



# Community Update

November 24, 2010

A Report on the Activities of Alachua County Government

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

## Swearing In Ceremony

On Tuesday November 16, 2010, the Alachua County Commission held a special meeting to swear in re-elected Commissioner Lee Pinkoson and new Commissioner Susan Baird and to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

To view the swearing in ceremony in its entirety, [click here](#).

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



Above: Newly elected Commissioner Susan Baird and re-elected Commissioner Lee Pinkoson pose with family after being sworn in  
Below: The new seating arrangement of Commissioners with Lee Pinkoson as Chair and Paula Delaney as Vice Chair

**New Commission Photo Coming Soon**



## ACEPD Awarded EPA Environmental Education Grant

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) was recently awarded a grant to teach students about the impacts of daily activities (such as littering, applying fertilizer and pesticides, and increasing stormwater runoff from developed areas) on water pollution in our creeks and watersheds. Three local schools (Glen Springs Elementary, Williams Elementary, and Kanapaha Middle School) were selected to participate in the pilot project.

The project, titled "Exploring Solutions to Non-point Source Pollution," is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Program. It consists of four teaching modules: a hands-on classroom presentation on non-point source pollution, a field trip to a local stormwater treatment wetland, a classroom planning workshop to design and build a rain harvesting exhibit at the school, and finally a workday for the creation of the outdoor exhibit (rain barrels connected to a rain garden).

The grant is coordinated by ACEPD staff, with support from local partners including the Alachua County Extension Office (Wendy Wilber and master gardeners), University of Florida (Dr. Mark Clark and UF Wetlands Club), Gainesville Clean Water Partnership, and Current Problems, Inc.

"We really want the students to immerse themselves in the issues of water pollution and have planned a variety of hands-on activities so they can also be active participants in finding solutions. The hope is that they will put their new understanding to practice and share it with their peers, family, and community," says Eliana Bardi, Senior Planner with ACEPD.

"Our hope is to inspire students and the community to adopt some of these practices and techniques in their everyday lives and homes by providing them with resources and low-cost solutions to improve our community's waters. The grant complements the Department's water quality protection goals and new water conservation initiative."

For more information, contact Eliana Bardi at 352-264-6800 or [ebardi@alachuacounty.us](mailto:ebardi@alachuacounty.us).



Volunteers teaching kids about water conservation at a previous County sponsored education program

## 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 Growth Management Director Steve Lachnight discuss the Growth Management Department, its duties, programs, and the services it provides.



Click above to watch Alachua County Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird discuss the Environmental Protection Department, its duties, programs, and the services it provides.



Click above to watch Alachua County Public Safety Director Ed Bailey discuss the Public Safety Department, its duties, programs, and the services it provides.

## Upcoming Lane Closures

Alachua County Public Works Department is informing residents of upcoming lane closures. Lane closures will begin on SW 20th Avenue and SW 43rd Street beginning at 8 p.m. on November 28, 2010, and ending at 5 a.m. on November 29, 2010, to set up the initial Maintenance of Traffic Plan in association with the SW 62nd Blvd Interim Projects. If this work is not completed in a one night-time operation, lane closure may occur on November 29 - 30, 2010, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Ha Nguyen, the Alachua County Project Manager at 352-374-5245 ext. 1223.

## Transfer of Development Rights Application Available Online

As part of the reorganization of the County's Growth Management website ([click here](#) to view), the "Department Spotlight" on the main page now features a link to the County's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program information and application materials ([click here](#) to view). Applicants wishing to sell development rights from their property can now fill out the application online to submit to Department staff ([click here](#) to view).

The TDR program allows owners of certain agricultural and conservation properties (generally 160 acres or greater) within the County's unincorporated area to offer for sale the development rights for their property. The development rights can then be purchased by anyone wishing to reduce the amount of open space area required as part of their mixed-use or non-residential development project within the County's Urban Cluster (the area targeted for more compact, higher density development surrounding the City of Gainesville). The rights is placed on the 'sending property' restricting its future development and the property owner agrees to a County initiated rezoning of the property to 'TDR Sending District' on the County's Zoning Map.

"When done correctly, a TDR program can be a win-win for everyone involved," said Growth Management Director Steve Lachnicht. "Sellers can keep their land while getting an economic return comparable to what they could get if they sold their land for development, buyers can maximize the developable area of their site for a greater return on their investment, and the County is able



to preserve its most significant agricultural and conservation areas at little cost to the public."

By placing the application materials online potential sellers can submit their property for consideration by County staff, who will then determine how many development rights are available for sale and place the available rights on a 'Potential Sellers' list. Interested buyers will then be able to contact potential sellers directly to negotiate a purchase.

For more information on the TDR program, contact Missy Daniels ([mdaniels@alachuacounty.us](mailto:mdaniels@alachuacounty.us)) or Holly Banner ([hbanner@alachuacounty.us](mailto:hbanner@alachuacounty.us)) with the Alachua County Growth Management Department at 352-374-5249.



## World AIDS Day on December 1st

The Alachua County Health Department informs residents of World AIDS Day (December 1st).

World AIDS Day was established by the World Health Organization in 1988 to raise awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. The theme for this year continues to be "Universal Access and Human Rights" ensuring that everyone has access to HIV prevention, treatment and care, recognizing these as basic human rights. CDC recommends "that all Americans age 13-64 years be tested for HIV at least once, regardless of perceived risk for infection."

Florida ranks third nationally in total adult and adolescent HIV/AIDS cases while second in the number of pediatric HIV/AIDS cases.

HIV has not gone away and is still a threat that affects men, women and children. Every nine-and-a-half minutes someone in the United States becomes infected with HIV, this means

approximately 56,300 new infections each year. HIV can still be preventable but estimates are that 1 in 5 of the more than one million people in this country living with HIV is not aware of their HIV status. Getting tested and knowing your HIV status is an important step in preventing HIV.

The Alachua County Health Department supports this vital health initiative and encourages community-based organizations, local health departments and health care providers to help stop the spread of HIV.

To find a testing site near you, text your zip code to 477493 or visit <http://www.wemakethechange.com/>.

General media inquiries should be directed to Bobby Davis at 352-334-7964

For more information, [click here](#) or call 352-334-7960.

## Cold Weather Fire Safety

Since the beginning of November, 2010, the Alachua County Department of Public Safety (ACDPS) has responded to several fires that were (likely) caused by common cold weather hazards. ACDPS is reminding residents to be safe and use caution when heating homes.

For the best chance of surviving a fire, homes should have at least one working smoke alarm per level and outside the sleeping areas. Having just changed the clocks, all smoke alarm batteries should have been changed as well. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly to have a reasonable assurance they will function properly when needed. In addition to working smoke alarms, each family should have a home escape plan. The plan should include two ways out of each room, a meeting place, and a method to call 9-1-1 once outside the home. The plan should be practiced so everyone knows what to do before the emergency.

"With your attention to some of these basic fire safety tips the chances of experiencing a fire in your home can be significantly reduced." says ACDPS Fire Marshall, Mark Smith.

### Common Fire Hazards include:

- Candles- Never leave a room with a burning candle. To keep the flame down, make sure the wick stays trimmed to ¼ inch. The candle should be on a sturdy surface away from any combustible materials. It is recommended to keep a safe clear zone of 18-24 inches away from a burning candle.
- Space Heaters- Do not use extension cords with electric space heaters. They should have a functioning safety "tip over" switch that will turn it off or turn the heating element off when it is tipped over. Always keep safe and clear zone of 3 feet around any space heaters including any furniture. Never leave a space heater on in an unoccupied room or while sleeping. For fuel space heaters, never fuel it when the heater is on or still hot. The vapors from the fuel can ignite quickly and violently. Make sure the proper fuel is being used in the space heater and never fuel it inside or close to the home in case of a fuel spill.
- Fireplaces- Keep the chimney clean. They should be cleaned annually depending on amount of use. Always use a screen or door to keep the embers from escaping and catching combustibles on fire. Use a listed flame rated pad or non-combustible surface in front of the fireplace. Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed. A smoldering fire can produce carbon monoxide which is a dangerous, odorless and colorless gas.
- Cooking- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended. Keep dangling cloths, curtains and other combustibles away from the stove. Make sure the stove is off before going to bed. Turn pot handles in so small children cannot grab them. Always be particularly cautious with children living in the home.

For more information, contact the Alachua County Department of Public Safety at 352-384-3101.



# Cooperative Extension Programs

## Family & Consumer Sciences Programs

The Alachua County Extension Office is pleased to announce the following Family & Consumer Sciences Programs, for December, 2010. These programs are offered by Dr. Brenda Williams, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent. All of these programs are held at the Extension Office (2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville)

### Building Your Financial Future (A Personal Financial Management Program) – December 14, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Attendees will learn 4 basic concepts that will aid in handling financial resources responsibly and building a financially secure

#### Topics include:

- Develop Your Budget
- Money Management Skills
- Use Credit Responsibly
- Consumers Rights and Responsibilities

future. This program has been approved to issue certificates evidencing completion of a personal financial management instructional course in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code.

Cost to attend this class is \$10.00 (for course materials). Pre-register by November 29, by calling 352-337-6209. For alternate class dates, or view the complete brochure, visit <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

### Food Safety and Quality Program (ServSafe®) – December 15, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This program is dedicated to providing training which enables food managers and staff to offer Florida consumer's food that is prepared in a clean and safe environment. For further information

## Memorial Marker Program

In order to control activities within the right-of-way and increase public awareness in regards to highway safety, the Alachua County Public Works Department has established the Memorial Marker Program to commemorate those who have died because of a vehicle related accident on the County road system.

The markers will consist of a round 15" in diameter, aluminum sign panel. The signs have a white background and black letters mounted to a 5 ft. steel u-channel post. All markers are uniformly inscribed "Drive Safely, In Memory" followed by the decedent's name. They are manufactured at the County sign shop at no cost to the requestor for the construction, installation, or maintenance of the markers. They will remain on the right-of-way for a minimum of one (1) year, but the Department will reserve the right to have them removed due to construction or other maintenance needs.

and to register, please visit <http://foodsafety.ifas.ufl.edu>, or call toll-free at 1-888-232-8723.

## Commercial Horticulture Programs

The Alachua County Extension Office is pleased to announce the following Commercial Horticulture Programs, for December, 2010. These programs are offered by Aparna Gazula, Commercial Horticulture Agent. All of these programs are held at the Extension Office (2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville).

### Private Applicator Pesticide License Workshop – December 2, 2010, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This workshop is designed to provide training in practices related to Private Applicator Pest Control License for anyone working in the agricultural industry.

Training agenda includes: Pests and their control, Regulations and Labeling, Equipment Calibration and Pesticide Arithmetic.

Earn CEUs for pesticide license holders. (2) CORE & (2) Private Applicator Ag.

Registration fee is \$5.00 per person. Please pre-register by calling 352-337-6209.

For more information contact Aparna Gazula, Commercial Horticulture Agent, 955-2402. A registration form for these programs can be downloaded from: <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

County staff will evaluate each request in a timely manner. The requestor will be contacted with the results of the evaluation and given a timeline for the installation of the Memorial Marker.

To view the sign specifications [click here](#).

To view the sign request form [click here](#).

For more information, contact Brian Singleton at (352)-374-5245 or [bsingleton@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bsingleton@alachuacounty.us)

**DRIVE  
SAFELY  
IN MEMORY**

**John Doe**

# Commission Highlights

## November 23, 2010 Board Meeting



Vice Chair Paula M. DeLaney  
 Commissioner Susan Baird  
 Commission Chair Lee Pinkoson  
 Commissioner Rodney J. Long  
 Commissioner Mike Byerly

### Video:



Regular Meeting  
 morning session



Public Hearing  
 evening session

## Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions

### Tools for School

The Board recognized the Tools for School business, employees, and department donors.

### Sheriff Sadie Darnell

The Board heard Sheriff Sadie Darnell's request for end of year savings to be applied towards her FY2010-2011 budget. The Board discussed the request and chose to continue the discussion at a December 7th special meeting.

### Rural Concerns Advisory Committee's FY 09-10 Annual Report

The Board received the presentation of Rural Concerns Advisory Committee's FY 09-10 Annual Report and Work Plan for FY 10-11

Attachment: [RuralConcernsReport2010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RuralConcernspt2010.pdf](#)

### Sustainable Solid Waste Program

The Board received the presentation from staff concerning the "Achieving 75 percent Recycling/Building a Sustainable Solid Waste Program" and endorsed sustainable solid waste management program including materials recovery facility, organics recycling facility and flow control. The Board instructed staff to make efforts to get this information out to the public and solicit feedback.

Attachment: [Recycling poster.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Organic recycling report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Feasibility study.pdf](#)

Attachment: [recycling presentation.pptx](#)



Tools for School business, employees, and department donors are recognized by the County Commission

## Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions

### Extension of GRU Wastewater

The Board received the report on the draft Interlocal Agreement with the City of Waldo, Gainesville, and GRU relating to proposed extension of GRU wastewater force main to Waldo, and provided input to staff on preparation of the Agreement for approval by the Parties. The Board instructed staff to include the language specifying a 10-inch pipe.

Attachment: [Presentation Waldo Interlocal Agreement.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Letter from Chair Jan262010.pdf](#)

Attachment: [FDEP 2006 Consent Order.pdf](#)

Attachment: [FDEP 2009 Consent Order Modification.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Draft Interlocal Agreement Waldo GRU.pdf](#)

### County Sponsorship Dollars

The County Manager brought up the issue of non-profit organizations asking the County for sponsorship dollars for events. The Commission agreed that in these difficult fiscal times, the County would not participate in these events.

### Neighborhood Stabilization Property Conveyance Ordinance

The Board held the Public Hearing and adopted the Neighborhood Stabilization Property Conveyance Ordinance.

Attachment: [NSP Ordinance.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Neighborhood Stabilization Property Conveyance Ordinance Presentation.pdf](#)

### Alachua County Forever

The Board chose not to accept and exercise the Option Contracts to Purchase the Alachua County Forever San Felasco Hammock Additions - Rolling Meadows Tract. They instructed staff to refer the item to the Land Conservation Board to generate a prioritized list of conservation land parcels to consider for purchase.

Attachment: [Exhibit 2 Rolling Meadows Investments Evaluation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exhibit 6 Recorded PD Documents.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exhibit 1 Rolling Meadows Final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exhibit 4 1st Amend FDEP Lease Rolling Meadow final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exhibit 3 San Felasco Hammock Additions Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exhibit 5 Cost Estimates.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BoCC101123 ACF Rolling Meadows.pptx](#)

## Advisory Board Appointments

Commissioner Susan F. Baird was appointed to the Value Adjustment Board as a Commissioner.

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

Mr. Terence Cake was appointed to the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending June 30, 2014.

Ms. Sheila Dickison was appointed to the Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending May 31, 2013.

Ms. Nicole Pulcini Mason was appointed to the Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council as a Citizen-at-large to a term ending May 31, 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 citizen actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing, one citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing

**Alachua County Housing Authority:** One tenant-commissioner, one alternate tenant-commissioner (these positions require residency in public housing or that applicant is on the Alachua County Housing Authority's Section 8 Voucher Program), one Alternate.

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board:** Two citizens-at-large

**Board of Adjustment:** One citizen-at-large

**CHOICES Health Services Advisory Board:** One Managed Care employee, one certified public accountant, one hospital employee, one nurse, one CHOICES program participant (alternate), one small business owner, *one attorney, one dentist, one pharmacist, one physician*

**Citizens Disability Advisory Committee:** Two citizens with disabilities, two citizens-at-large

**Code Enforcement Board:** One businessperson, *one sub-contractor*, one alternate

**Economic Development Advisory Committee:** Three citizens actively engaged with economic development organizations, *one Alachua County Resident*

**Gainesville/Alachua County Arts in Public Places Trust:** One art historian, one professional in the field of art

**Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board:** Three citizens-at-large

**Health Care Board:** One low-income health care consumer, *one health care consumer, one community advocacy group*

**Health Facilities Authority:** One citizen-at-large

**Land Conservation Board:** *Three natural resources professionals*

**Original Florida Tourism Task Force:** Two citizens-at-large, one citizen-at-large (alternate)

**Poverty Reduction Advisory Board:** One citizen 55 or older, one low-income resident, one representative of a faith-based organization, *one citizen with a disability*

**Rural Concerns Advisory Committee:** One citizen involved in Silviculture/Agriculture, two citizens from unincorporated areas outside of the urban cluster, one citizen-at-large

**Tourist Development Council:** One hotel owner/operator

**Value Adjustment Board:** One citizen (must own homestead property in Alachua County)

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

*Positions in italics are not yet vacant, but will be available before February 28, 2011.*

[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.