

ALACHUA COUNTY "VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY" PRECINCT NEWS - NUMBER 7.

APRIL 2018

Our local daily newspaper posts information or point of view that motivates me to call & compliment the author or individual for their civic engagement. Such a call led me to Roberta Lopez – a former City Commissioner of Archer, Florida. She spoke of one of her successful initiatives for the city she was born in & returned to in her retirement. Here is a brief on her "Recipe of Success."

Archer, Florida was founded in 1840 & named in honor of James T. Archer, the first Secretary of State for Florida. Archer High School, a 3 story brick building was demolished in the early 1970's. It & a brick gymnasium was built in 1937 by the federal Public Works Administration. The gymnasium was spared from demolition.

On August 3, 2011, the gymnasium was reopened as the Archer Community Center after some eight years of planning, fund raising, & reconstruction. The repurposed building, with its original auditorium stage, can now host private & community events of up to 200 persons. During Archer election events, the Community Center is host. Perhaps it could host Precinct meetings in the future.

City Commissioner Roberta Lopez was credited as the driving force behind the repurposing of the gymnasium. Roberta & others lobbied for state & federal grant money. Private funding was significant.

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, from 3 to 5pm, there will be a dedication event for the installation of a Florida historical marker to commemorate the Archer Community Center. Its location is 16671 SW 137 Avenue. To arrange for future use of the Archer Community Center, call Archer City Hall – (352) 495-2880.

Roberta plans for the Archer Community Center include a health fair and a jobs fair. Roberta has been conducting a variety of ongoing programs to train area youth in civic skills & personal etiquette. Roberta is working with Keep Alachua County Beautiful to enhance the grounds of the Archer Community Center.

As we practice & develop our civic etiquette, the personal encouragement & shared enthusiasm of community engagement, I believe a "Renaissance" of grass-roots Democracy is awakening & reconnecting.

Let us continue to move from strength to strength. The future is not what it used to be. We can make it better. Compliment the constructive.

Can I hear you say "If it is gonna be – it is up to me"? Spread the good news.

Speaking of "good news" – if you have details about or would like to explore other "Recipes of Success" – call Jim Notestein (352) 372-2107. Precinct 57

"Paynes Prairie Home Companion" -- a little south of Paradise, Florida