

## **ALACHUA COUNTY "VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY" PRECINCT NEWS - NUMBER 11.**

**AUGUST 2018**

**Let us compliment Cynthia & all those who conducted the state candidate forum July 11 at Thelma Bolton Center. May I suggest that the video record of the event highlights by "Seth" Smith be uploaded to the DEC web site. Is there a motion? Aye.**

**History of the DEC in our county is quite a story. John Pickard, in 1994, published Florida's Eden: An Illustrated History of Alachua County. You can check out a copy from our Library District (334-3939). Alachua County stretched from the Georgia border to Port Charlotte (near Tampa). There were only 4 other counties when Fla. became a state (1834). As each census revealed more people, new counties were created – thus Alachua became smaller. Eventually, when Alachua County was divided for the last time, Gilchrist County was created because there was no good road to Gainesville.**

**Before Alachua County & before Florida, the people in our area were the Potano. They were part of a larger group – the Timucuan. Pickard says "there were 15 Potano tribes sharing a common language. Each tribe developed their own ethnic & political structures." Consensus & majority rule in a matriarchal framework was typical. All that was going on thousands of years before now. That is deep history.**

**More details will come from Pickard & other sources. His index shows chapter II (pg. 21) is about the Democratic party; pg. 55 – "the party regains power". Many other clues are to be found throughout his book. Researchers need to drill down & sideways. The arc of Alachua county's history flows twixt commendable & cringe-worthy. We can work to guide that flow toward "freedom & justice for all". Some assembly is needed.**

**Dr. Jacob Gordon is heading the project to construct a physical / digital archive of history about the Alachua County Democratic Party. Open your mind & share with him. History is a wonderful teacher when we remember, share & act upon the song it sings.**

**Attached to this August, 2018 newsletter are reprints from the Gainesville Sun. These reports are of my first experiences as a member of the DEC, beginning in 1985.**

**As part of my "listening tour" I called Matt Surrency, Hawthorne mayor on Monday July 16, 2018. He told me about the Middle / High School grade of "incomplete". I then alerted local news editor Mickie Anderson, about the details. Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Gainesville Sun, A section (top of fold headline) : "Hawthorne Mayor Plans to Open Middle / High in Fall". A great story. The Hawthorne community collaborated to improve the school's performance metrics. That is good news on so many levels. So, in my enthusiasm, may I suggest that those who can do so invite the Hawthorne Mayor, the new Principal of the Middle / High School, & a few others those two may nominate, to "be our guests" at the October, Lawton Chiles Gala. Is there a motion? (Perhaps we may find two men & two women who may fill the vacancies of that Precinct).**

**"It gets better for everybody when it gets better for everybody" - E. Roosevelt.**

**"Paynes Prairie Home Companion"      Jim Notestein      (352) 372-2107      Precinct 57**