

ALACHUA COUNTY "VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY" PRECINCT NEWS - NUMBER 12.

SEPTEMBER 2018

You are a wonderful person. Have confidence in your ability to understand our opportunities to improve democracy & community wellbeing. Speak truth & smile...

Welcome Cleveland Tinker, editor Gainesville Guardian. Phone: (352) 337-0376. Published each Thursday & free from many locations. One of our "editorial group" was published locally & state wide before the recent primary. Headline: "Rise Up & Vote". That turned out well. Be inspired. Contribute as you can. America was created by a series of written declarations (aka editorials.) Create your own "Committees of Correspondence". Keep up the good work. Florida is in the news. Be the messenger.

After successful elections, we representatives of Precincts can inspire citizen networks to assist those we elected in various geographic districts. Gigi Simmons' District One / Gainesville is Precinct 13, 19, 25, 33, 55, 59, & parts of Precinct 28, 30, 35. Whatever your Precinct, citizen networks can establish & share constructive interaction with elected reps. of our cities, our county, our School Board, & beyond. As we develop functional vertical links of Democracy & civic etiquette – liberty, justice, & economy will improve. Let your reps. know you are ready & able. They need our help.

Strategic thinking is helpful when planning to accomplish a complex objective. Horace G. Davis (we called him Buddy), received a Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for an editorial in the Gainesville Sun. His closing line was to the effect that as the last county in America to be desegregated, the decision to do so would have been best achieved by the Gainesville High students rather than the Fla. Gov. of the time. In mid - 1986, Buddy was inspired by progressive citizens of Oregon who created an NGO – "Friends of Oregon". Its banner was "Responsive & Responsible Government, Growth Management, & Environmental Protection". Buddy recommended a "Friends of Florida". That eventually came to be. But well before that & almost immediately after Buddy's editorial of '86, "Friends of Alachua County" was created as a non-profit 501-C-3. By 1989, "Friends" began publishing a free, monthly, 16 page newspaper – FACT (Friends of Alachua County Talk). Subscription requests came from as far away as Johannesburg, South Africa & Madison, Wisconsin. After a few years, Buddy Davis retired and began producing his own monthly newspaper (The Barricade), which was proudly inserted as a centerfold element in FACT. With over six thousand dues paying members (substantial citizens & significant professionals), Friends of Alachua County put a regular spotlight on the metrics of the "public interest" & civic etiquette. Speaking truth to power is creditworthy & can yield constructive results for community wellbeing. Americas' Founders had no digital media. They committed their lives, fortunes, & sacred honor.

Barack Obama has been speaking to us recently: "Decent, honest, hard- working people with Americas' best interest at heart – Democracy depends on your vote."

There is nothing wrong with Alachua County that can't be cured by what is right with Alachua County. Ditto Florida & America. You are a wonderful person. Smile.

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