



dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • November 2013



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at HistoricDuckpond.com

general meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Fellowship Hall

agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes, Sept. 2013
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT

Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER

Bill Hutchison
City of Gainesville
Division of Cultural Affairs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Be sure to check HistoricDuckpond.com for changes and updates to the agenda.

DNA News is published four times a year, just prior to general meetings. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. Meeting dates for 2014 will be announced in the next publication.

Celebrate the holiday season on Dec. 7

Now that Fall is here, it's time to begin thinking about the holiday season and *luminaries* (tealight candles lining the boulevard). Once again, the *City of Gainesville* and the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* will collaborate in ushering in the Christmas season. We will have wagon rides through the neighborhood starting from the *Thomas Center*. Each horse drawn wagon ride lasts about 15 minutes. Your family can also enjoy the arrival of Santa Claus and the annual lighting of the tree inside the *Thomas Center* beginning at around 6 p.m. Listen to choral groups both inside and outside the *Thomas Center* including performances in the beautiful Spanish Court. The wagon rides will last from 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Festivities inside the *Thomas Center* begin at 6 p.m. and should be over by 8 p.m.

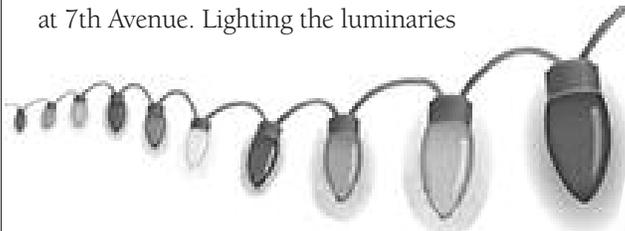
This annual event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 7, 2013. Luminary preparation will begin at 10 a.m. on the east side of the Boulevard at 7th Avenue. Lighting the luminaries

will take place beginning at 6 p.m. that evening. We need lots of volunteers to make this event a success. In addition to volunteers who will help with setting up luminaries, we need volunteers at the ticket table for the wagon rides, and volunteers to remove the luminaries after the event. We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the November neighborhood meeting.

This wonderful tradition has been a part of the Duckpond experience for years and a wonderful way to reconnect with neighbors and bring family and friends together. Please put it on your calendar today and we'll see you on the east side of the Boulevard at 7th Avenue on Saturday, December 7, at 10 a.m. Bring your holiday spirit and something to scoop sand with. Yogurt containers work well.

For questions or to volunteer, send an email to **Mary Rhodes** at crawley20@hotmail.com. 🐥

–Submitted by Mary Rhodes



Volunteers Needed on December 7th!

Assemble and distribute luminaries, 10 a.m.
Collect money and distribute tickets for the carriage rides. Two shifts are available:
5:30–7:30 p.m. and 7:30–9:45 p.m.
(Email crawley20@hotmail.com to sign up.)
Light candles at 6 p.m.



A message from our president

The purpose of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association is to facilitate communication and exchange of information on issues relevant to the neighborhood. We encourage neighbors to submit articles of interest to our neighborhood, or topics for discussion at our general meetings. Please contact Melanie Barr at 377.4217 or e-mail boardDNA@googlegroups.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES

The Duckpond Neighborhood Association currently has four active committees: the DNA Picnic Committee, the Holiday Carriage Ride Committee, the Roper Park Landscape Committee, and the Duck and Pond Committee. None of these committees requires attending frequent meetings. Volunteering can be rewarding and fun. If you are interested in one of these committees, please email boarddna@googlegroups.com.

Dear Duckpond residents,

It certainly has been an interesting last few months for our neighborhood. We were able to successfully demonstrate to the Plan Board that the proposed new location of the Probation and Parole Offices would not be a good idea, and that stirred up a storm of controversy. The editor of the *Gainesville Sun* devoted an editorial column to this issue after the vote, and it did not cast the neighborhood in a favorable light. This generated several letters to the editor, both pro and con on the issue. Many of the authors of letters did not live in the Duckpond neighborhood. It was interesting to see that some identified with our community and understood the position of the neighbors who spoke while some did not.

There are many activities planned for Fall in and around our neighborhood. Bill Hutchison will speak to us at our November 12th meeting about the activities the City has planned, and we have our own Roper Park Yard Sale coming up on November 16th as well. At the time of this writing our team for the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* ranked 10th

out of 96 registered teams in terms of money pledged. I hope we will have done well with our fundraising by the day of the walk on October 26th. Activities that our neighborhood also coordinates will be the luminaries and wagon rides on December 7th, the day of the Christmas tree lighting in the *Thomas Center*. For more information on this and the Roper Park Yard Sale be sure to read the articles in this newsletter.

Our neighborhood has had an up tick in car burglaries. Many people travel for Thanksgiving and Christmas so please be on the alert. If you notice unusual activity please call 955.1818 so the police can be informed. We know our neighborhood better than they do, so it is up to us to notify them when we see something that may lead to a crime.

Also, if you left your sunglasses at the September 10th meeting, I have them. Hopefully you can attend our meeting on November 12th and I will be able to return them to you.

Sincerely,

Melanie Barr, President

Duckpond Neighborhood Association

MISSING INDOOR KITTY



Name: Meimei [may-may]

Age: ~1.5 years

Color: Gray tabby

Weight: ~12 pounds

Missing since October 12th from NE 5th Ave and NE 4th St. She's an indoor cat, is super friendly and probably scared. She doesn't have a collar and has a funny, raspy meow.

If you see her, please call (407)-902-7789

She's the love of my life and I miss her.

PH: 407.902.7789

Program for our November 2013 meeting

The Gainesville Division of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs is located in the *Thomas Center*, a Nationally Registered historic building owned by the *City of Gainesville* in the center of our neighborhood. The Division of Cultural Affairs sponsors many exciting activities at the *Thomas Center* and downtown. Bill Hutchison, who is the Entertainment Coordinator for the Downtown Art Festival and the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, will speak to us about the Division of Cultural Affairs, and the activities that are planned for this season and next year. The Division of Cultural Affairs is responsible for the operation of the *Thomas Center*, the Tench Building Artist Studios,

Evergreen Cemetery, and the programs at the *Bo Diddley Community Plaza*. It also coordinates the *Thomas Center Galleries* and serves as the Local Arts Agency for Alachua County.

Bill Hutchison is a lifelong musician, a broadcaster, and a seasoned performer. He is a collector and lecturer, focusing on moments and eons in the vast depths of time as well as the thrilling immensities of space. He is a member of the *Manuscripts Society* and a contributor to *Manuscripts Magazine*. He recently coordinated a show in the *Thomas Center Gallery* that exhibited artifacts from his collections. 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

Spotlight on Neighborhood Artists

Jane Medved's acrylic paintings portray the nature of Florida springs and the human nature of its visitors. Each week Jane visits one of the springs, along with her husband and their miniature dachshund.

Jane's artwork has been exhibited at *The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Arts and Design* in New York City, and at the *Yellowstone Art Museum* in Billings, Montana. This spring she opened her studio as part of the *Gainesville Primavera Festival*.



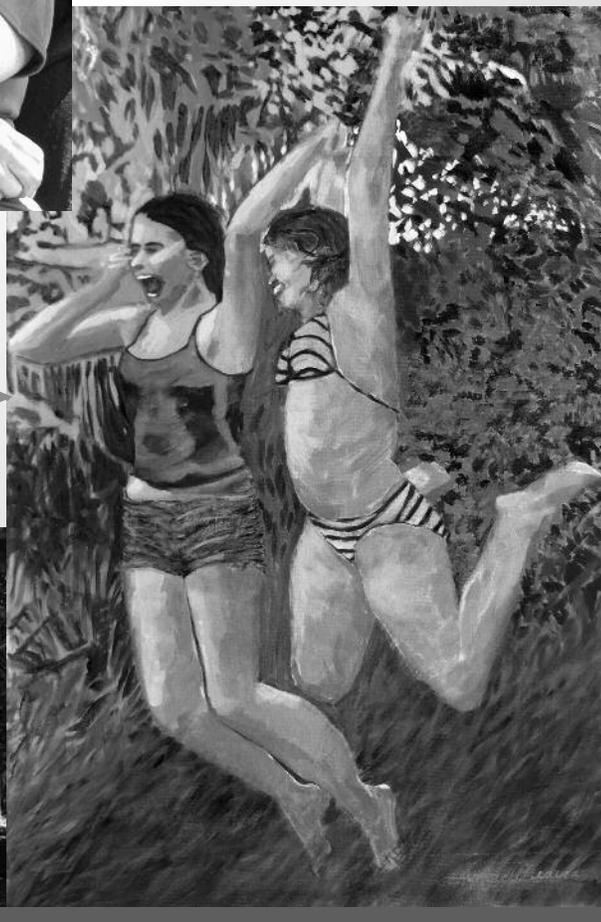
▲ Above: Jane Medved and friend

Right: Spring Fever ©2013, 36" x 24"

▼ Below: Jane Medved's art studio on NE 9th Avenue

You can see Jane's paintings at the downtown *Starbucks* through the 14th of November. See additional paintings on display at *BodyWise Movement & Massage Therapy* at 1031 NW 6th Street.

To visit Jane's studio on NE 9th Avenue, call her at 375.6879, email janemedved@cox.net, or visit her website at <http://www.janemedved.com>. 🐶



THE 32nd ANNUAL DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL AND ARTS SHOW

On November 16–17, downtown Gainesville transforms into a venue for award-winning artists and draws a total attendance of more than 100,000. Visitors can stroll through historic downtown and marvel at works from more than 250 of the nation's most talented artists. This show is hosted by the *City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs*. Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.gvltculturalaffairs.org and click on the Downtown Festival and Arts link. A schedule of festival activities as well as a list of the artists can be found on this site.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Twilight at the Museum
Matheson Museum
November 13, 6 p.m.

Take an evening stroll through the Botanical Gardens of Sweetwater Park. Browse the temporary exhibition on Florida's Flora to the rhythm of a local band. Tickets \$10. For more information, call 378.2280.

Gators Ride, Rock & Roll
Downtown Gainesville
November 22, 6–10 p.m.

United Downtown helps kick off Gator football games each Friday night before a game with the O2B Kids! play zone, vendors, and an outdoor beer garden sponsored by Gainesville's Swamp Head Brewery. Experience classic cars, roaring Harleys, and rockin' music on SE 1st Street between University Avenue and SE 2nd Place.

Holiday Lights First Friday
Downtown Gainesville
December 6, 5–10 p.m.

This holiday-themed event features a storefront decorating contest with all the local businesses participating; ice skating courtesy of the City of Gainesville in the Bo Diddley Community Plaza; photos with Santa; and toy collecting to benefit Toys for Tots. Join Gainesville's largest happy hour with food and drink specials at over 35 locations, carriage rides, huge raffle, and block party! Donate new, unwrapped toys for discounted VIP admission.

The Polar Express
Matheson Museum
December 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Let the Polar Express take you on a journey through history to a time when railroads were the life-blood of Alachua County. Vendors will be available for the train-lover in your family, as well as train sets for children or children at heart. Tickets are \$4 for adults/\$1 for children. For information, call 378.2280.

Gainesville/Alachua County Advisory Boards

Our city and county commissions utilize the advisory boards as an essential resource. The boards serve both as auxiliary manpower, a considerable source of ideas, and a good faith link with the citizenry. The boards are assigned specific tasks by the city and county commissions with the goal of making recommendations in the form of reports to the commissions based on research or information gathered and voted on by members of the boards. The commissions, however, are not obligated to adhere to the recommendations. One of the advisory boards actually has quasi-judicial responsibilities. Three of the advisory boards, *Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Airport Authority*, the *Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board*, and the *Gainesville/Alachua County Art in Public Places Trust* are city and county collaborations.

All Advisory Board vacancies are listed on the city and county websites:

www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/ClerkOfTheCommission/AdvisoryBoardsandCommittees/tabid/663/Default.aspx

www.alachuacounty.us/Pages/AlachuaCounty.aspx

The length of terms is either two years or three years in duration. Applications can be made online or by mail for regular membership or as an alternate member and should include any information that demonstrates training, experience, skills, and general interest relevant to the goals of the advisory board. The City and County Commissions vote for members from a pool of applicants who are allowed to speak on their own behalf during the commissions' meetings. Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend regular advisory board meetings as interested citizens. This gives them the chance to observe the boards in action and give both the boards and the applicants a chance to get acquainted.

There are many educated, talented, skilled, and motivated people living within Alachua County. The citizen advisory boards are a great way to invest your time and ideas toward making our communities better places to live.

.....
*The boards serve both as
auxiliary manpower,
a considerable source
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.....

Gainesville City Advisory Boards (27):

Art in Public Places, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Board of Adjustment, Board of Trustees of the Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan, Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Development, City Beautification Board, City Plan Board, Community Development Review Committee, Development Review Board, Fire Safety Board of Adjustment, Gainesville Code Enforcement Board, Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee, Gainesville Enterprise Zone Development Agency, Gainesville Housing Authority, Gainesville Human Rights Board, Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board, Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, Historic Preservation Board, Nature Centers Commission, Pension Review Committee, Public Recreation and Parks Board, Regional Transit System Advisory Board, State Housing Initiatives Partnership, Student Community Relations Advisory Board, Tree Advisory Board, Tree Board of Appeals, Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee.

continued on page 5 >

Alachua County Advisory Boards (33):

Alachua County Housing Authority Board, Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board, Board of Adjustment, Citizens Disability Advisory Committee, Code Enforcement Board, Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP), Criminal Justice, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Grant Planning Committee, Early Learning Coalition, Economic Development Advisory Board, Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, FloridaWorks Board, Gainesville/Alachua County Art in Public Places Trust, Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board, Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, Health care Advisory Board, Health Facilities

Authority, Historical Commission, Housing Finance Authority, Human rights Board, Land Conservation Board, Local Planning Agency & Planning Commission, Original Florida Tourism Task Force, Recreation & Open Spaces Advisory Committee, Regional Transit System Advisory Board, Rural Concerns Advisory Committee, Tourist Development council, Value Adjustment Board, Veterans Services Advisory Board, Victim services & Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council, Well-Florida Council (formerly North Central Florida Health Planning Council), and Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee. 🐦

—Submitted by George Papadi

A new preschool in our neighborhood: *Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville*

Since 1970, *Holy Trinity Episcopal Church* has operated a preschool at both its church site and, for the older children, at a facility on NW 16th Ave. Several years ago the church's foundation purchased the *Savannah Grande* property at 301 North Main Street. The parking lot opens onto NE 4th Avenue. As a result of a capital

campaign in 2012, funds were raised to convert it into a new school building. It is now known as the *Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville*. The school will accommodate up to 130 children from infants through kindergarten age. The curriculum for the older children at present has the highest rating from the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*, so it is not to be considered merely a day care center.

The design has been rendered by *Billy Brame Architects*, and renovation work by *Joyner Construction Company* has already begun. The facility is expected to open for first classes in August of 2014. It will prove to be a major boon to the developing downtown Gainesville area through its convenient location and high quality curriculum. Parents working in the downtown area can visit their little ones during the day, and provisions will include a place where babies can be nursed. 🐦

—Submitted by Charlie Covell



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
100 NE 1st Street, Gainesville
For more information, call 372.4721

UPCOMING EVENTS

Taste of History and Champagne and Shopping

Matheson Museum
December 14, 1–4 p.m.

Find the perfect gift for the history lover in your family while enjoying “ole time” holiday treats. Pictures with Santa will also be available.

**Downtown Countdown:
A New Year's Eve Celebration
Downtown Gainesville
December 31, 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m.**

Rock in the New Year at the *Bo Diddley Community Plaza* with live music provided by the area's most popular bands. A countdown to the New Year at midnight is celebrated with free noisemakers and streamer cannons. Free event.

**Pieces of Dreams:
The Art of Lorelei Esser
Thomas Center Galleries
Through January 4, 2014**

This immersive installation of three-dimensional sculptures, mobiles, and wall reliefs created from repurposed materials features pieces from Gainesville resident Lorelei Esser's more than 35 years as a visual artist. This exhibition will consist of artwork lining the walls, falling from the sky, and growing up through the earth. Objects floating in space will suggest the sensation of flying to the viewers. The overarching theme is imagining new and timeless mythological sculptures from what most of us would think of as refuse.



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Roper Park Yard Sale on November 16

As always, the Roper Park Yard Sale will be held on the first day of the Downtown Fall Arts Festival. This year it will be on Saturday November 16th starting at 8 a.m. You can donate items for the DNA to sell, or you can set up and sell your items and keep all the profit.

If you are a member of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association and want to set up and sell your own items, the cost is \$10. If you are not a member, the cost is \$15 to participate in the sale. Please invite your friends and relatives to join in the sale too. You can set up as many tables as you want. Please send your check to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association at PO Box 5794 Gainesville FL 32627, or you can make arrangements to drop off a check in person.

This event is a fundraiser for Roper Park and a great way to spend the day meeting your neighbors and patrons of the art show. The DNA pays for the ad in the Gainesville Sun, publishes the ad on email lists, and sets up signs the morning of the sale. The only work for sellers is setting up their items on the morning of the sale. Feel free to put your own ad on Craigslist describing your items.

If you prefer to donate items to the DNA for us to sell, please set them aside until the week of the sale, and call 377.4217 or email mvbarr@bellsouth.net to arrange a pick up. We prefer that you don't show up with your items on the morning of the sale because there may not be any tables on which to display your items. 🐾

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



duckpond neighborhood advertising

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duckpond board



Please fill out and return the form below with your annual membership dues (\$15 per household.) Make your check payable to:

Duckpond Neighborhood Association
PO Box 5794
Gainesville FL 32627



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Vice President	
Charles Covell	336.0127
Secretary	
Mary Rhodes	375.2616
Treasurer	
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David Auth	371.1991
Edith Kaan	379.7948
George Papadi	373.1296

If you are curious about the responsibilities and time commitment for being a Board member, please contact any of the Board members listed above by calling, or email boardDNA@googlegroups.com. With your help, we can continue to make the Duckpond a great place in which to live.

Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit your information to boardDNA@googlegroups.com. Your submissions are appreciated, and are a great way to share information with your neighbors!



Are you or do you know an artist (or performing artist) who lives or works in our neighborhood? We would like to highlight Duckpond artists in future issues of *DNA News*. Please contact boardDNA@googlegroups.com for more information.

Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!

To join, e-mail your address to boardDNA@googlegroups.com. DNA updates are typically sent out once or twice a month. DNA will never use your email for solicitation or political purposes.

duckpond neighborhood association membership form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Committee Interests:

Board Member Crime Watch Holiday Events Newsletter Distribution Parks Schools Yard Sale

Skills and/or resources I would like to make available to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association:

I would also like to contribute to the following: (optional)

Duck Fund \$ _____ Roper Park Fund \$ _____ Holiday Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____

DNA News occasionally lists the names of paying members. Permission to list your name: yes no