be eligible to apply for funding. No RSVP is required or requested for the workshops.

The deadline for submitting applications is 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 17, 2009. Applications are time-stamped upon submission and none will be accepted past a 5 p.m. time stamp. Applicants are encouraged to allow time for very limited downtown parking.

Solicitation documents (applications) and details for receiving documents may be obtained online:

New Applicant Workshop:

- Thursday, May 14, 2009, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Aalachua County Health Dept.
224 SE 24th Street
Gainesville, FL 32641
- Monday, May 18, 2008, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Aalachua County Health Dept.
224 SE 24th Street
Gainesville, FL 32641

For 2007/08 and 2008/09 CAPP Award Recipients Only:

- Abbreviated Workshop:
Friday, May 15, 2009, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Aalachua County Health Dept.
224 SE 24th Street
Gainesville, FL 32641

For the Program Application, [click here](#).

For the Application Instructions, [click here](#).

For the Application Worksheet, [click here](#).

Or hard copies can be picked up/mailed:

To pick up applications please visit the Aalachua County Purchasing Division, 3rd Floor of the County Administration Building (12 SE 1st Street, Gainesville).

Requests of applications can be mailed to: Aalachua County Purchasing Division, P.O. Box 1467, Gainesville, FL 32602

For questions, contact the Aalachua County Purchasing Division at 352-374-5202.



Alternative Futures: Community Conversations

The Alachua Board of County Commissioners invites you to participate in the last of a series of budget discussions entitled, "Alternative Futures: Community Conversations". This is a wide ranging discussion of ideas and realities confronting our community in light of the fiscal restraints and challenges that face our County.

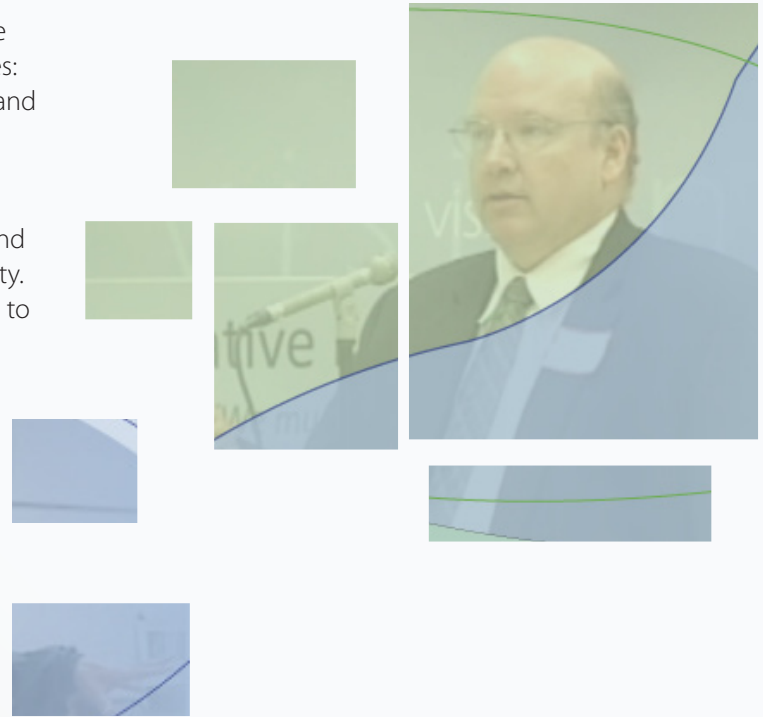
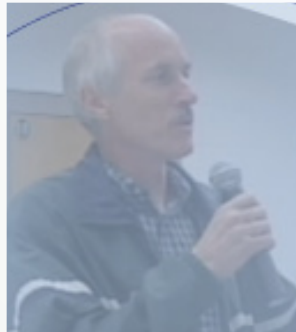
The evening will feature a brief presentation of the County's budget and financial condition, followed by an interactive simulated budget activity. The activity will allow you to step into a County Commissioner's shoes to determine the future of your County.

The discussion takes place, Monday May 18, 2009 at Gainesville High School (1900 NW 13th St, Gainesville) from 6 to 8 p.m.

[Click here](#) to reserve your seat online.

To reserve a seat by phone, please call 352-374-5226

Casual Attire Recommended.



Asthma Awareness Month/Asthma Blow Out! 2009

The Alachua County Health Department presents "Asthma Blow Out! 2009". The event takes place on Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Fearnside Family Service Center (3600 NE 15th Street, Gainesville). Admission is free.

This is a fun, family event for children with and without asthma. There will be food, games, prizes, and raffle drawings. Asthma awareness is taught through fun, interactive games and activities.

In the United States alone, more than 6 million children have asthma, resulting in an average of one out of every 10 school-aged children having asthma. Asthma is one of the most common serious chronic diseases of childhood and is a rapidly growing public health problem according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Alachua County, 13.8 percent of the population has asthma, a rate that has been consistently higher than the state's rate.

While asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under 15, asthma can be controlled. Environmental factors such as dust mites, molds, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke, act as triggers for asthma attacks. With a plan that includes medication and control of environmental triggers, children with asthma can lead healthy, active lives.

In response to these alarming statistics, and in an effort to raise public awareness of the risks faced by over 500,000 Floridians everyday, Alachua

County Health Department (along with community partners: Head Start, UF Pediatric Pulmonary Clinic, Suwannee River AHEC American Heart Association, WUFT/PBS, Healthy Start, Pediatric Health Choice, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, UF Public Health Association, Kappa Psi, Shands Cardiorespiratory Care, SFC Respiratory Care Program, SWAT, CHOICES Health Education Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency) is participating in Asthma Awareness Month by sponsoring the community asthma awareness event, Asthma Blow Out! 2009.

For more information, contact Shelly Vickers at 352-334-7900 ext. 3331 or email mshelly_vickers@doh.state.fl.us.



Alachua County EPD Powers Up Second Solar PV System

On May 8, 2009, the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD) powered up a new 11 Kilowatt (KW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System on the roof of the County's Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park. This new system is the second Solar PV system added to Alachua County's renewable power generation inventory.

A major source of funding for this new 11 KW PV system was a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant. This new Solar PV System will participate in the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Feed-in-Tariff program and is expected to generate approximately \$6,000 annually in revenue to offset recurring operating costs at EPD's Hazardous Waste Collection Center. EPD's success in leveraging FDEP grant funds to support this project results in an extremely favorable return on the County's investment.

"This new solar system will help Alachua County reduce both costs and greenhouse gas emissions" said Chris Bird, Director of Alachua County EPD. He continued saying, "I want to recognize Dr. John Mousa, EPD's Pollution Prevention Manager, for his work in getting this project completed on time and under budget. Also, EPD's Kurt Seaburg, Hazardous Waste Coordinator



Fifty Four Solar PV panels on the roof of the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility provide 11 KW of power for the program operations.

and his staff deserve recognition for their excellent job performance that made the FDEP grant funding possible. Finally, I would like to thank the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for being a key partner on this project".

For more information, contact Chris Bird, Director of the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department at 352-213-4987.

Local Planning Agency Public Hearing

The public is invited to attend a public hearing of the Local Planning Agency (LPA) on the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Jack Durrance Auditorium, Room 209 of the County Administration Building (12 SE 1st Street, Gainesville) and will begin at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is for the Planning Commission, serving as the Local Planning Agency, to make recommendations to the County Commission on the Evaluation and Appraisal Report on the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 2001-2020. The EAR contains recommendations for update of the Comprehensive Plan that will be translated into specific amendments to be considered in 2010. The recommendations contained in the report are a culmination of input from the public, County advisory boards, and other local groups, as well as discussion and input by the LPA and the County Commission at a series of joint special meetings held in February and March of this year. The Alachua County Planning Commission, serving as the Local Planning Agency, is required to prepare the EAR and make recommendations pursuant to Florida Statutes, to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners on adoption of the EAR. It is anticipated the County Commission will consider adoption of the EAR later this summer.

The LPA hearing agenda, draft EAR document, and all other related

information are posted on the County's EAR website at <http://www.alachuacounty.us/ear>.

For more information, please call the Growth Management Department at 374-5249 or send an email to ear@alachuacounty.us.

Memorial Day Ceremony

The Alachua County Office of Veteran Services invites citizens to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 25, 2009, beginning at 10 a.m. at Forrest Meadows Cemetery East (3700 SE Hawthorne Rd, Gainesville).

This event will honor those that have died serving our country, with special recognition of former WASP's (Women's Air Service Pilots). Planned events include: flyover, flag ceremony, honor squad, introduction of surviving WW II WASP's and free barbecue.

For more information, contact the Alachua County Office of Veteran Services at 352-264-6740.

ACHD Confirms Swine Flu in Alachua County

The Alachua County Health Department (ACHD) has confirmed that the UF student who presented at the UF infirmary on April 27, 2009, has been confirmed with having the novel strain of swine flu. Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by a type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza among pigs. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans; however, human infections with swine flu do occur.

"The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control in Atlanta has confirmed what we highly suspected last week," stated Jean Munden, Administrator of the ACHD. "The patient has made a full recovery. Because of the early detection and intervention by the University of Florida Infirmary and the Alachua County Health Department, the patient was isolated and treated. We are confident that the risk to the community from this particular case is low. There are no additional probable or confirmed cases in Alachua County. Our surveillance efforts with local medical providers in identifying and treating suspected cases continue."

As expected, confirmed cases have begun to appear in Florida, including Alachua County. People at risk for the disease are those who have traveled to affected areas and/or have been exposed to confirmed cases. For more information concerning swine flu infection, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. For specific information on travel precautions and an update on the affected areas, please visit: www.cdc.gov/travel.

For more information, visit <http://www.alachuacountyhealth.com>, or call 352-334-8827.

The goal of the Alachua County Health Department is to promote, protect, maintain and improve the health and safety of all citizens and visitors.

The Health Department is offering the following recommendations:

- As always, people with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Coughs and sneezes should be directed into a tissue or arm sleeve.
- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.
- People experiencing cough, fever and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician.
- If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office or emergency department or stay home.



Emergency Management on Social Network

Alachua County Emergency Management is pleased to announce that it has created presences on Twitter, MySpace and Facebook. Emergency Management has expanded its communications capabilities into these social networks with the mission of providing real time online information during severe weather outbreaks, tropical weather incidents and other emergencies. The new web pages will cater to internet users and provide the opportunity to ask questions, send messages and obtain helpful information before, during and after an emergency.

Emergency Management would caution that the best source of real time weather information is NOAA Weather Alert Radios.

Emergency Management is a section of the Alachua County Department of Public Safety.

For more information, contact David Donnelly of Alachua County Emergency Management at 352-264-6500.

Click on the site logo to visit Emergency Management's Social Network pages.

twitter

facebook®

myspace®
a place for friends

Spring has Sprung at the Alachua County Extension Office

Spring is their busy time of the year at the Extension Office, and this year is no different. They started off March 27-31, with the Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show. This year, 400 youth participated in both traditional livestock and non-livestock projects. These projects range from pigs to cakes and from chickens to public speaking. The attendance this year to the Youth Fair increased as well; approximately 3500 citizens attended the five day event.



Every year, horticulture agents, Wendy Wilber and Aparna Gazula have spring garden programs and vegetable producer programs. This spring the participation in these programs grew tremendously. With the concept of home gardens, community gardens, and buying locally, citizens have found that our

office provides solutions to their questions. The hot topic has been on the design and implementation of "square foot gardening".

Upcoming programs include: Water Saving Landscape, Growing Fruit in North Central Florida, and Perennials for you Landscape & Butterfly Garden.

Another area with interest this spring is the canning classes. These classes are taught by Brenda Williams, Family & Consumer Science Agent. This class includes pressure canning, boiling water canning, pickles, jams and jellies.

For more information on upcoming programs at the Alachua County Extension Office, visit <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu> or the CSS calendar of events.

2009 Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale

The UF/IFAS Alachua County Master Gardener plant sale will be held Saturday May 16, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Alachua County Extension Office (2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville).

Plants will be available for sale. Advice will be given from expert plant growers. The money raised will support the community projects of the Alachua County Master Gardeners.

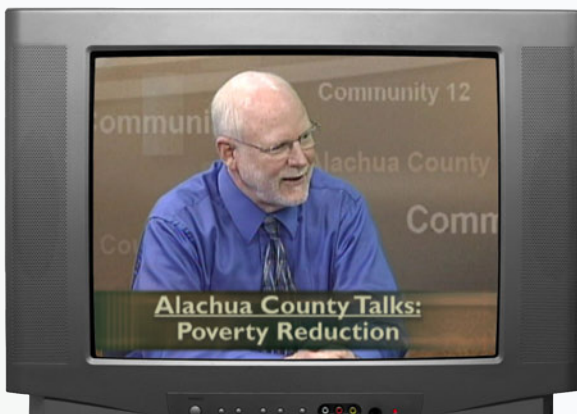
The Extension Office is located on the corner of 39th Avenue and Waldo Road next to the Alachua County fairgrounds and the Gainesville Airport.

For more information, please call the Extension Office 352-955-2402.



What's On "Alachua County Talks"

Check out the latest editions of Alachua County Talks on Community 12 TV by viewing the [Channel 12 Show Schedule](#). Or click on the images to the right to view streaming video of the episodes.



Click above to watch Alachua County Poverty Reduction Director John Skelly talk about Poverty Reduction Programs in Alachua County.



Click above to watch Alachua County Sustainability Manager Sean McLendon discuss sustainability in Alachua County.

Alachua County Economic Stimulus Summit

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners is hosting a special Economic Stimulus Summit on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel (4200 NW 97th Blvd., Gainesville). The hotel is located just west of the intersection of I-75 and NW 39th Avenue.

With the recent passage of H.R. 1 (the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009") billions of federal dollars are set to flow into Florida to state and local governments. Alachua County wants to ensure that our communities and the organizations that serve them do not miss out on opportunities to obtain their fair share of the economic stimulus funding.

To view the event flyer, [click here](#).

To reserve a seat, contact the Alachua County Communications Office at 352-374-5226. Seating is limited. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, contact Doug Drymon, Alachua County Economic Stimulus Coordinator at 352-337-6107 or ddrymon@alachuacounty.us.



Free Spay and/or Neuter Coupon for low income families

Take this coupon to
Alachua County Animal Services
3400 NE 53Ave - Gainesville




CALL TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY
(352) 264-6870

RSVP 2009 Pancake Breakfast

The public is invited to join the Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Advisory Council on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. for its Second Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Gator's Dockside (3842 Newberry Road, Gainesville). Tickets are \$6.

RSVP Advisory Council members will be serving breakfast while educating citizens about the RSVP program and how they can make a difference in the community. All proceeds from ticket sales go to support RSVP.

To view the event flyer, [click here](#).

All media is invited to cover the event.

For more information, call Pam Fitzgerald at 352-955-7243.



2009 4-H Summer Day Camps

The Alachua County Extension Office is pleased to announce the schedule for the 2009 4-H Summer Day Camp Season. These camps offer something for youth of all ages and a variety of interesting subjects.

All day camps will begin at the Extension Office (2800 NE 39 Avenue, Gainesville), except the Shooting Sports day camp.

For camp or registration information, contact the Alachua County Extension Office at 352-955-2402. Space is limited, so register early.

**CALL
BEFORE YOU
CLEAR!**



If your property is within unincorporated Alachua County, a site evaluation by county staff may be required prior to clearing, underbrushing, tree removal or other development activities in or adjacent to natural areas.

Contact the Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
to schedule a site visit **before** commencing work

CALL 352-264-6800

M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/epd/nr>

County Update TV on Channel 12



County Update is a half hour news program providing in-depth information on County programs, services and initiatives. County Update airs on **Community 12** and the **Video On Demand** website. Click on the image to view this month's show.

Features This Month

- Victims' Rights Week Candle-lighting Ceremony
- Scoop the Poop
- Paws on Parole program
- County Acquires Levy Prairie
- Comm. Long receives Nat. Assn. of Social Workers Award
- The Life of S. Clark Butler

Day Camp Schedule:

ATV Safety: June 9th, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ages 7 - 16, cost: \$5. Bring your own lunch (snacks provided). Learn ATV safety knowledge and skill in a fun, safe, fast paced classroom atmosphere. There is no ATV riding in these workshops. This is NOT the ASI ATV Certification course for youth.

Paper Craft Day Camp: June 9th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., ages 8 - 11, cost: \$7. Bring your own lunch (snacks provided). Come learn the beautiful and fairly easy technique of 'Iris Folding'. We will make beautiful paper cards and pictures, suitable for framing and exhibiting in fairs.

Crafty Kids Day Camp: June 12th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., ages 8 - 18, cost: \$15. Come join us for our annual round robin of quick and easy summer crafts. Kids will complete and take home 18-20 different craft projects ranging from fun recyclable crafts to food crafts and more. Cost covers materials for crafts, activities, snacks and drinks.

Sewing Day Camp: June 15th - 18th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., ages 8 - 18, cost: \$40. Bring your own lunch (snacks provided). Learn how to sew a series of fun projects that will lead up to using and following a pattern. A working sewing machine is needed along with basic sewing kit. Parent participation is encouraged.

City Slickers: June 22nd - 24th, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ages 10 - 15, cost: \$5. This tour will give youth an opportunity to see Alachua County Agriculture. Youth will tour beef cattle operations, horse farms, nurseries & greenhouses, vegetable farms, packing sheds and more. Alachua County has about 200,000 acres in Agricultural production, so come with us and see what all is grown here.

Macramé, Crochet & Beading (An intergenerational & Cultural Arts Day Camp): July 7th - 10th, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., ages 10 - 18, cost: \$5. Participants will learn basic knots of macramé and basic stitches for crochet. Beaded bracelets will also be taught in-between. Finger dexterity is one of the benefits of such skills. (Don't let the name fool you, boys are very good at these skills and are invited to join the camp!)

Fishing Day Camp: July 8th - 10th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., ages 8 - 14, cost: \$5. Activities include catch and release fishing at the IFAS Fisheries center, fish t-shirt making, fish dissection and salt water fishing in Cedar Key.

Junior Master Gardener Day Camp: July 21st - 24th, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ages 6 - 8, cost: \$30. Snack provided. Children will experience the wonders of composting, vermiculture and recycling for organic gardening. Butterfly gardening shows how different plants attract wildlife to your yard. Also learn about plant propagation.

Shooting Sports Day Camp: August 10th - 14th, time TBA, ages 12 - 18, Participants will learn proper gun safety, handling, and skeet shooting in a supervised environment. Beginners welcome. Shotguns provided. This camp will be held at Gator Skeet & Trap, 5202 NE 46 Avenue, Gainesville www.gatorskeetandtrap.com.

CHOICES Weight Loss Support Group

In Alachua County, 63.3 percent of adults are overweight or obese (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007, www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/epi/brfss/index.htm). Overweight and obesity are risk factors for virtually all chronic diseases, but behaviors associated with diet and physical activity are difficult to change. Public health professionals often hear clients regret that they know what behaviors they need to change but that they need more support and accountability in making those changes. Barriers to change often include low self-efficacy, poor family and peer support, incorrect attitudes or beliefs about weight loss, and the cost of weight loss programs.

In September 2008, the CHOICES Health Education and Wellness Program began a trial support group to address these barriers. After a three-month assessment and adjustment period, the program expanded to two sites: one in Gainesville and one in rural High Springs, Florida in January of 2009, with plans for further expansion.

The program is open to all residents of Alachua County at no cost. Each support group meets once a week at an easily accessible public building (currently a county office building and a branch library), to eliminate costs for room fees. Equipment is minimal: a digital scale, logbook, name tents, pens and foil stars, plus a large table and chairs.

Participant feedback to date has indicated lunchtime as the best time to meet. For working participants with families, mornings are hectic and evenings are time that participants wish to spend with their families. (Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch to meetings.) Rather than implementing a "diet plan," the program focuses on adopting healthy habits one step at a time.

As participants arrive, they weigh in and record the results in the leader's logbook. Individuals who have achieved weight loss that week add a foil star to their name tents. The meeting begins at 12:10 with a "check-in" with the group, followed by a short talk by the leader (a certified health educator and wellness coach) or a guest speaker. Most topics are selected by the participants. By 12:30, the group moves to facilitated discussion using coaching principles and frequently a goal-setting exercise for the coming week. The meeting closes at 12:50, although the instructor remains for individual discussion as needed.

Participants have indicated that they have lost weight at a healthy rate and have also provided positive feedback about the program. During the pilot period of September to December 2008, two participants reached a milestone of 5% of initial weight lost. From January to the present, three more have reached 5%. Aggregate weight loss for 2009 is listed below:

January 2009	38 pounds
February 2009	43.5 pounds
March 2009	53 pounds

National Women's Health Week is May 10-16. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health chose this year's theme as "It's Your Time," to empower women to make their health a top priority. The nationwide initiative encourages women to take simple steps for a longer, healthier and happier life.

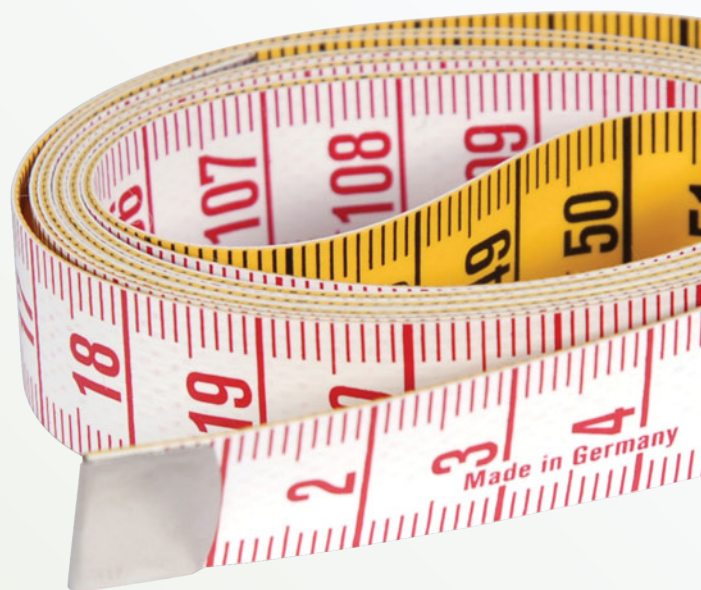
For more information, visit www.womenshealth.gov/.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida.

For more information about the Alachua County Health Department, visit www.doh.state.fl.us/chdAlachua/index.htm.

Participant feedback includes the following:

- "In my first week I cleaned out my kitchen cabinets of unhealthy foods and started eating healthier. Just weeks later, I got to clean out my closet and now fit in clothes I had outgrown. Thank you for your support!"
- "I enjoy our class on Wednesday very much. It gives me the encouragement that I need to lose the extra weight that I am carrying. You give many helpful hints, advice and also the best way to plan healthy meals. I went to a weight program for over a year, and I can honestly say I enjoy your class even more."
- "I have been able to lose some weight, but most importantly, I have been able to keep it off. I am still working on my first 10 pounds, but I can't tell you how many times I have lost seven pounds and then gained it back before. This time, my weight loss is holding from week to week, and I am losing small increments. I am not counting calories. What a relief! I am practicing portion control, however, and I am exercising. I am creating a new lifestyle. I love it! Thank you for believing in me!"



RSVP Volunteers Are Priceless

The 35th Annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition was held on Wednesday, April 22nd, at the Paramount Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. This year's theme was "RSVP Volunteers Are Priceless." There were over 300 in attendance and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to connect with others while enjoying a delicious meal. Each table center piece included a chrome piggy bank with gold coins sprinkled about and a bouquet of hunter green, silver, and gold helium balloons. The musical entertainment for the event was provided by Franziska Jaeger, who played her Viola as volunteers registered and were seated, and the Eastside High School Jazz Band Ensemble, directed by David M. Jones, Band Director, who played several musical numbers.



The event began with a welcome by Debbie Shea, Program Coordinator for RSVP followed by Rebecca Falmlen, Director of Senior Services, who spoke on why RSVP volunteers are truly priceless. The Master of Ceremonies was Bob Williams, Community Service and Employment Manager from TV 20. Bob has been a supporter of RSVP for many years and, once again, made this event a success. Myrna Stengal Hustad, who has written a poem for many of the recognition luncheons, shared her beautiful poem titled RSVP Volunteers Are Priceless. Five volunteers were recognized for serving 26+ Years. RSVP is fortunate to have such wonderful and dedicated volunteers that play such a vital role in our community.

The 2009 Volunteer of the Year Awards, representing 10 critical community needs, were presented to volunteers. The RSVP Advisory Council randomly selected names from those that were nominated by stations in each of the following areas: Art/Culture, Community Safety, Education, Environment, Health Support, Hospitals, Organizational Support, Poverty and Homelessness, Senior Meals, and Support for Seniors. All winners and nominees were recognized along with their station representatives.

RSVP Staff would like to express their appreciation to the following:

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners for sponsoring RSVP for the past 35 years. We appreciate all your help and support through the years.

The RSVP Advisory Council, who help guide, manage and support our program.

The businesses that sponsored this year's awards: Haven Hospice, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and Shands Healthcare

The Paramount Plaza for providing discounts and supporting RSVP.

Ms. Franziska Jaeger and the Eastside High School Jazz Band Ensemble for providing our musical entertainment this year.

Mr. Bob Williams for being a fabulous Master of Ceremony

The Department of Community Support Services staff that assisted before and during the recognition which helped make things run smoothly.

Commissioner Lee Pinkoson presented the "Senior Friendly Business Award" to Publix Supermarkets for their outstanding customer service and willingness to go above and beyond to assist their senior customers.

Lester Miller, RSVP volunteer and Treasurer for the RSVP Advisory Council, presented an oversized symbolic check to Commissioner Lee Pinkoson, who was attending on behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, for just over \$2,438,691.40. The "check" represented the dollar amount for 124,997 hours of service by RSVP volunteers last fiscal year. What a remarkable contribution to the Alachua County community!



Participants in the 35th Annual RSVP Volunteer Luncheon.

CHOICES Health Expo

The 2nd Annual CHOICES Community Health Expo was held on April 25, 2009 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-purpose Center in Gainesville. The Expo included fun, informative, interactive activities for the entire community. Adults enjoyed free massages, health screenings, Salsa lessons and soul line dancing, while children enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, and bicycle safety demonstrations. Local physicians and nurses from Shands at the University of Florida taught classes on disease prevention and chronic disease management. Guests were also able to apply on-site for CHOICES Health Services and Florida KidCare.



Health Screening at the CHOICES Health Expo

"Increasing access to needed resources in Alachua County involves helping residents learn about and take advantage of existing health and community services," says Lorraine Austin, CHOICES Health Services Director. "Organizing the CHOICES Community Health Expo allows us to do this in a way that is both fun and informative."

The Expo welcomed the participation of a wide variety of organizations, including: FloridaWorks, the US Social Security Administration and the City of Gainesville Equal Opportunity Office to the University of Florida's Flip4Kids, School of Pharmacy and Equal Access Clinic. "Representatives from diverse organizations across the county appreciate the opportunity to network with one another during the event," adds Lorraine.

Preparing for the 2nd Annual Expo was no small task for the ever busy CHOICES staff. However, the response of participants and smiles on the faces of our guests, both children and adults, make our efforts more than worthwhile. We are already looking forward to planning the 3rd Annual CHOICES Community Health Expo in 2010.

Community Emergency Response Team Enrollment

The Alachua County Division of Emergency Management has begun enrolling citizens for its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

It is never too early to begin preparing for the 2009 Hurricane Season. CERT teaches citizens how to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The next CERT class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 and runs through July 28th.

The seven classes are on Tuesday evenings, and each session runs from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Classes are held at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center

located at 1100 SE 27th Street in Gainesville. Registration deadline is June 15, 2009.

If you miss the deadline, or can't make it to the classes listed above, there will be one more scheduled class this year. There will be a class beginning September 1, 2009.

For more information, [click here](#), or call the Office of Emergency Management at 352-264-6550.

Special thanks to event coordinators, Marie Small, CHOICES Program Manager and Nicole Rodman, CHOICES Intern for all of their hard work. In addition, CHOICES would like to thank all Community Support Services staff members who supported and participated in the event.



Face Painting at the CHOICES Health Expo

CHOICES Health Services is committed to providing quality healthcare to Alachua County residents. To date, the program has provided services to more than 3500 County residents.

For more information about the 2nd Annual CHOICES Community Health Expo, contact Marie Small at 352-264-6739 or mdsmall@alachuacounty.us.

For more information about CHOICES Health Services, call 352-264-6772 or visit <http://www.ACCHOICES.com>.



Salsa Dancing at the CHOICES Health Expo

The seven week class is free to the public and covers the following topics:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- CERT Organization and Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT

SBA Disaster Loan Deadline is June 8th.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is reminding survivors that June 8, 2009 is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans available in declared counties in the State of Florida. The SBA declared a disaster because of damages and losses to crops caused by excessive rainfall, flooding, flash flooding, high winds, lightning and multiple tornadoes associated with Tropical Storm Fay that occurred on August 19 – 24, 2008.

The SBA's disaster declaration includes the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Putnam, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

"When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops,

the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to assist small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations affected by the same disaster," said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Survivors should contact the SBA's Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be

downloaded from the SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Victims may visit SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than June 8, 2009.



DONT FLUSH IT!



Drop off your unused pills at any Wise's pharmacy or the Hazardous Waste Collection Center off Waldo Rd for proper disposal.

Do your part to prevent marine and freshwater animals from absorbing these chemicals.

Commission Highlights

May 12, 2009 Board Meeting



Commissioner Paula M. DeLaney
Commissioner Lee Pinkoson
Vice Chair Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Commissioner Rodney J. Long
Chairman Mike Byerly

Video:



Part 1



Part 2

Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions

Bob Gasche received the proclamation of Monday, May 25, 2009 as "Memorial Day"



Rob Avery received the proclamation of May 18, 2009 through May 22, 2009 as "National Public Works Week"



Bill Richards, John Pricher, and Mickie Mackenzie received the proclamation of May 9, 2009 through May 17, 2009 as "National Tourism Week"

Commission Highlights

Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions continued

Announcements

Mark Sexton, Communications Coordinator

Attachment: [Announcements](#)

Memorial Day

The Board proclaimed Monday, May 25, 2009 as “Memorial Day” in Alachua County, Florida.

Attachment: [memorial day 2009.pdf](#)

National Tourism Week

The Board proclaimed May 9, 2009 through May 17, 2009 as “National Tourism Week” in Alachua County, Florida.

Attachment: [National Tourism Week 2009.pdf](#)

National Public Works Week

The Board proclaimed May 18, 2009 through May 22, 2009 as “National Public Works Week” in Alachua County, Florida.

Attachment: [National Public Works Week 2009.pdf](#)

Charter Review Commission

The Board authorized staff to begin the outreach and application process for the empanelment of the Charter Review Commission.

Attachment: [CRC 1999 Agenda Item.pdf](#)

Attachment: [alachuaCountyCharter2009.pdf](#)

FL Senate Bill 360

The Board heard an update on Florida Senate Bill (SB) 360, Development of Regional Impact process.

The agreed to transmit a letter requesting Governor veto SB360, the impact fee bill, as well as the electioneering bill. In addition, BOCC requested a memo on how SB360 affects Springhills and Butler developments.

FL Constitution

The Board approved the resolution supporting an initiative to amend the Florida Constitution to establish fairness standards for the Florida Legislature’s use in creating legislative and congressional district boundaries; authorized the Chair to sign.

Attachment: [AmendmentPetition.pdf](#)

Attachment: [DistrictLines.pdf](#)

Hawthorne & Waldo MSTU

The Board approved the ordinance amending the County’s Code to add the cities of Hawthorne and Waldo to the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) for fire protection services and the City of Hawthorne to the MSTU for law enforcement.

Attachment: [MSTU2009.pdf](#)

PREIT Litigation

The Board directed the County Manager and the County Attorney to continue the discussions with PREIT representatives subject to the suspension of litigation activities in accordance with the letter dated April 21, 2009, from Charles I. Holden, Jr.

Attachment: [PREIT letter.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Springhills Map.pdf](#)

Commission Highlights

Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions continued

Haven Acres Cat Sanctuary

The Board asked staff to return to a future meeting with a resolution approving [ZOX-03-08 Haven Acres Cat Sanctuary Special Exception](#) with added conditions including:

- Reduce cats to a maximum of 200 within 6 months
- The buffer be set at 40 ft under new CODE
- Use 8-30-07 Resolution as basiss
- Develop odor plan
- Come back with resolution with conditions stated by BOCC

Attachment: [City ofHS Comments.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ZOX0308 Staff Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ZOX0308 Powerpoint.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ZOX0308.ppt](#)

Attachment: [ZOX0308.pdf](#)

Attachment: [ZOX0308 Public Comments.pdf](#)

Alachua County Advisory Boards

Get Involved

The Alachua County Commission is committed to citizen involvement on its advisory boards and is soliciting applications for the following vacancies:

Alachua County Housing Authority: One Alternate Tenant-Commissioner; this position requires residency in public housing or that applicant is on the Alachua County Housing Authority's Section 8 Voucher Program

Alachua County Historical Commission: Three citizens-at-large

CHOICES Health Services Advisory Board: One CHOICES program participant (Alternate), one Nurse, *one citizen-at-large*

Citizens Disability Advisory Committee : Four citizens-at-large

Community Agency Partnership Program: One citizen-at-large

Criminal Justice, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Grant Planning Committee: One director of a local substance abuse treatment program, *One director of a community mental health agency*

Environmental Protection Advisory Committee: One alternate

Fair Housing Human Rights Board: One residential rental manager, *one citizen-at-large*

Health Facilities Authority: One alternate

Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee: *Four citizens-at-large*

Regional Transit System Advisory Board: One citizen with a disability, or Senior Citizen

Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Program Advisory Council: One citizen-at-large, one alternate, *five citizens-at-large*

Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee: Two citizens-at-large, one alternate

[Click here for an application](#)

Applications are also available at the County Manager's Office on the 2nd Floor of the County Admin. Building, 12 SE 1st St., Gainesville. For more info., call 352-264-6904.