

ALACHUA COUNTY "VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY" PRECINCT NEWS - NUMBER 8.

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Individuals in a democratic society can feel bonded to one another through networks of constructive association. These networks begin with family & extend outward within communities of progressive purpose. Let's work together.

Reach out & welcome T. J. Pyche (say: pi-che). He is the Voter Outreach Coordinator with our Supervisor of Elections office. Phone: (352) 374-5252. You can help him. He can help you with your precinct development. What a team! Grow your precinct. Grow democracy. Grow community.

Richard Sheets is the Social Studies Curriculum Specialist for the Alachua County School District. Speaking with him in April, this year, I learned that civics education is a component of social studies in every grade. Each instructor can use their own approach for specific content & presentation. A half-year American government course is required for 12th grade. Seventh grade includes a year-long civics course with an end-of-year exam.

I asked Richard Sheets if the concepts & functional details of Precinct Democracy are contained in any of the present civics curriculum. He agreed with me it could be included & might easily be integrated into the various class activities.

The local League of Women Voters is teaming with the Alachua County School District for a "Civics Challenge". The competition will be at Lincoln Middle School on May 24, this year. Teams from Lincoln & Hawthorne Middle School will compete. This idea may expand to other schools. You can get involved. Do you know a teacher or student in our county school system? Share your enthusiasm for precinct democracy.

In 1930, an early part of the University of Florida was located in Lake City. With the offer of free water, the Lake City element relocated to Gainesville. The home my wife & I live in today was also moved to Gainesville in 1930. Our property is now the last farm in Gainesville. Back in the day, it was a garden to evaluate various plants for their utility & economic potential. We continue to experiment in "living off the land" & sharing what we learn & grow. Our botanical garden is ¼ mile south of Paradise, Fl.

In 1884, explorers in what is now North Gainesville (where the Senior Center is located) came across a half-mile square area that was a field of artesian geysers! (let that sink in). The area was platted at the county seat as Paradise. The water sources were recorded as Sulphur Spring which flowed into Sulphur Creek (aka: Hogtown ?)

As Alachua County Democrats raise funds for the next budget cycle, consider our offer to contribute plants from our garden as a grateful gesture to those who buy a ticket or a table or become a sponsor of the 20th annual Lawton Chiles Gala. If you are interested to explore the possibilities, call Jim Notestein (352) 372-2107. Grow Democracy. Grow community. Grow your precinct. My precinct is #57.

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