



Community Update

August 27, 2009

A Report on the Activities of Alachua County Government

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Community Update is published by the County Manager's Communications Office

- Randall H. Reid**
Alachua County Manager
- Mark Sexton**
Communications Coordinator
- Bret Bostock**
Community Update Editor and Graphic Designer
- Takumi Sullivan**
Graphic Designer
- Alan Yeatter**
Video Production Coordinator
- Shelley Samec**
Video Production Technician



Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site Update Meeting

On Monday, August 31, 2009 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium (Room 209, County Administration Bldg., 12 SE 1st Street, Gainesville), the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions are holding a joint public meeting to hear presentations about progress toward developing a final remedy on the Koppers Superfund site. This meeting includes discussion of the recent offsite sampling near the Koppers plant. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department will also present the results of a recent sediment study on Springstead and Hogtown Creeks near the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site.

Presentations by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Alachua County Health Department, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Gainesville Regional Utilities, and Beazer East are scheduled.



For more information about the Koppers site from the Alachua County Health Department, [click here](#).

For more information, contact John Mousa, Pollution Prevention Manager, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department at 352-264-6805.

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Paula Delaney, Lee Pinkoson, Cynthia Moore Chestnut (Vice Chair), Rodney J. Long, Mike Byerly (Chair)

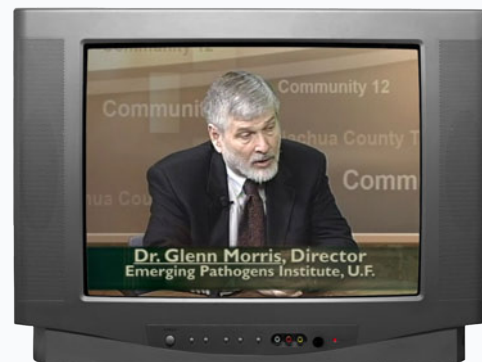


What's On "Alachua County Talks"

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 Sol Hirsch, Library Director of the Alachua County Library District discuss Library District's services, volunteer organizations, expansion projects, and how libraries are using new and emerging technologies to better serve citizens.



Click above to watch Alachua County Public Health Unit Administrator Jean Munden & Dr. Glenn Morris, Director of the Emerging Pathogens Institute at the University of Florida discuss the coming flu season, vaccinations, swine flu, & extended hours at the County Health Department.

Long Announces FAC Appointments

Florida Association of Counties (FAC) President and Alachua County Commissioner Rodney J. Long is pleased to announce the following Alachua County appointments to the FAC Legislative Leadership Team:

For more information, contact the Communications Office at 352-374-5204.

- Alachua County Commissioner Paula M. DeLaney
Co-vice Chair, President's Task Force on Homelessness and Hunger
- Alachua County Commissioner Lee Pinkoson
Co-chair, Growth, Environmental Planning and Agriculture Policy Committee
- Alachua County Commission Vice Chair Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Co-chair, Health & Human Services Policy Committee
- Alachua County Commission Chair Mike Byerly
Co-vice chair, Energy Independence Workgroup

In his letters to the commissioners Long said, "As President of the Florida Association of Counties, I would like to thank you for agreeing to serve as part of FAC's Legislative Leadership Team. Your leadership is critical to all of us in ensuring that our diverse county family accomplishes great things and reaches broad consensus on competing interests."



Alachua County Commissioner Rodney J. Long

Alachua County Forever's Sweetwater Preserve Clean up

UF freshman in the College of Business enrolled in the summer Warrington Welcome class assisted Alachua County Forever (ACF) land managers with the maintenance of Sweetwater Preserve. On the morning of Saturday July 25th twenty students were divided into two working groups so they were either knee deep in water cleaning trash from Sweetwater Branch or in the floodplain forest removing non-native invasive air potato plants.

Because this was the student's first semester attending UF, this event was for many, their first exposure to a natural area in Alachua County. These events are a win/win activity: the students are introduced to the local ecology and some environmental issues, while the ACF program gains needed assistance managing its preserves.

Invasive Plant Control:

It takes years of effort to remove invasive species from natural areas using a combination of selective herbicide treatment, manual removal and public education. Business students that worked with ACF's Sandra Vardaman learned some of air potato's history, identification techniques and how it is best removed from natural areas. They pulled up the plants by the tuber and disposed of them in bags. Air potato is native to tropical Asia, but was introduced to the America's via Africa through the slave trade. It was first introduced to Florida in 1905 and has become one of Florida's most invasive plants because it grows so quickly and out competes many of our native plants.

Cleaning Urban Creeks:

Since the upper section of Sweetwater Branch flows through downtown Gainesville it acquires a lot of trash that eventually makes it to Sweetwater Preserve and Paynes Prairie which are downstream. The students working with ACF's Kevin

Useful websites

Alachua County Forever [click here](#)
Current Problems Inc. [click here](#)
Alachua County: Water Resources [click here](#)
Invasive Plant: Air Potato [click here](#)

Uf Student Rebecca Lakkis helps with the Sweetwater Branch clean up

Ratkus waded through the water to collect 500 pounds of trash and several car tires from the creek section within the preserve's boundary. It was the largest quantity of trash collected in July's creek & river clean-ups organized by Current Problems Inc. for UF's College of Business. The City of Gainesville has installed a few trash traps in the stormwater drains to reduce trash getting in the urban creeks, but littering is still too common for these traps to eliminate waste into our surface waters. While removing



Above: UF Students remove Air Potato plants and tubers
Below: UF College of Business students remove trash from Sweetwater Branch

trash the students learned about water quality issues, freshwater ecosystems and regional efforts to protect our local water resources.

Events like this are already scheduled for the students enrolled in the fall term Warrington Welcome class, thus keeping ACF Preserves in good condition and exposing incoming students to natural areas and issues in their new hometown.

Alachua County Forever appreciates the assistance that neighbors, friends and students donate to the County Preserves.

Hummingbirds in Your Garden

The Alachua County Extension Office's Master Gardeners Program invites the public to learn about the hummingbirds that visit Alachua County. Hummingbird expert and tagger Fred Bassett is giving a lecture on Friday, September 18, 2009, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hilton Conference Center (1714 SW 34th St., Gainesville)

Bassett will talk about the use of specific plants and other techniques for attracting hummingbirds to a backyard garden during winter and summer. "Many people are unaware that hummingbirds may spend the winter in their yards if conditions are right. Leave a feeder up all winter, and you may have a special hummer spend the winter with you," says Bassett. "It's very exciting to play host to a tiny bejeweled winter visitor."

Seating is limited. Free tickets are available prior to the event at either the Alachua County Extension Office (2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville) or Wild Birds Unlimited (4215 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville).

For more information, contact the Alachua County Extension Office at 352-955-2402.

Fall Gardening Classes

The Alachua County Extension Office is pleased to offer the following free Fall Gardening Programs. All classes will be presented by Wendy Wilber, Environmental Horticulture Agent at either the Alachua County Extension Office (2800 NE 39th Ave., Gainesville) or the Tower Road Branch Library (3020 SW 75th Street, Gainesville).

- Vegetable Gardening Basics - September 9th, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., (at the Alachua County Extension Office) Learn the right vegetable varieties and times of planting for vegetable garden success. Also covers site planning, maintenance, troubleshooting problems, and harvesting.
- Florida Friendly Landscaping - September 15th, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (at the Tower Road Branch Library) Learn landscaping techniques to save water, and spend less on fertilizers and sprays. These techniques save water, energy, and protect natural resources.
- Florida Friendly Landscaping - September 23rd, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (at the Alachua County Extension Office) Learn landscaping techniques to save water, and spend less on fertilizers and sprays. These techniques save water, energy, and protect natural resources.
- FYN Tour of Landscapes - September 26th, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (at the Alachua County Extension Office) begins with a brief class about Florida Friendly landscape, then a self-driven tour of four landscaped gardens that demonstrate environmentally friendly techniques.

To pre-register, leave a message at 352-337-6209.

For more information, call the Alachua County Extension Office at 352-955-2402.



Alachua County Purchases First Wild Spaces

In July 2009, Alachua County purchased two environmentally significant properties using funds from the Wild Spaces and Public Places Local Government Infrastructure Surtax. The 40-acre Gladstone Property was jointly acquired with the St. John's River Water Management District and closes a hole in the District's 6,000-acre Newnans Lake and Gum Root Swamp Conservation Areas in eastern Alachua County. The 92-acre Edwards property is on the south rim of Paynes Prairie State Park and was part of a larger purchase of 280 acres involving the District, the State Recreation and Park Service and the City of Gainesville. Both tracts will be managed by the County's acquisition partners as new units of their respective preserves.

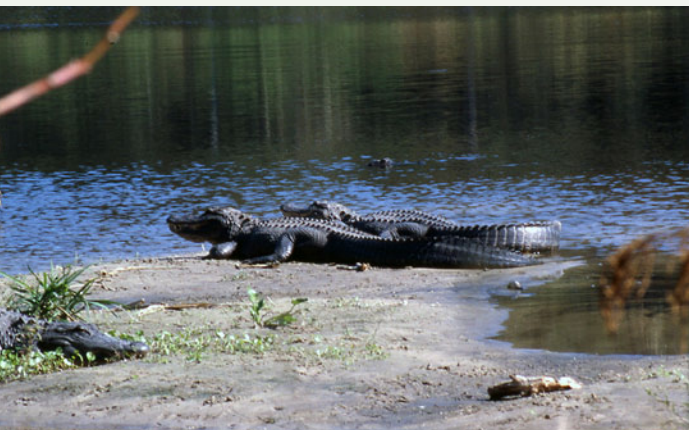


The Wild Spaces and Public Places Surtax was approved by the voters in the November 2008 elections, and creates an estimated \$15 million to continue the efforts of the successful Alachua County Forever land conservation program. The remaining \$15 million is earmarked for various Municipal recreation projects and a senior center. "We are fortunate to have a community that recognizes the important role that green spaces and recreational opportunities play in maintaining our quality of life," said Ramesh Buch, Alachua County Forever Program Manager.

"With the new conservation funds, we will be able to conserve and pass on to our children the best of our natural heritage that will not only protect habitats for wildlife, but also preserve the ecological functions that sustains our human community."

Alachua County Forever was created by the voters in 2000. It was initially funded through a 0.25 mill property tax capped at a total of \$29 million. To date the County has used \$27 million of local dollars to leverage \$52 million of federal, State and private funds to protect 17,400 acres of property.

For more information, contact Ramesh Buch at (352) 264-6800, or visit <http://www.alachuacountyforever.us>.



Buy SMART in September

Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives representatives will be at local grocery stores every Thursday in September from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., offering shoppers information about how to "Buy S.M.A.R.T." (Save Money And Reduce Trash).

"Buy S.M.A.R.T." is a County campaign teaching about the 4 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink). All shoppers who wish to receive tips on how to buy S.M.A.R.T. will receive a free reusable shopping bag or jar opener made of recycled tires and a Buy S.M.A.R.T. pocket guide.

For more information, contact Jennifer Seitz, Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives at 352-374-5245 or email jseitz@alachuacounty.us.

The following is a list of locations and dates where we will be this September:

- September 2: Union Street Farmer's Market (4 p.m. - 6 p.m.) - Downtown Community Plaza, University Ave. and SE 1st Street, Gainesville
- September 3: Publix - Westgate Plaza, 125 SW 34th St., Gainesville
- September 10: High Springs Farmers Market (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.) - 110 NW 1st Ave., High Springs
- September 12: 441 Farmers Market (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - NW 34th St. and Route 441, Gainesville
- September 17: Hitchcock's - 15560 NW US Highway 441, Alachua
- September 17: Hitchcock's - 24220 W Newberry Rd., Newberry
- September 21: Tioga Farmers Market (4 p.m. - 6 p.m.) - Tioga Town Center, 105 SW 128th Street, off of Newberry Rd. (Route 26), Tioga
- September 24: Pearl's Country Store and Barbecue - 106 NE Highway 441, Micanopy



YES Program

This summer, Alachua County students participating in the Youth Employment Start (YES) were able to work alongside Alachua County Employees.

The YES program recruits, screen, and readies young people for employment in Alachua County workplaces. YES matches skills with work to prepare students to enter the job market. Students work in various departments of Alachua County Government. Students are paid for their work, and receive valuable job experience.



Students participating in the YES program

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

- Jonesville Fire Rescue Ribbon Cutting
- County Emergency Response Team Course
- Renovated Farmers Market
- Waste Alternatives' Buy SMART
- Parks Get Pet Waste Disposal Stations
- Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

Healthcare for the working uninsured



Alachua County's
CHOICES
Health Services
352-264-6772 www.ACchoices.com

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>



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

Commission Highlights

August 25, 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

Announcements

Announcements by Mark Sexton Communications Coordinator

Attachment: [Announcements](#)

United States Constitution Month

The Board proclaimed the month of September 2009 as “United States Constitution Month” in Alachua County Florida.

Attachment: [DAR2009.pdf](#)

Housing Assistance Program

Due to greater than expected demand, The Board approved a request for \$38,841.00 from reserves to be spent for utility and housing assistance programs

One Stop Homeless Center & Senior Center

The Board heard updates on the One Stop Homelessness Center and the Senior Center by Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager of Gainesville and presentation by Gail Monahan, Executive Director, and Alachua County Housing Authority on the Office on Homelessness Accomplishments.

State of the Resources

The Board heard a presentation on the District’s “State of the Resources” by Steven Minnis, Director of Government Affairs, Suwannee River Water Management District.

Attachment: [State of Resource_2009_Minnis.pdf](#)

Budget Amendment

The Board approved a budget amendment transferring \$10,000 from the State Attorney to the Public Defender.

Amount: \$10,000.00

Attachment: [CountyArryBA.pdf](#)

Charter Review Commission

The Board discussed the Alachua County Commission’s Process to Empanel a Charter Review Commission pursuant to Section 4.2(B)(1) Home Rule Charter

Attachment: [ARTICLE IV Charter Review Commission.pdf](#)



Janet Messer accepted the Proclamation of “United States Constitution Month” in Alachua County.



Commissioners are introduced to Rebecca Watson, a grad student from England volunteering with the Parenting Program at the Alachua County Jail

Commission Highlights

Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions continued

Attachment: [CRC Applicants as of July 31.pdf](#)

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

Budget Amendment

The Board approved a budget amendment to [increase MSTU Fire Safety, MSTU Unincorporated, and Metamorphosis Program Utilities Budgets](#)

Amount: \$9,000.00

Attachment: [MSTU Fire Reserve Spreadsheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [MSTU Unicorp Spreadsheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BUDGET_AMEND_MSTU.pdf](#)

Enterprise Fund

The Board approved the Budget Amendment to provide supplemental funding to the 410 Enterprise Fund from MSTU Reserves.

Amount: \$150,000.00

Attachment: [Bus Reserve Spreadsheet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BudAmendMSTU.pdf](#)

CHOICES Health Services

The Board heard and accepted the CHOICES Health Services Annual Report 2008-2009.

Attachment: [CHOICES_AR_08 18 09.pdf](#)

Commission Comments

Commissioner Chestnut requested staff to provide information on Marion County's Inmate Medical Program.

91st Street Project

The Board approved the revised 60% plans for the NW/SW 91st Street Project as presented and direct staff to proceed with the 90% plan development with the following changes:

1. From Station 86+50 to Station 87+60 follow the original path
2. Look in front of Cobblefield Development and determine how wide the additional asphalt is past the markings on the pavement.

Attachment: [SW91stPresenation082509.ppt](#)

Attachment: [91st Street Plans.pdf](#)

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The Board approved the transmittal of CPA 01 09 to the Florida Department of Community Affairs along with the other Comprehensive Plan Amendments approved for transmittal on June 9, 2009.

Attachment: [CPA0109SR_TransAddendum.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Ex6_SISReport.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Ex15_TransIFOrd.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Ex2TodPotmapAmend.pdf](#)

Commission Highlights

Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions continued

Attachment: [Ex7InfraStrucMapAmend.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [TND Conceptual Plan.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [CPA_0109_Changes_from_060909_082509.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [CPA0109_PP.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Backlog_Auth_and_other_funding.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [TOD_TND_Land_Avail.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex8_exprstransit.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex9RapidTransMapAmend.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [TND_Conceptual Plan_Memo.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex16_PropShareOrd.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex1_IntergovCoor.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex1_FLUE2.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex1_TME_Transmit_BOCC_082509.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex12_TripGen.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex16_GrowingEconomy.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex16_SBACOct2008.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex1_FLUE_1_Trans_BOCC_082509.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex1_CIE_Transmittal_BOCC_082509.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex11_I75Analysis.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex13_LOSAnalysis.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Ex14_GRUEmail.pdf](#)

Buckingham East

The Board approved the Replat of Lot 25, Buckingham East, Unit 2

Attachment: [BHL25Plats082509.ppt](#)
 Attachment: [BHL25CHAIRSR.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [BHL25GMSR.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [BHL25Plats082509.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [BHRPL25.pdf](#)

Town and Country Planned Development

The Board approved Resolution Z-09-10, Town and Country Planned Development with bases in the Staff Report

Attachment: [ZOM0709AppMaterials.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [ZOM0709 Powerpoint Presentation.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [ZOM0709_ZMP_Correct.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [ZOM0709 Staff Report.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [Resolution ZOM0709.pdf](#)
 Attachment: [ZOM0709.pptx](#)

Advisory Board Appointments

Ms. Julia Cole was appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Committee as an Alachua County Resident to a term ending December 31, 2010.

Mr. Charles E. Howe was appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Committee as Actively engaged with economic development organizations to a term ending December 31, 2012.

Mr. Bob Palmer was appointed to the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending June 30, 2012.

Ms. Diane Shaw was appointed to the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending June 30, 2012.

Ms. December McSherry was appointed to the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending June 30, 2013.

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:

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee: One citizen actively engaged in the banking or mortgage industry in connection with affordable housing, one citizen actively engaged in the residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing, one Alachua County resident

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, one citizen-at-large

Alachua County Historical Commission: Three citizens-at-large

CHOICES Health Services Advisory Board: One CHOICES program participant (Alternate), one Nurse, three citizens-at-large, one Managed Care employee

Citizens Disability Advisory Committee: Four citizens-at-large

Code Enforcement Board: One architect

Community Agency Partnership Program: One citizen-at-large, *two citizens-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

Economic Development Advisory Committee: One Alachua County resident

Environmental Protection Advisory Committee: One alternate

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

Health Care Board: One low-income health care consumer

Health Facilities Authority: *Three citizens-at-large*

Housing Finance Authority: Two citizens-at-large (one knowledgeable in labor, finance or commerce)

Local Planning Agency and Planning Commission: One citizen-at-large

Veterans Service Advisory Board: *Four citizens-at-large (Veteran), one Vietnam Veteran, one alternate*

Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Program Advisory Council: One alternate, three citizens-at-large

Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee: One county resident (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.