



**M. M. PARRISH  
REALTORS**

**mmparrish.com**

7515 W University Ave, #201

Gainesville, FL 32607

Bus (352) 335-4999

Fax (352) 264-3152

Direct (352) 264-3151

Cell (352) 870-9100

rlevy@mmparrish.com

Congratulations on being one of the new house officers coming to the University of Florida. I would like to offer my assistance, as a Realtor, in finding the kind of housing that best suits your needs.

My husband is a physician and we have lived in Gainesville since the early 1970's. Over the last 35 years I have helped hundreds of residents and fellows find their homes. Most have made a nice profit when they have finished their training and sold their homes---and a few have remained, making Gainesville their permanent residence.

As a member of the Multiple Listing Service and the longest established real estate company in Gainesville, we have access to the listings of all other member offices and are able to offer a prospective buyer a large selection of homes in various price ranges and neighborhoods.

Let me know how I can help you and I can send you some current listings with photos for you to review. I look forward to meeting you and will set aside time for us to look at places as soon as you let me know the dates of your visit. Please call or e-mail me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Roslyn*

**Roslyn F. Levy**, GRI, CRS

Broker, Senior Vice-President

Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors, Inc.  
7515 W University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607  
(352) 264-3151 (office)  
(352) 870-9100 (cell)

**Roslyn Levy, GRI, CRS**  
**Broker-Associate, Senior Vice President**  
**Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors**



Roslyn joined Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish more than twenty years ago after owning her own real estate company in Gainesville for a dozen years. She is a member of the National Association of REALTORS, the Florida Association of REALTORS, and the Gainesville-Alachua County Association of REALTORS and holds designations from the Graduate REALTORS Institute (GRI) and the Council of Residential Specialists (CRS). Roslyn has received the Gainesville/Alachua County Association of REALTORS Community Service Award two consecutive years for her active involvement in a number of organizations. She is past-President of the Board of Trustees of WUFT-TV and WUFT-FM, past-President of the Alachua County Medical Alliance, past-President of the Board of the Florida Museum of Natural History, past-President of the Gainesville Women's Forum, past-President of the Gainesville Fine Arts Association and past-President of the Docent Board at the Harn Museum of Art. Currently, she is on the Board of the Center for Performing Arts, the Florida Museum of Natural History and is an active docent at the Harn Museum. She has also been a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, United Way of Alachua County, Gainesville Harvest, and Take Stock in Children. She is a recipient of the Alachua/Bradford County Woman of Distinction Award and the Hadassah Woman of Valor Award. Roslyn has an undergraduate degree in Spanish Literature and Art History from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Art Education from the University of Florida. She worked as a photographer and a printmaker before going into real estate in the late 1970's. She and her husband, Norman, an ophthalmologist, have lived many places including Ecuador, where they spent two years with the Peace Corps. They moved here from Chicago over 40 years ago and have considered Gainesville their home ever since. They have four grown children: Deborah, an attorney, lives in New York City with her husband, Brad, an attorney, and their three sons Matthew, Liam and Drew; Steve, an attorney, lives in Atlanta with his wife, Sarah, and their five daughters, Shira, Daniella, Ariella, Abigail and Elana; David, a physician, lives in Boston with his wife Elisabeth and their son, Ellery; Kenneth, a financial analyst, lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Melanie, a tax attorney, and their three sons, Maxwell, Benjamin and Alexander.

## *Welcome to Gainesville*

We'd like to welcome you to Gainesville, our home. Founded in 1911, the Parrish Company has earned a reputation as the premier real estate company in Alachua County. **We are Gainesville-born, Gainesville-owned and Gainesville-managed.** The Parrish name is backed by 100-plus years of success, service and commitment, and we are proud of our market leadership. Simply, we've placed more families in more homes for more years than anyone else around.

Our affiliation with Coldwell Banker, one of the most internationally respected and quoted names in real estate, is a resource for us to provide national exposure and additional services in the marketplace. Our staff of professional Realtors sets us apart from other companies. Our high level of expertise ensures our clients the most competent representation possible.

**We are dedicated to serving you, our customer.** We will communicate with you and follow through on details. Our knowledge of the local market and standard of excellence will not disappoint you. At Coldwell Banker M. M. Parrish Realtors, every client provides a unique opportunity to renew the trust upon which our reputation was built. The company that is first in service, first in production and first in results – this year and every year – will show you why using us will truly be... "The Best Move You'll Ever Make".

If the enclosed material raises any questions, or if you need additional information, please call me at 352-335-4999. Our product is service.

*We look forward to*  
**SERVING YOU!**

**SINCE 1911**

*Gainesville, Florida*  
**352.335.4999**



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# Find Your Way

## *In Beautiful North Florida*



### **Our Community.**

Gainesville and Alachua County are located in the Heartland of beautiful North Central Florida. We are surrounded by quaint communities that still retain the charm and character of Old Florida. The area's carefully preserved nature basks in beautiful sunshine. Almost 65 percent of Alachua County remains as wilderness dotted with scenic lakes, wetlands, rivers and trails. With a beautiful, temperate climate, Gainesville and the surrounding communities are delightful for nature lovers of all ages.

Amidst this incredible nature, Gainesville also serves as the commercial hub for the North Central Florida area. It is home to the University of Florida, the largest public land grant institution in the state and a key player in education, medicine, cultural arts and sports for the region. Downtown Gainesville boasts a bustling nightlife and the community hosts an active year-round festival and event calendar. Welcome home.

### **Our Commitment.**

Coldwell Banker M. M. Parrish Realtors is very proud of our commitment to our profession and to our community. Founded in 1911, we are the oldest, most established real estate company in Alachua County and the oldest corporate member of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2008, James M. Parrish, Jr. became the 12th Realtor from our Company to serve as President of the Gainesville-Alachua County Association of Realtors. A family owned company, our doors have consistently stayed open for 5 generations.

In 1983, we became the first Coldwell Banker affiliate in the state of Florida. Over the last century, our full time professional Realtors have placed more people in more homes than any other real estate company in Alachua County.

Nothing is more important to Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors than our community. In fact, building and preserving this community IS our business. Our Staff, Management and Realtors participate in hundreds of different volunteer programs, organizations, fundraisers and community events as individuals. As a Company, we are involved in many local charities and sponsor numerous local events every year.

We are most proud of our partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The hard work of our Realtors enabled us to construct a new home through this remarkable foundation. Our house was built in Gainesville and went to a local family. We look forward to building our next Habitat Home. Whether we are introducing new families and neighbors to our area, or bringing industry and facilitating responsible growth or participating in local charities and events, we feel honored to be a part of one of the most desirable areas in the country.

### **Building a Future.**

The Parrish Family moved to Alachua County in 1911 for the same reasons people still move here today - because of the unique opportunities, high quality of life, and beautiful surroundings. Our proven track record, deep community roots and commitment to service make Coldwell Banker M. M. Parrish Realtors the ideal real estate company to serve you! Contact one of our professional Realtors, visit one of our convenient locations or visit [mmparrish.com](http://mmparrish.com) for more information on how we can help you...

## Find Your Way Home!

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# EDUCATION INFORMATION

*Alachua County School District*

## 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 17 – Friday, Aug. 21 .....	Pre-Planning (5 weekdays)
Monday, Aug. 24 .....	First Day for Students
Monday, Sept. 7 .....	Holiday - Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 29 .....	Send Interim Reports Home
Tuesday, Oct. 27 .....	End of First Nine Weeks
* Friday, Oct. 30 .....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Workday
Friday, Nov. 6 .....	Holiday – UF Homecoming
Tuesday, Nov. 10 .....	Send Report Cards Home
Wednesday, Nov. 11 .....	Holiday – Veterans Day
Monday, Nov. 23 - Wednesday, Nov. 25 .....	Pupil/Teacher Holidays
Thursday Nov. 26 – Friday Nov. 27 .....	Thanksgiving Holidays
Friday, Dec. 11 .....	Send Interim Reports Home
Monday, Dec. 21 - Friday, Jan. 1 .....	Winter Holidays (10 weekdays)
Monday, Jan. 4 .....	Classes Resume
Monday, Jan. 18 .....	Holiday - ML King Day
Friday, Jan. 22 .....	End of First Semester
* Monday, Jan. 25 .....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Workday
Tuesday, Jan. 26 .....	Begin Second Semester
Thursday, Feb. 4 .....	Send Report Cards Home
Monday, Feb. 15 .....	Holiday – Presidents’ Day
Wednesday, March 2 .....	Send Interim Reports Home
Monday, March 21 - Friday, March 25 .....	Spring Holidays (5 weekdays)
Tuesday, April 5 .....	End of Third Nine Weeks
Friday, April 8 .....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Workday
Thursday, April 14 .....	Send Report Cards Home
Thursday, May 12 .....	Send Interim Reports Home
Monday, May 30 .....	Holiday - Memorial Day
Thursday, June 9 .....	Last Day for Students
* Friday, June 10 .....	Post-Planning
Monday, June 13 .....	Post-Planning

*\*These days MAY be used to make up days canceled due to hurricanes or other emergencies. For the 2015-16 calendar, they will be used in the following order (1) October 30, (2) January 25, (3) June 10.*

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# EDUCATION INFORMATION

## Higher Education

- **University of Florida:** 392-3261, 818 W University Ave., [www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu)
- **Santa Fe College:** 395-5000, 3000 NW 83<sup>rd</sup> St., [www.sfcollege.edu](http://www.sfcollege.edu)

## Private Schools in Gainesville

- **Bhaktivedanta Academy:** 386-452-2886, 17414 NW 112<sup>th</sup> Blvd., Alachua, PreK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.bhaktivedantaacademy.org](http://www.bhaktivedantaacademy.org)
- **Brentwood School:** 373-3222, 1111 NW 55<sup>th</sup> St., 2-year-olds- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.gobrentwoodschool.com](http://www.gobrentwoodschool.com)
- **Christian Life Academy:** 495-3040, 12000 SW Archer Rd., K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.claofgainesville.org](http://www.claofgainesville.org)
- **Cornerstone Academy:** 378-9337, 3401 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St., 4-year-olds- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.cornerstone.st](http://www.cornerstone.st)
- **Countryside Christian School:** 332-1493, 10926 NW 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, PreK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.cbcbgainesville.net](http://www.cbcbgainesville.net)
- **Family Life Academy:** 495-3409, 17259 SW Archer Rd., PreK-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.familylifecog.org](http://www.familylifecog.org)
- **First Christian Academy:** 386-454-1641, 24530 NW 199<sup>th</sup> Lane, High Springs, PreK-7<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.fchighsprings.org](http://www.fchighsprings.org)
- **Gainesville Country Day School:** 332-9032, 2304 SW 75<sup>th</sup> St., Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.gainesvillecountrydayschool.org](http://www.gainesvillecountrydayschool.org)
- **Jordan Glen School:** 495-2728, 12425 SW 154<sup>th</sup> St., Archer, PreK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.jordanglen.org](http://www.jordanglen.org)
- **Living Springs Academy:** 386-454-2777, 23901 NW 212<sup>th</sup> Ave, High Springs, K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.livingspringsacademy.com](http://www.livingspringsacademy.com)
- **Loga Springs Academy:** 337-0686, 931 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., 1st-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.logasprings.org](http://www.logasprings.org)
- **Millhopper Montessori School:** 375-6773, 8505 NW 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., Grades: 2-year-olds- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.millhopper.com](http://www.millhopper.com)
- **Newberry Christian Community School:** 363-6322, 1520 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, K3-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.newberryccs.org](http://www.newberryccs.org)
- **Oak Hall:** 332-1452, 7715 SW 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., PK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 332-3609, 8009 SW 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.OakHall.org](http://www.OakHall.org)
- **Passage Christian Academy:** 336-8983, 5121 E University Ave, K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.passagechristianacademy.org](http://www.passagechristianacademy.org)
- **P.K. Yonge:** 392-1554, 1080 SW 11<sup>th</sup> St., K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.PKYonge.ufl.edu](http://www.PKYonge.ufl.edu)
- **Queen of Peace Catholic Academy:** 332-8808, 10900 SW 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., PK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.qopacademy.org](http://www.qopacademy.org)
- **St. Francis Catholic High School:** 376-6545, 4100 NW 115<sup>th</sup> Terrace, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.sfchs.org](http://www.sfchs.org)
- **St. Patrick Interparish School:** 376-9878, 550 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., 3-year-olds-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.stpatrickschoolgnv.org](http://www.stpatrickschoolgnv.org)
- **Sung Adventist Academy:** 376-6040, 2115 NW 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.zlsung22.adventistschoolconnect.org](http://www.zlsung22.adventistschoolconnect.org)
- **The Rock School:** 331-7625, 9818 SW 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Infant- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.therocklions.com](http://www.therocklions.com)
- **Trilogy School:** 332-8802, 8700 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave., 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.trilogyschool.org](http://www.trilogyschool.org)
- **Windsor Christian Academy:** 375-7316, 918 SE CR 234, K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, [www.windsorbaptistchurch.com](http://www.windsorbaptistchurch.com)

## Alachua County School District

## Who to call for...

- **Adult Education/GED:** Charley Wise, 955-7035
- **Board Agenda Information:** Rose Ramos, 955-7880
- **Career and Technical Education:** Dave Edwards, 955-7600
- **Community & School Relations:** Philoron Wright, 955-7880
- **Curriculum/Instructional Services / Student Support:** Karen Clarke, 955-7444
- **Curriculum - Elementary:** Diana Lagotic, 955-7444
- **Curriculum - Secondary:** Donna Jones, 955-7444
- **Directory Assistance:** Connie Brower, 955-7300
- **Early Childhood Education:** Doris Imler, 955-7650
- **Exceptional Student Education:** Kathy Black, 955-7671, x 239
- **Extended Day Enrichment Program:** Angel Londrie, 955-7766
- **Facilities, Maintenance, Planning & Construction:** Shane Andrew, 955-7400, x 1401
- **Finance:** Scott Ward, 955-7583
- **Food and Nutrition Services:** Maria Eunice, 955-7537
- **Guidance Services:** Bill Goodman, 955-7671, x 264
- **Headstart, Preschool Education:** Ann Crowell, 955-6875
- **Health Services:** Pat Hughes, 955-7671, x 233
- **Homeless Education:** Courtney Allen, 955-7070
- **Home School:** Terri Bain, 955-7575
- **Human Resources:** Hershel Lyons, 955-7712
- **Information Resources:** John Holliman, 955-7509
- **Media Services:** Debi Bruner, 955-6850
- **Maintenance:** Tom Cowart, 955-7400, x 1413
- **Personnel (non-instructional):** Sally Wood, 955-7729
- **Personnel (instructional):** Laurie Bauer, 955-7706
- **Planning, Budgeting, & Systems:** Scott Ward, 955-7559
- **Planning & Construction:** Vicki McGrath, 955-7400, x 1423
- **Psychoeducational Services:** Marcia Leary, 955-7671, x 232
- **Public Information Office:** Jackie Johnson, 955-7545
- **Public Schools Foundation:** Judy Boles, 955-7003
- **Research, Assessment & Student Information/Zoning:** Steven Stark, 955-7681
- **Staff Development:** Heather Harbour, 955-7650
- **Student Records:** Rita Gay, 955-7740
- **Student Support Services:** Kathy Black, 955-7671, x 239
- **Testing:** Terri Bain, 955-7575
- **Textbook Services & Instructional Materials:** Martha Winegar, 955-6860
- **Title 1:** Pam Diaz, 955-7634
- **Transportation:** Harrell Harrison, 955-7750
- **Voluntary Pre-K Program:** Ann Crowell, 955-6875
- **Volunteer & Business Partnership Program:** Liz Stark, 955-6760
- **Zoning:** Steven Stark, 955-7681

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# EDUCATION INFORMATION

## Public School Contacts

Main School Board (352) 955-7300 • [www.SBAC.edu](http://www.SBAC.edu)

SCHOOLS/GRADES	PHONE	PRINCIPAL	ADDRESS
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>			
Alachua (3-5)	(386) 462-1841	Eva M. Copeland	13800 NW 152 <sup>nd</sup> Place, Alachua
Archer (PK-5)	495-2111	Cory Tomlinson	14533 SW 170 <sup>th</sup> Street, Archer
Chiles, Lawton (PK-5)	333-2825	Judy Black	2525 Schoolhouse Rd., Gainesville
Duval, Charles (K-5)	955-6703	Lawson Brown	2106 NE 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Finley, J.J. (K-5)	955-6705	Kathleen B. Valdes	1912 NW 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Foster, Stephen (K-5)	955-6706	James E. Kuhn, III	3800 NW 6 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Glen Springs (K-5)	955-6708	Nannette Dell	2826 NW 31 <sup>st</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Hidden Oak (PK-5)	333-2801	Ron Knowles	2100 Ft. Clarke Blvd., Gainesville
High Springs Comm. (K-8)	(386) 454-1958	Jeffrey Means	1015 N Main, High Springs
Idylwild (K-5)	955-6709	Daniel Ferguson	4601 SW 20 <sup>th</sup> Terrace, Gainesville
Irby, W. W. (PK-2)	(386) 462-5002	Valdenora Fortner	13505 NW 140 <sup>th</sup> Street, Alachua
Lake Forest (PK-5)	955-6710	Diane Hill	4401 SE 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Littlewood (PK-5)	955-6712	Jen Homard	812 NW 34 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Meadowbrook (K-5)	333-2828	Brad Burklew	11525 NW 39 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Metcalfe, W. A. (PK-5)	955-6713	Pat Phillips	1250 NE 18 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Newberry (PK-4)	472-1100	Lacy Redd	25705 SW 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Newberry
Norton, C. W. (K-5)	955-6765	Kim Neal	2200 NW 45 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Rawlings, M. K. (PK-5)	955-6715	Daniel Burney	3500 NE 15 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Shell, Chester (PK-5)	481-1901	Libby Hartwell	21633 SE 65 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hawthorne
Talbot, Wm. S. (PK-5)	955-6716	Lina Bedoya Burklew	5701 NW 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville
Terwilliger, Myra (PK-5)	955-6717	Lynn M. McNeill	301 NW 62 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Gainesville
Waldo Comm. (PK-5)	468-1451	Holly Burton	14450 NE 148 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Waldo
Wiles, Kimball (K-5)	955-6955	Dr. Barbara Buys	4601 SW 75 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Williams, Joseph (K-5)	955-6719	Karla Hutchinson	1245 SE 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>			
Bishop, Howard W. (6-8)	955-6701	Mike Gamble	1901 NE 9 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Ft. Clarke (6-8)	333-2800	Donna Kidwell	9301 NW 23 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Hawthorne Middle/High (6-12)	481-1900	Libby Hartwell	21403 SE 69 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hawthorne
High Springs Comm. (K-8)	(386) 454-1958	Jeffrey Means	1015 N Main, High Springs
Kanapaha (6-8)	955-6960	Jennifer Wise	5005 SW 75 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Lincoln, Abraham (6-8)	955-6711	Don Lewis	1001 SE 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Mebane, A. L. (6-8)	(386) 462-1648	Manda Bessner	16401 NW 140 <sup>th</sup> Street, Alachua
Oak View (5-8)	472-1102	Katherine Munn	1203 SW 250 <sup>th</sup> Street, Newberry
Westwood (6-8)	955-6718	James TenBiege	3215 NW 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>			
Buchholz, F. W. (9-12)	955-6702	Vicente Perez	5510 NW 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville
Eastside (9-12)	955-6704	Jeff Charbonnet	1201 SE 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville
Gainesville (9-12)	955-6707	David Shelnut	1900 NW 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville
Hawthorne Middle/High (6-12)	481-1900	Libby Hartwell	21403 SE 69 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hawthorne
Loften (PK & 6-12)	955-6839	Bill McElroy	3000 E University Avenue, Gainesville
Newberry (9-12)	472-1101	Kevin Purvis	400 SW 258 <sup>th</sup> Street, Newberry
Santa Fe (9-12)	(386) 462-1125	Dr. Beth LeClear	16213 NW US Hwy 441, Alachua

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# Our Mission

To be the trusted source of innovative real estate solutions by maintaining a culture of success marked by unparalleled professionalism, hard work, a positive work environment, and a dedication to being the number one real estate firm in Alachua and surrounding counties.



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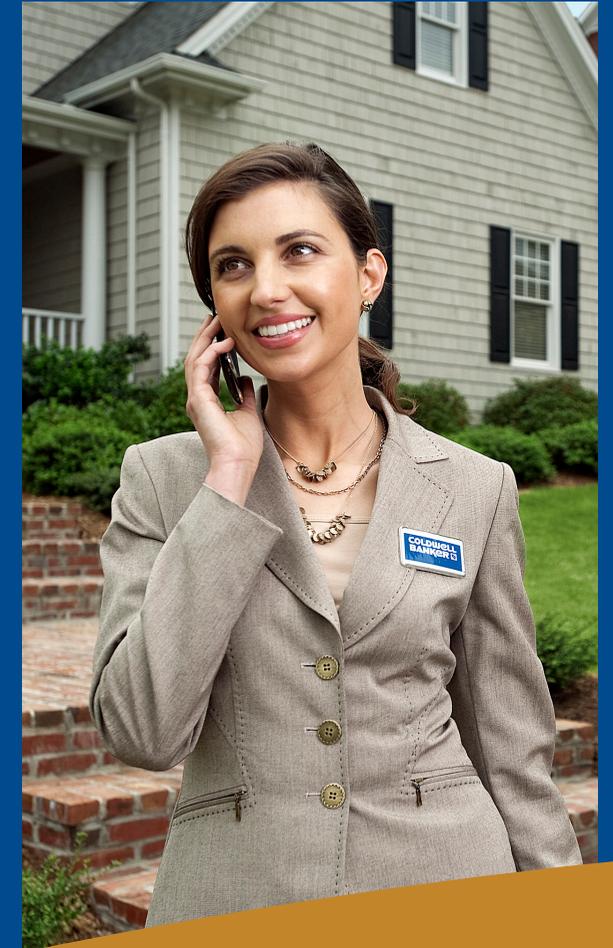
## REALTORS® ... Experienced Professionals

We at Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish are prominently involved in the local real estate community and strive for continued excellence in the industry.

Associates of our company have held leadership positions throughout the years and been recognized by their peers for outstanding performance.

With over 80 professional and experienced Realtors, Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors is uniquely qualified to serve you.

- More than half our Sales Associates have been with the company for over 10 YEARS
- Almost half are BROKER ASSOCIATES, holding their own Broker's license from the State of Florida
- Over 20% hold the GRI DESIGNATION (Graduate Realtor Institute) considered the nation's number one real estate designation



## Service... Supporting our community



Our Company has had a strong culture of supporting our community for over 100 years. Our Staff, Management and Sales Associates are proud to participate in hundreds of different volunteer programs, organizations, fundraisers and community events as individuals. As a Company, we are involved in many local charities and sponsor several local events every year.

Our signature projects are Habitat for Humanity and the Food4Kids Backpack Program.

## Our Past... A Tradition of Service

In 1911, Mercer Moorman Parrish, Sr. chose Gainesville -- the fourth largest city in Florida at the time -- over Orlando and Perry, as the location of the Inter-Southern Life Insurance Company's first Florida office. He quickly persuaded his father, James Howard Parrish, to relocate from Kentucky and formed the father/son real estate business of James H. & M.M. Parrish, Realtors.

The two went on to build leading real estate and insurance businesses and, in the process, became two of Gainesville's most prominent residents. They were active in both civic and business circles and truly influenced the course of the city's history. Neighborhoods such as The Duckpond and Golf View were developed by the pair.

In the 1930's, Moorman's sons, M. and H., carried on the family businesses. They began their own residential construction company and built a wide range of housing types throughout the city. M. also established a commercial construction company which was involved in the building or renovation of many Gainesville landmarks like the Thomas Center and UF's South End Zone.

M. was influential in bringing new industry and business to Gainesville (G.E., Sperry Rand, and others), and like his father, would alter the course of the city's development. In the early 1950's, M. formed M.M. Parrish & Associates and became known as "Mr. Real Estate" for all the hours he dedicated to the industry and community.

In the early 1970's the insurance business was sold and the construction business would be sold in 1984. When H. Parrish died in 1971 his son Jim joined the company to focus on commercial brokerage. The company grew from twelve associates in 1980

to over forty by 1984. Jim became active in the real estate industry at both the state and national level and served as the President of the Florida Association of Realtors in 1989.

In 2000, at the age of 52, Jim suffered a fatal heart attack (as did his father and grandfather) leaving wife, Susan, as the first female owner of the company.

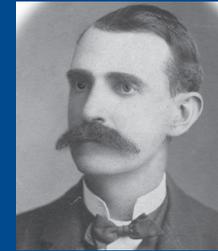
To kick off the next 100 years, family-owned M. M. Parrish Realtors joined with a new family in October of 2011. Beau Beery and father-in-law Todd Rainsberger became co-owners with the mother/son team of Susan and J. Parrish. Beau heads-up the Commercial Property Division, while J. serves as CEO and continues to oversee the entire operation. As Director of Community Relations, Susan represents the Company and encourages participation in many charitable and volunteer efforts. Todd, although without a formal title, offers 'big picture' leadership and is involved with Beau in building a strong Commercial Division. Overall operation of the Company is a group affair.

Also in 2011, a professional property management company was launched to provide owner/investors the highest return on their real estate investments in both commercial and residential leasing. The company also serves clients who wish to rent property rather than purchase.

In January of 2013, Michael Kitchens, a 20-year industry veteran and 7th generation resident of Gainesville, was hired as President of the Company.

The company today operates from two locations with over 80 Sales Associates ready to assist. After more than 100 years in business through some of the most challenging and rewarding times, the company is poised to move strongly into the future — serving the greater Gainesville market with the highest level of service.

## Our Present... A Commitment to Excellence



James Howard Parrish  
1855 - 1928



Mercer Moorman Parrish, Sr.  
1886 - 1951



Mercer Moorman Parrish, Jr.  
1915 - 2001



Henry Howard Parrish  
1914 - 1971



James Moorman Parrish, Sr.  
1947 - 2000



Susan Parrish  
Director of Community Relations



J. Parrish  
Owner, CEO, Broker



Mike Kitchens  
President, Broker



Beau Beery  
Owner/Broker



Todd Rainsberger  
Owner/Broker Associate

In 1982, M. M. Parrish & Associates, Inc. affiliated with Coldwell Banker, the oldest and most established residential real estate franchise system in North America.

## The Value of the Coldwell Banker® Brand

The story of Coldwell Banker® is a story of leadership and success. From its beginnings in San Francisco in 1906, Coldwell Banker has grown to become one of the premier residential real estate organizations in the world. Coldwell Banker was founded on a commitment to professionalism and customer service that continues to be the core of its business philosophy today. Coldwell Banker provides its sales associates with the strongest support in the real estate industry so they in turn can deliver the support their buyers and sellers need. That's the Coldwell Banker tradition.

Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors combines a local well-respected name with the national brand which results in proven competitive advantage. We provide our customers with worldwide exposure through cutting-edge marketing technology.

# 100 Things to Love About Gainesville

TheVillageJournal.com, Vol. 8 No. 1, By Dante Lima

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Whether you're a Gainesville Native, new to town or just a longtime resident, you know there is a lot to love about this little North Central Florida community. With that in mind, we compiled 100 things that make Gainesville the town we love.

In no particular order...

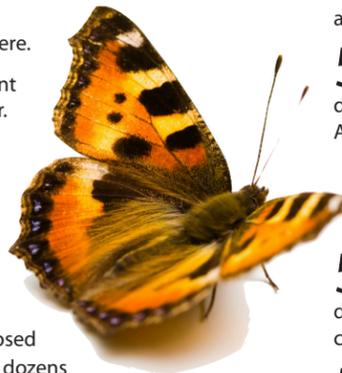
- 1 **Gainesville ranked #1 place to live in 2007 by the New York Times.**
- 2 The University of Florida. Of course the chant rings true: It's great to be a Florida Gator.
- 3 The Hippodrome State Theater. Not only does "The Hipp" make downtown Gainesville more beautiful, but it's also the setting for award-winning theater.
- 4 **The weather.** Gainesville just like any other city in Florida can get pretty hot, but the fall and winter can be truly gorgeous and just cold enough to make you feel like you're somewhere else.
- 5 Let's Go Downtown Free Concert series. How many towns host free concerts every Friday night during the summer?
- 6 Morningside Nature Center. A great place to take a stroll or go bird watching.
- 7 Jonesville Tennis Center offers 14 clay courts open to the public.
- 8 The Thomas Center. If you've never been to this Spanish-inspired courtyard just outside downtown Gainesville, it's the perfect place for a picnic.
- 9 Hawthorne Trail. The cyclists love to get their workout on this trail.
- 10 **GATORADE.** It's delicious and it was invented in Gainesville in 1965.
- 11 Gainesville Art Walk. Gainesville's annual art festival is perfect for a family outing.
- 12 Farmer's Markets. Gainesville is host to seven farmer's markets every week.
- 13 Friends of the Library Booksale. Buy classic literature for pennies on the dollar.



- 14 **Alachua County high school students posted the highest SAT scores in the state from 2008-2010.**
- 15 The UF Bat House. See the bats fly over Lake Alice at dusk. It's a Gainesville tradition.
- 16 Game day. Saturdays during the fall revolve around Gator football.
- 17 Planet Walk on NW 8th Ave. You can walk to Neptune and back.
- 18 RTS. The 4th largest mass transit system in the state is a great way to get around.
- 19 The Phillips Center for Performing Arts. This concert hall is host to some of the nation's top talent, from Bela Fleck to the Broadway musical "Avenue Q."
- 20 **Named the "Healthiest City in America" by the Wellness Councils of America in 2003.**
- 21 Hoggetowne Medieval Fair. For over 20 years, this festival has given Gainesville the opportunity to go back in time to joust & eat turkey legs.
- 22 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Paradise on the outskirts of town.
- 23 Lake Wauburg. Just a short drive south of Gainesville and a great place to canoe, paddle boat or just take a jump off the dock.
- 24 **Trees.** Gainesville has been recognized as "Tree City, USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation every year since 1982.
- 25 90 minutes. Gainesville is located just 90 minutes from Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville, leaving a short drive to their respective international airports.
- 26 Edmond P. Gaines. The namesake of Gainesville was a commander in the second Seminole War in 1854.
- 27 **Titletown, USA.** In their 105-year history of intercollegiate competition, University of Florida's varsity athletic teams have won 26 NCAA National Championships.



- 28 Gainesville Regional Utilities is first in the nation to adopt a solar photovoltaic feed-in-tariff.
- 29 Florida Museum of Natural History. Learn about Florida's ancient flora and fauna and the Native American tribes who settled in the area.
- 30 Gainesville Community Playhouse. It's the oldest community theater group in Florida.
- 31 Gainesville Improv Festival. This yearly festival is dedicated to laughter and adds to Gainesville's rich landscape.
- 32 Open air shopping and dining available in Downtown Gainesville, Haile Village Center, Tioga Town Center and Thornebrook Village.
- 33 **Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, later nicknamed "THE SWAMP"** by former head coach Steve Spurrier in the 90's. It is not unusual for the attendance of a Gator home football game to exceed 90,000 people.
- 34 34th Street Wall. The one wall in the city where graffiti is legal. It's also a great place to wish someone happy birthday.
- 35 Stephen O'Connell Center... The O' Dome. Home of the Rowdy Reptiles.
- 36 Gator Growl. The nation's largest pep rally happens here.
- 37 The Independent Florida Alligator. The Alligator is the largest student-run newspaper in the United States.
- 38 The Butterfly Rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. This enclosed outdoor space is home to dozens of species of butterfly.
- 39 **HAILE PLANTATION.** Gainesville is home to one of the nation's first and largest examples of new urbanism.
- 40 Newman's Lake. A great place to spot alligators.



- 41 Harn Museum of Art is one of the largest university art museums in the Southeast.
- 42 The Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo. Features 75 species of animals over 10 acres of land.
- 43 **Haile Homestead.** The original plantation site for what would later become the community of Haile Plantation. It now serves as a museum.
- 44 Gainesville Raceway. This quarter-mile drag strip is home to the NHRA Gatornationals since 1970.
- 45 Home to the award winning Gainesville Health and Fitness Center, named "World Fitness Center of the Year" in 2011.
- 46 Burrito Bros. This restaurant has become a tasty Gainesville landmark.
- 47 **Solar Power.** With more than 7 megawatts of installed solar power for roughly 200,000 people, the city's installed capacity per capita is more than triple the United States average.
- 48 Karma Cream. Locally made organic coffee and ice cream.
- 49 North Central Florida Blues Society. This group of passionate music lovers keeps the blues alive in Gainesville.
- 50 **Growth.** Gainesville is one of Florida's fastest growing cities, displaying a 17.6% population increase relative to the rest of the state in the 2010 census.
- 51 Language diversity. The Modern Language Association's data shows that 12.89% of Gainesville residents speak languages other than English.
- 52 The Bed & Breakfast District. A lovely area just southeast of downtown that's home to a wide array of bed and breakfasts.
- 53 **Urban planning.** Gainesville is on a grid system, which makes finding your way around easy.
- 54 Law enforcement. Gainesville boasts 3 law enforcement entities: Gainesville Police Department, University Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.
- 55 **Gainesville Regional Airport.** More than 1,000 worldwide destinations available through American Airlines, Delta & US Airways hubs.
- 56 Night golf. Light up the night with a round of golf on the fully lit links and driving range at West End Golf Course.
- 57 Monday night jam at Lillian's. For over a decade, Lillian's Music Store in downtown Gainesville has been the musician's choice for open jams.
- 58 No Idea Records. The iconic punk rock record label that started in 1985 calls Gainesville "home."
- 59 The Civic Media Center. A non-profit community run alternative library.
- 60 Olympic Archery training at Easton Sports Complex in Newberry.

- 61 **The Swamp Restaurant.** This Gainesville icon is located across the street from UF's campus and regularly makes the list of best college/sports bars.
- 62 Poker. Ocala Poker & Jai Alai is just a 12-mile drive south of Gainesville.
- 63 Pools. Gainesville Parks and Recreation Dept has 3 public pools for your enjoyment.
- 64 Home of the original Sonny's restaurant, located on Williston Road.
- 65 Disc Golf at Lake Wauburg. A great place to toss a Frisbee.
- 66 Swamphead Brewery. Gainesville's only local brewery.
- 67 High Springs. Just 20 miles north of Gainesville, you'll find a host of springs that you can travel by tube.
- 68 Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park features a 120' deep cavity and mini rain forest.
- 69 **Payne's Prairie.** Enjoy breathtaking sunsets at Florida's first state preserve.
- 70 Paintball. Just south of I-75 for some friendly fire.
- 71 Grooveshark. This online music streaming website was founded in Gainesville by three UF undergraduate students in 2006.
- 72 Smart. Over 49% of residents 25 years or older have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- 73 Rock and Roll. Singer/songwriter Tom Petty and a founding member of the Eagles, Don Felder, were both born in Gainesville.
- 74 **Low cost of living.** As of January 2011, Gainesville's cost of living index is 90.1 compared to 100 across the U.S.
- 75 Baughman Center at UF. A contemplation space that overlooks Lake Alice. Definition of tranquility.
- 76 Pet friendly. Alachua County has five dedicated dog parks.
- 77 Sun Country Sports. A Gainesville staple serving families for 25 years.
- 78 Higher Education. The University of Florida, Santa Fe College, and City College are all located in Gainesville.



- 79 Gainesville is home to the Florida School of Massage where they offer a discounted rate at the student massage clinic.
- 80 Live music. Gainesville is home to over 150 active, local bands.
- 81 LifeSouth Community Blood Center. The community blood bank collects a min. of 266,000 donations annually.
- 82 Food. There's currently over 180 locally owned and operated restaurants in Gainesville.
- 83 Bo Diddley. Gainesville was the longtime home of rock legend Bo Diddley. Downtown's community plaza is named after the legend.
- 84 Rock climbing. There are no mountains in Gainesville, but there are several rock climbing gyms.
- 85 The Gainesville Sun. A New York Times Company- owned regional newspaper.
- 86 Antiques. Micanopy, just 8 miles south of Gainesville, is a destination for antique shoppers in the area.
- 87 **Healthcare.** Shands, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and the VA hospital offer world-class care.
- 88 Biking. The League of American Bicyclists ranked Gainesville best in the state as a Bicycle Friendly Community.
- 89 Satchel's Pizza—a local favorite, known for its unique atmosphere and delicious pizza.
- 90 City Parks. There are 25 city owned parks and conservation areas.
- 91 Gainesville Jazz Festival. A yearly tribute to America's truest art form.
- 92 The Homecoming Parade. A tradition in its 88th year with over 100,000 people in attendance.
- 93 Beer & Wine. Gainesville is home to dozens of downtown bars that specialize in craft beer & fine wines.
- 94 Florida Innovation Hub at UF. The new all-inclusive business incubator surrounded by retail spaces & residential living.
- 95 **Short commute.** The average travel time to work for residents is 18 minutes.
- 96 **LOW UNEMPLOYMENT!** Gainesville's unemployment rate is 7.4% compared to 10.6% for the rest of FL.
- 97 Air quality. Gainesville's Air Quality Index in 2010 was 27.2, five points better than the national average.
- 98 Fracture. This innovative company calls Gainesville home & transforms your digital picture into a glass masterpiece.
- 99 Rock bands **Less Than Jake, Hot Water Music, Sister Hazel and Against Me!** all got their start in Gainesville.
- 100 Dragonfly Restaurant. Downtown attraction for sushi lovers and socialites that has gained a loyal following.



# Alachua County Named A Top Community For Kids

By KIMBERLY C. MOORE  
The Gainesville Sun staff writer

*An earlier version of this article incorrectly stated that a tax approved by voters in 2008 was a one-cent sales tax.*

Children snuggle up to grown-ups who read to them at the Alachua County Public Library. Volunteers help elementary and middle school students learn math, writing, reading and science. And skateboarders swoop down ramps at Possum Creek Park.

Those snapshots of life for Alachua County children are why Gen. Colin Powell and his wife Alma's organization, America's Promise Alliance, named the county one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" in the nation.



The award comes as the Alachua County Children's Alliance continues to work toward increasing after-school help for those in need, reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates, along with reducing the number of children in foster care. The alliance is a nonpartisan group that meets monthly to promote better outcomes for children.

"It's really congratulations to the community and the community alliance," said Esther Tibbs, Department of Children and Families circuit administrator and county alliance board member. "While we have work ahead of us, this marks a milestone as public and private agencies have found new ways to cooperate and collaborate to better meet the needs of Alachua County's children."

Alachua County — like most counties in Florida — struggles with Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test scores, along with poverty and drop-out rates.

The Gainesville Sun reviewed statistics provided by the Florida Department of Education and found Alachua County graduation rates and FCAT reading scores improving, along with a decline in the dropout rate. But the numbers also highlight the work that lies ahead:

Nearly 23 percent of high school students didn't graduate last year.

55 percent of 10th-graders did not pass the FCAT reading test this year.

Nearly 50 percent of students receive a free or reduced-price lunch.

"It's only a beginning," Tibbs said about the work and the award.

One bright spot is that Alachua County's SAT scores are the highest in the state. High school students nationwide take the test, which can determine college scholarships and placement at universities.

Part of the reason Alachua County won the 100 Best award, organizers say, is not because it's at the top of the heap in test scores or athletics but because residents are working to make a difference in children's lives each day, especially those in need.

**The 100 Best Communities for Young People are taking bold and effective steps to help their youth graduate and lead healthy, productive lives.**

"These winning communities refuse to let the challenges they face be the determining factor in the lives of their children and youth," Alma Powell said. "Instead, they are helping to build an infrastructure of assertive, successful and dynamic young people that are the future of this country."

Alachua County agencies have revved up or started new programs in the past few years, including: Success By 6, a United Way program to encourage children to be ready for school. The organization has spent \$1.8 million on programs dedicated to improving school readiness.

Boys and Girls Clubs, a stalwart of after-school activities for decades.

Snuggle-Up Centers, a program in which volunteers read to children at Alachua County Public Libraries.

Welcome Baby Kits, which sends volunteers into homes with books to encourage families to read.

In addition, community leaders in 2008 successfully campaigned to get a one-mil property tax passed to pay for arts programs in the schools at a time when budget cuts were killing similar programs throughout the state.

The Alachua County School District last year received a 21st Century Learning Community Grant, a federally funded program that provides after-school help for elementary and middle school students. The first-year grant was for \$700,000. It is allowing the district to provide after-school and summer help for every middle school student in the district — more than 10,000 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders.

"And absolutely everything is free ... not a nickel out of parents' pockets," Melissa Montgomery, the program's coordinator, said when it was announced last fall. "Students do not have to financially qualify. As long as a student is enrolled at a school in Alachua County, they can attend one of these sites."

In addition to tutoring, the program provides extracurricular activities such as dance, photography, martial arts, mad scientist, art, furniture design and technology-based activities. It is designed to improve academic performance along with the behavior of adolescents and preteens.

One student who says after-school programs made her life better is Jatterra Bonds, a freshman basketball player at the University of Florida. She participated in the city of Gainesville's recreation programs at the Northeast Community Center.

"I learned patience, social interaction, how to take criticism, discipline and many other valuable lessons," said Bonds, a graduate of P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School at UF. "I have changed as a person, because now I'm more mature and know how to handle the different situations of life."

Published: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 12:33 p.m.  
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"The 100 Best Communities for Young People are taking bold and effective steps to help their youth graduate and lead healthy, productive lives," Alma Powell, chair of the Alliance, said Tuesday. "Each community has proven that they are developing programs and implementing initiatives to provide young people with the essential resources they need to graduate from high school and succeed in college and a 21st century career."

Brent Christensen and Eric Godet from the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce along with Alachua County Children's Alliance member Beck O'Brien accepted the award in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument. A local celebration is scheduled for Nov. 7 to recognize the agencies that contributed to the recognition. County officials will receive two road signs designating the area as one of the 100 best as well as a trophy.

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# Top 10 Best College Towns

## What makes a great college town?

*A great college, naturally.*

*Gainesville ✓*

*Plenty of youthful energy? You bet.*

*Gainesville ✓*

*An abundance of kitschy cafes and indie bookstores and a vibrant music and art scene?*

*You can count on it.*

*Gainesville ✓*

*And if there's a home team to write home about, HOORAY!*

*Gainesville ✓*

The best college towns, like the ones on our list, offer something for everyone: cultural diversity, a mix of urban sophistication and small-town charm, great outdoor spaces and places for intellectual curiosity to thrive.



"Top 10 Best College Towns," Parents & Colleges (December 2010)  
[www.parentsandcolleges.com/top-ten-lists/list07-bct/](http://www.parentsandcolleges.com/top-ten-lists/list07-bct/). Accessed 20 March 2012.

1. Austin, TX *Population: 709,893*
2. Boulder, CO *Population: 91,481*
3. Madison, WI *Population: 223,389*
4. Berkeley, CA *Population: 101,555*
5. Athens, GA *Population: 111,580*
6. Princeton, NJ *Population: 13,381*
7. Eugene, OR *Population: 146,356*
8. Chapel Hill, NC *Population: 49,919*

## 9. Gainesville, FL

*Population: 108,655*

The University of Florida and its beloved Gators dominate the landscape of this sports-loving city. But that's not the only reason why Gainesville is a great college town. Vibrant downtown Gainesville provides a central location for just about everything, from local restaurants to movies and theater to art and music. There's live theater and first-run foreign, limited-release and avant-garde films at The Hipp (Hippodrome State Theatre), art festivals and shows all year long, free concerts and performing arts every Friday night from May through October in Bo Diddley Community Plaza, 13 museums and galleries, cafes and clubs—all reachable by Gainesville's public bus transportation system. Gainesville is also just a short drive from breathtaking beaches on the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. But nature lover's will find plenty of beautiful spaces right here, including Morningside Nature Center, the city's premier nature park with seven miles of trails winding through native vegetation, and the magnificent Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, with 62 acres of lakeside forests and gardens for picnicking and strolling.

\* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 estimate

10. Lawrence, KS *Population: 88,605*

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# Top 5 Cities For Investors

ALAMEDA, Calif. – June 7, 2011 – Investors have accounted for a greater bulk of real estate transactions in recent months as they've looked to snag some of the ultra-low prices from distressed sales and other properties. In fact, investors are expected to outnumber traditional homebuyers three to one in the next two years, according to a study by Move Inc.

Inman News recently conducted an analysis of hundreds of real estate markets to determine the top markets for real estate investors, taking into account such factors as the median sales price, loan data, foreclosure sales and discount statistics, population, and unemployment data.

Here are the top five cities that Inman News found as the best real estate markets for investors:

1. Indianapolis-Carmel, Ind.
2. Winchester, Va.-W.Va.
- 3. Gainesville, Fla.**
4. Tuscon, Ariz.
5. Tallahassee, Fla.

Other cities rounding out the top 10: Hagerstown-Martinsburg, Md.-W.Va.; Salt Lake City; Richmond, Va.; Gainesville, Ga.; and Winston-Salem, N.C.

In its analysis, Inman also found that 52 percent of the investors surveyed said they would be "somewhat likely" to buy another investment property or vacation home in the next two years.

Source: "10 Best Markets for Real Estate Investors," Inman News (June 3, 2011)  
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# America's 25 Greenest Cities

*Earth Day was celebrated Friday, but how does your city fare the other 364 days of the year? The Daily Beast crunches the numbers to determine the 25 cities with the greenest citizens.*

The country went green this past weekend, on the heels of Earth Day on Friday. Sacramento held a concert in Southside Park supported by dozens of local groups, organizers in San Francisco, among other things, held a cleanup in Dolores Park, while in New York City an expo of cultural and technological innovations related to the environment was held in Grand Central Terminal.

Beyond these weekend-long events, Earth Day also coincided with a flurry of green-friendly, long-term initiatives. CityBus in Lafayette, Indiana, broke ground on a wind-power project that will provide electricity through wind turbines to city bus facilities, while in Seattle the King County Department of Transportation announced it would add 25 electric vehicles to its fleet in 2011.

Given all the environmental focus, The Daily Beast wanted to find out where cities stand on their green record the rest of the year, beyond Earth Day. To find the greenest cities with 100,000 or more people, we looked at citizen behavior across five categories, each weighted equally, with the final ranking determined by a comparison of each city's performance compared to the average for each category:

**Do citizens not just think green, but also behave green in their day-to-day lives?** Using current behavioral survey data measuring the percent of people in each city that put their green beliefs into action, from market research firm Experian Simmons, we took a look at:

Average trips taken on public transport each weekday, with fourth-quarter 2010 data from the American Public Transportation Association, a nonprofit that advocates on behalf of 343 transit systems.

The percent of homes that use solar energy for heating, with data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The percent of people who make a conscious effort to recycle.

Finally, in the antithesis of the first category, cities were brought down in the rankings based on the percentage of people who are willing to admit to no concern or consciousness of environmental issues, with current survey data from Experian Simmons.

"America's 25 Greenest Cities," The Daily Beast (April 24, 2011) [www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/04/24/americas-greenest-cities-new-york-las-vegas-san-francisco-and-more.print.html](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/04/24/americas-greenest-cities-new-york-las-vegas-san-francisco-and-more.print.html). Accessed 15 Mar. 2012.

1. New York, NY
2. Las Vegas, NV
3. San Francisco, CA
4. Washington, DC
5. Albuquerque, NM
6. Boston, MA

## 7. GAINESVILLE, FL

Residents that think and act eco-consciously: 34%  
Residents that are not eco-conscious: 15%  
Residents that recycle: 63%  
Average weekday trips on public transportation: 45,000  
Homes with solar heating: 0.06%

8. Chicago, IL
9. Philadelphia, PA
10. Baltimore, MD
11. San Diego, CA
12. Santa Barbara, CA
13. Los Angeles, CA
14. Tucson, AZ
15. Portland, OR
16. Lafayette, IN
17. Casper, WY
18. Colorado Springs, CO
19. Seattle, WA
20. Denver, CO
21. Grand Junction, CO
22. Medford, OR
23. Madison, WI
24. Reno, NV
25. Missoula, MT

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PHOTO BY GENIE BENDAREK/SILVER IMAGES PHOTO AGENCY

The circa-1920 Thomas Center  
is home to art galleries and  
performance space.

# Coming of Age

*Discover Gainesville's new diversity.* By Ted Spiker

*For many outside of Florida, Gainesville may be best known for two things: Gatorade and Tim Tebow. But those who truly know this city understand its depth and its three-dimensional environment — a cool balance of nature, culture, business, sports, and education.*





Hippodrome State Theatre

**H**

ome to the state's oldest university, the University of Florida (UF), Gainesville retains its funky, college-town vibe. But many say its appeal is much more diverse nowadays.

"It used to be a hippie town — a really cool, very grassroots little town, but also very progressive," says Stephanie Ivey, owner of Ivey's Grill and a resident since 1987.

Today, Gainesville offers many of the amenities of a larger city (championship-level sports and a rich arts community) without some of the hassles (rush hour).

Located in the north central part of the state about half-way between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, the city has a population

of about 125,000. Served by the Gainesville Regional Airport, the area is convenient to popular destination spots like Orlando. But visitors and residents find plenty to keep them

busy in Gainesville and Alachua County.

Spend the afternoon at the circa-1920 Thomas Center, a restored Mediterranean

Revival-style manse filled with art galleries, history exhibits, and 1920s period rooms, all surrounded by landscaped gardens. Then head to the downtown district to savor Asian and Pan-Latin-inspired dishes (see dining on page 88). Afterward, check out the live-music scene or catch a play or film at the Hippodrome State Theatre, housed in a historic Federal Building.

Culture vultures will enjoy the new Asian wing at The Harn Museum of Art in UF's Cultural Plaza. And kids (and the young at heart) will love the teaching zoo at Santa Fe College, where they can stroll the 10-acre forest and commune with cuddly critters from fur to feathers (monkeys to parrots).

Nature lovers can also get a close look at local wildlife in nearby Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, home to bison, horses, sandhill cranes, and more than 270 bird species. Many visit Gainesville's nearby parks and waterways for hiking, biking, snorkeling, and canoeing.

"We love the Ichetucknee River for the clarity of the water and the beauty of the scenery," says

Linda Demetropoulos, nature and cultural manager of the city's Division of Cultural Affairs, who spends leisure time kayaking in the area. "Gainesville is one of my favorite places in Florida because of the beauty, especially the tree canopies."

Many also point to Gainesville as a city that supports new business and technology. The new Innovation Square located next to the UF campus will develop into a place where science, technology, and business merge to bring new ideas to the marketplace.

"What you find here is a community that's incredibly entrepreneurial in nature," says Brent Christensen, president and CEO of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. "Gatorade was the university's product that gave it fame and fortune in the marketplace, but now the university is even more committed to find more Gatorades, whether it's in the life-science field, the green-energy field, or the information-technology field."

Part of that spirit comes from the constant influx of young minds into all areas of the community, whether it's business, arts, or athletics. Part of it also comes from the one-degree-of-separation residents feel with each other. When popular pizza place Satchel's temporarily closed after a kitchen fire, supporters raised more than \$35,000 to help pay out-of-work employees. (Satchel's plans to reopen in June.)

"There's a constant feeling of vitality, and we're seeing that more than ever before," says



From top: Future plans for Innovation Square; tubing on the Ichetucknee River; Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at University of Florida

Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe. "Gainesville has a very diverse population and a large international community. It's a midsize city with many things you find in a large city, but you still maintain the quality of life that's so special to us."



Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) BY GENE BENDAREK/SILVER IMAGE; PHOTO AGENCY; COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; VISIT GAINESVILLE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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left: Korea, *Gilt Wood Seated Bodhisattva*, Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910) 17th century, museum purchase, gift of Michael and Donna Singer  
right: China, *Covered Jar*, Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), 18th century, museum purchase, gift of a private donor

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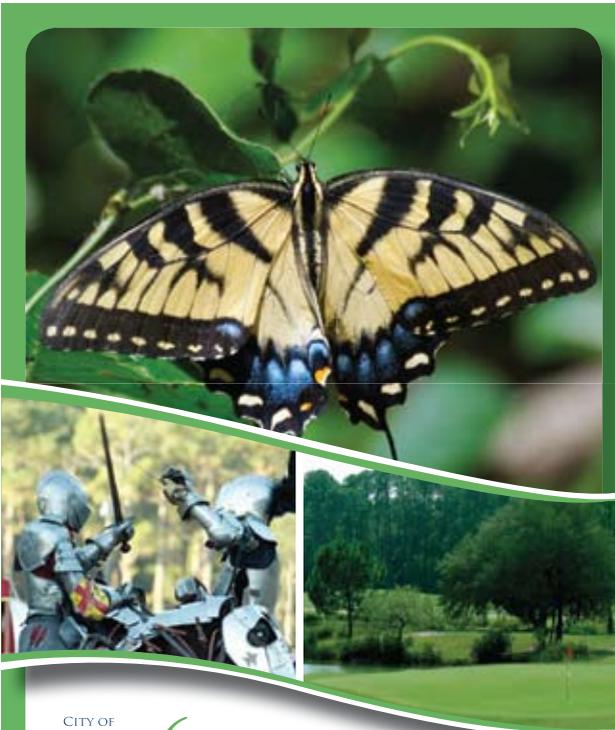


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Gainesville |



Researcher at Innovation Square

*Reaching*  
**Higher**

From high tech to higher ed, Gainesville is on the cutting edge. **By Chris Eversole**

**W**hen Augi Lye graduated from the University of Florida (UF) in 2006, he got offers from across the country. But the 2006 grad decided not to move.

Lye decided to stay in Gainesville to work for Prioria Robotics, a company founded by UF grads that builds portable unmanned aircraft.

"I took a big pay cut from what I could have made in a big city, but I figured that Prioria was getting started like all big companies get started," Lye says. His gamble on Gainesville paid off. After working for Prioria for two and half

years, Lye pursued the technical side of a more artistic pastime — the cello. He launched his first company, ToneRite, which makes a device that

increases tone, playability, and balance in string instruments. Lye then started a computer gaming company, Trendy Entertainment, which has grown to employ 30 techies — thanks to the success of its Dungeon Defenders product.

UF researchers and graduates like Lye have long defined Gainesville's economy. The late Dr. J. Robert Cade, a UF scientist, created

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Innovation Hub

*Rather than relying on the solid education and health-care sectors, Gainesville works actively to attract new business.*

Gatorade in the 1960s to keep Gator football players hydrated on the field. In 1985, UF physician Bill Petty, his wife Betty, and UF biomedical engineer Gary Miller started Exactech, a manufacturer of joint replacements. Today the company employs more than 600 people and boasts more than \$200 million in annual sales. While these high-tech spin-offs keep the Gainesville economy growing, its foundation remains higher education and health care. With an annual economic impact exceeding \$8.76 billion, UF has an



Trendy Entertainment's office in Gainesville

enrollment of 50,000 students and employs more than 13,800 full-time workers, as well as an additional 12,500 student and part-time workers.

Health care closely follows higher education's impact on the local economy. The cornerstones are Shands at UF, the university's academic medical center, and North Florida Regional Medical Center, both of which *U.S. News & World Report* regularly ranks within the top 50 in various medical specialties.

"Health care is one heck of an economic engine," says Brent Christensen, president and CEO of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. "Like higher education, health care buffers us from extremes in the economy."

And so does diversity: Insurance adds another important ingredient to the economic mix. Nationwide Insurance has its regional headquarters in Gainesville, which is also home to AvMed Health Plans.

But rather than relying on the solid education and health-care sectors, Gainesville works actively to attract new business. In fact, it has more incubators per capita than any other U.S. city, according to Ann Collett, vice president of Innovation Gainesville, a community-wide effort led by the chamber and the Council for Economic Outreach to bring high-skill and high-wage jobs to town.

Lye, for example, started his companies in the Downtown Technology Center, a business incubator created by Ken and Linda McGurn. The McGurns helped transform the downtown

PHOTOS (FROM LEFT) COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, TRENDY ENTERTAINMENT



Making connections that change the way people experience their lives.

Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, one of the nation's ten largest public universities.

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**The University of Florida - By the Numbers**

**#1** Public university for transferring research discoveries to the marketplace. (*Milken Institute, 2006*)

**14th** Among all universities—public and private—in the number of U.S. patents issued. (*2010*)

**350,000+** Total living alumni, worldwide



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Clockwise: Shands Cancer Hospital; UF&Shands researcher; neurosurgery at Shands.



# Connecting science and the marketplace.

## Upgrade to Green

Travel through the Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV), which serves more than 350,000 passengers annually, and the first thing you'll notice is the welcoming, sunny terminal complete with rocking chairs and fountain. The recent face-lift, part of a \$7 million multiphase renovation project, also includes deeper changes such as a new, energy-efficient HVAC system.

Passengers flying in might also spot the airport's recently installed solar panels on the terminal roof. Not only are the panels a green source of energy, GNV is able to sell back up to 300 kilowatts of power to Gainesville Regional Utilities through its Solar Feed In Tariff program. By participating in the tariff program, the airport gains revenue and helps Gainesville maintain its status as a national hub for green technology. [gra-gnv.com](http://gra-gnv.com)

business district into a vibrant destination featuring locally owned restaurants and bars, as well as government offices and space for technology companies.

The newest, largest incubator is UF's Florida Innovation Hub, a 48,000-square-foot building located midway between the campus and downtown. Its abundance of office space, laboratories, conference rooms,

and other resources support new startup companies, which use technologies that spring from university laboratories. Take Synogen Development Group, a tenant that has invested in and mentors new medical technology companies, helping young entrepreneurs build their businesses.

The Innovation Hub is part of a much larger entrepreneurial development, the roughly 40-acre Innovation Square at the University of Florida, which focuses on cutting-edge creativity and technology development. Both public and private sectors are working together to develop the square into a new live, work, and play community.

With so many resources for businesses, Gainesville attracts growing companies like MindTree Limited, a global IT and product engineering company. MindTree recently selected Gainesville for its United States expansion, slated to bring in 400 new, high-tech jobs over the next five years.

But while the city is reaching toward the future, Gainesville is also preserving the legacy of its previous innovators. The Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention will honor Gatorade inventor Dr. Robert Cade at its future home in Depot Park just south of downtown.

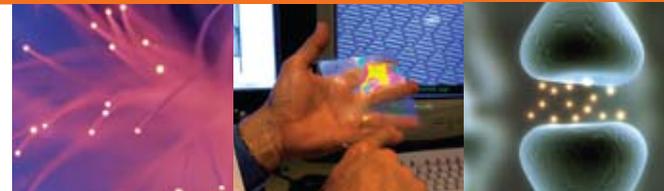
The museum is one of many examples of the dynamic economy being fostered by Innovation Gainesville. "We have a community that allows cool things to happen," Collett says. We couldn't agree more.

PHOTOS (LEFT AND TOP RIGHT) COURTESY OF SHANDS (BOTTOM RIGHT) BY SARAH BESS KIEWEL

Through its commitment to research, the University of Florida is a recognized leader in making innovations available to society.

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### UF Research at a glance - Fiscal 2011

**4,000+** Scientists/scholars researching hundreds of disciplines

**7,000+** Active research projects

**\$619M** Total sponsored research awards

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[research.ufl.edu/otl](http://research.ufl.edu/otl)

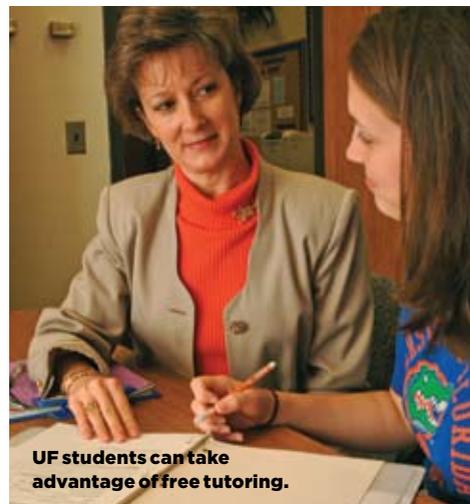
Gainesville

Students stroll through UF's historic portion of campus.

# Knowledge is Power

And Gainesville boasts powerhouse educational institutions. **By Ted Spiker**

**W**hile the area boasts several colleges, Alachua County is perhaps best known as the home of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College.



UF students can take advantage of free tutoring.

## University of Florida

With an enrollment of 50,000 and more than 5,000 faculty members, the University of Florida (UF) is one of only six public land-grant universities in the country offering colleges of medicine, veterinary medicine, agriculture, and law, all on one central campus.

Tracing to 1853, UF moved to Gainesville from Lake City in 1906. Today, the campus stretches over 2,000 acres, and includes state-of-the-art facilities like the Shands teaching hospital. Clinical

researchers there conduct groundbreaking studies on gene therapy, cancer, neurological diseases, and much more. In 2010–2011 alone, the university received more than \$619 million in research funding.

“If you’ve noticed a trend here — innovation — that’s no accident,” says Win Phillips, senior vice president and chief operating officer. “It’s what we do, and we do it exceptionally well.”

UF students also do exceptionally well. About 90 percent of incoming freshmen score above average on standardized testing. As for athletics, UF has 27 national team championships and 203 Southeastern Conference championships under its belt, but it’s also the only SEC school to have placed 100 or more student-athletes on the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the past 14 years.

Students and faculty point to the fact that UF, like Gainesville, has the advantages of a large entity while still remaining intimate.

“I can’t think of another university that would appeal to me like UF does. It has the research, but the colleges are small enough to remind you that it’s made up of people,” says Professor Emeritus Paul Doering, a UF alumnus and one of the world’s leading pharmacy experts. “When a person closes their eyes and thinks about a university, what more could come to mind than the UF campus?”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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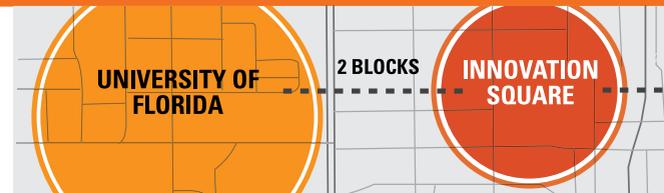
The Florida Innovation Hub at UF

Tech-based companies and breakthrough ideas are thriving at the University of Florida’s Innovation Square.

At Innovation Square, UF has created a live/work/play community that cultivates and inspires creative thinking, fosters constant interaction between entrepreneurs and investors, and fuels ideas that drive progress.

At its heart and only two blocks from campus, lies the Florida Innovation Hub, a 48,000-square-foot super incubator that is providing entrepreneurs immediate access to the resources they need to take flight. Like all-inclusive leases, modern labs, and access to resident business service providers.

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## Santa Fe College

Established as a community college in 1965, Santa Fe gained approval to offer four-year degrees in 2008. Now the college offers both two- and four-year degrees, with flexible part-time and online programs, to approximately 25,000 students. An additional 9,000 students take advantage of Santa Fe's continuing education and enrichment courses each year.

"With the population of Florida growing year after year, and more high-school students seeking college education, Santa Fe welcomed the opportunity to provide bachelor's degrees, especially to students in our region who need to study part-time and continue working," says Ed Bonahue, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Santa Fe is well-known for programs in biotechnology, digital media, and the arts, as well as for the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, the only nationally accredited zoo on a college campus. The five-semester zoo animal technology program gives students instruction, training, and clinical experience.

In addition, Santa Fe has strong



Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo

PHOTOS (FROM TOP) GENE BEDNAREK/SILVER IMAGE® PHOTO AGENCY; COURTESY OF SANTA FE COLLEGE

programs in the health field, such as nursing, respiratory care, surgical technology, radiographic technology and medical imaging, dental hygiene and assisting programs, and cardiovascular technology.

"Gainesville has become a regional hub for health care and related life-science activities," says Santa Fe College President Jackson Sasser, "so if I had to name one cluster of programs where we really partner with our com-

munity and respond to community needs, it would be health sciences."

Santa Fe also reaches out to the community through its Center for Innovation and Economic Development (CIED), which nurtures local businesses. One of the most successful CIED companies is Student Maid, a cleaning service started by a UF graduate that employs honor students. Just another example of how Santa Fe impacts the Gainesville community.

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# Culture & Nature

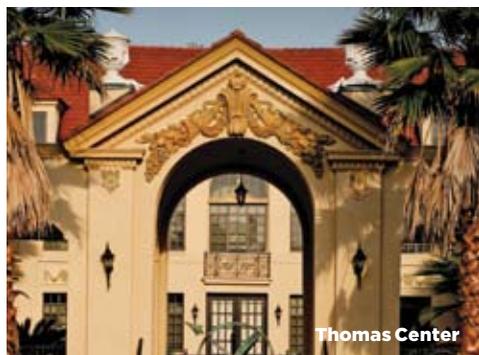
Gainesville's many ways to play

By Alisson Clark

Canoes along a typical north Florida spring



Step into the Thomas Center, a Mediterranean Revival-style hotel turned cultural oasis in downtown Gainesville, to experience one of the area's many attractions that have drawn tourists for more than a century.



Thomas Center

Luminaries like Robert Frost wintered here in the 1930s, doubtless drawn by palm trees and mild winters, as well as the lively intellectual and cultural community of a college town.

Today, those lures remain, along with a host of new attractions. The newest is the 26,000-square-foot David A. Cofrin Asian Art Wing at the Harn Museum of Art on the University of Florida campus. A showcase for the museum's 2,000 Asian works from 2500 B.C. to the present, the wing also includes a rock garden and water garden with koi ponds and bonsai.

"So much of Asian art reflects nature, so the art you see inside is embodied by the gardens outside," says Tami Wroath, the Harn's director

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): LEFT COURTESY OF VISIT GAINESVILLE; MUSEUM PURCHASE; GIFT OF DR. AND MRS. DAVID A. COFRIN/HARN ART MUSEUM; GENE BEONAREK/SILVER IMAGE PHOTO AGENCY (2)

of marketing and public relations. Of course, you won't want to miss the Harn's other treasures, such as Monet's oil on canvas, *Champ d'avoine (Oat Field)*. Curators rotate exhibitions from the museum's collection of 8,300 works, ranging from Ancient American to contemporary.

Steps away, you'll find the rest of UF's Cultural Plaza, including the Florida Museum of Natural History. A draw for families as well as nature- and history-lovers of all ages, the museum's interactive exhibits let visitors explore a cave, a Native American hut, and a Florida estuary. In the museum's

Butterfly Rainforest, hundreds of free-flying butterflies flutter amid a 6,400-square-foot screened enclosure filled with tropical plants and waterfalls.

Another top attraction for nature lovers is the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, where visitors can explore on their own, or take a guided tour (reservations required) with a student who's learning to care for the resident ocelots, monkeys, otters, and other animals — more than 75 species in all.

"It's different from a typical walk around a zoo because you're getting information about the animals from someone who takes care of them," says director Jonathan Miot. "You get to learn about the animals' personalities."

The zoo attracts more than 30,000 visitors per year, but there's more to experience at Santa Fe College. You'll also find youth and

adult shows at the Kika Silva Pla Planetarium as well as art galleries featuring student and faculty work.

## Outdoor Adventure

Just outside of Gainesville, snorkelers, hikers, and paddlers flock to the crystal-clear springs at Ichetucknee Springs State Park. For John Moran, whose nature photos are published in *National Geographic* and *Time* (see his work at Harold's Frames & Gallery downtown), the springs have held a lifelong appeal.

"Whenever I visit the springs, seeing that glimpse of shocking blue through the trees literally takes my breath away," he says. When visitors dip a toe into the water, 72 degrees year-round, they might have the same reaction.

"In the heat of summer, it's delightfully alluring," Moran says, "but there's never a bad time to visit."

Other outdoor adventures abound at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, where bike paths such as the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail afford sweeping views of the savanna. Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park fea-



Above: Nepalese, Carved Conch Shell, 17th century, at the Harn Museum of Art. Below: Popular student restaurant The Swamp





Herlong Mansion Historic Inn & Gardens in Micanopy

tures a sinkhole revealing lush tropical plants, while the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens bloom gloriously year-round.

For some, getting outdoors means joining sports fans in their pilgrimage to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, home of the Florida Gators football team. Tailgating is a favorite pastime here, but you'll also find NCAA Division I



Hikers at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

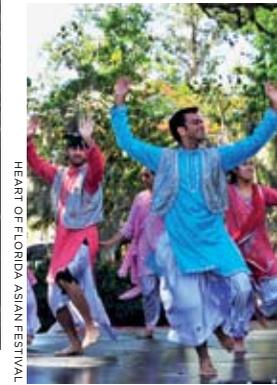
competitions throughout campus in baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, and other sports. And those teams weren't without supporters: Well over a million loyal fans attended 186 home events in 2010–2011.

### A Step Back in Time

While Gainesville's college-town vibe is

all about what's new and next, many of the nearby small towns hark back to a simpler time. Alachua and High Springs boast main streets out of yesteryear lined with shops and restaurants. History buffs will delight in a meal at The Ivy House, a 1902 Vic-

## Mark Your Calendar



**Let's Go Downtown "Free Fridays" Plaza Series**  
Bo Diddley Community Plaza Every Friday  
May–October  
[gvlculturalaffairs.org](http://gvlculturalaffairs.org)

**Spring Moonlight Walk**  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
May 5  
[kanapaha.org](http://kanapaha.org)

**Newberry Watermelon Festival**  
May 19  
[newberrywatermelonfestival.com](http://newberrywatermelonfestival.com)

**Downtown Festival & Art Show**  
October 13–14  
[gvlculturalaffairs.org](http://gvlculturalaffairs.org)

**ButterflyFest**  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
October 13–14, [flmnh.ufl.edu](http://flmnh.ufl.edu)

**Heart of Florida Asian Festival**  
October 27–28  
[gvlculturalaffairs.org](http://gvlculturalaffairs.org)

**University of Florida Homecoming Parade**  
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## Gainesville

### Primavera

Running annually from March through April (spring equinox to Earth Day), Primavera showcases Gainesville's top spring arts events, including festivals, theater, and even farm-to-table cuisine. To learn more, visit [primaverafestival.us](http://primaverafestival.us).

torian in Alachua, or the award-winning Great Outdoors Restaurant in High Springs, built as an opera house in 1895. In nearby Newberry, locals chow down at Newberry's Backyard BBQ, while athletes converge at Easton Newberry Sports Complex, a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program.

In quaint Micanopy, guests at the Herlong Mansion Historic Inn & Gardens stay in the midst of what some call "the little town that

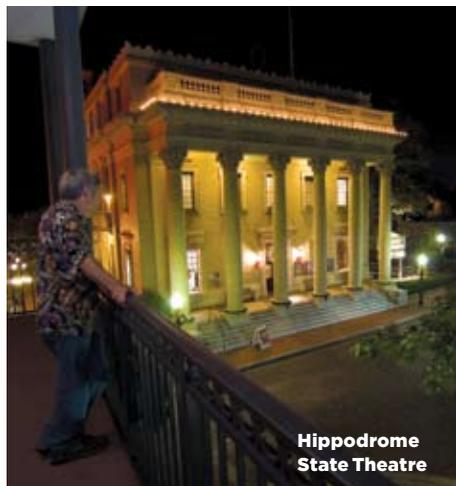
time forgot." The oldest inland settlement in Florida, Micanopy offers visitors a glimpse back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, and plenty to explore. Settle in for a slice of pizza at Blue Highway, and then stroll the shops and restaurants downtown. Admire antique cameos at Delectable Collectables, take home some local honey from Mosswood Farm Store, or lose yourself searching through rare and used tomes at O. Brisky Books.



University of Florida Symphony Orchestra performing at the Bandshell on UF's campus



Alyssa Blitch and Zak Varnedoe in Room to Dance



Hippodrome State Theatre

### Culture Connection

The arts thrive and blossom in Gainesville.

Attracting legendary artists such as Wynton Marsalis and Billy Joel, Gainesville's cultural scene has the draw of much larger cities. Its myriad artistic opportunities even attracts new residents, according to Michael Blachly, director of University of Florida Performing Arts.

"It happens all the time," Blachly says. "People who have relocated here tell me they would never have thought of coming here had this (University of Florida Performing Arts) program not been part of the cultural landscape."

UF Performing Arts' largest venue, the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, not only hosts touring shows like Monty Python's *Spamalot*, but also commissions new works and hosts world premieres from artists such as the Soweto Gospel Choir.

On campus or off, the city's arts scene hums with energy. See a play at the Hippodrome State Theatre, or take in a performance by Gainesville's resident dance company, Dance Alive National Ballet. Stroll the downtown Artwalk, filled with artist demonstrations and live music on the last Friday of every month.

"There's a lot going on in downtown Gainesville any night of the week," says Eleanor Blair, a painter whose studio is part of the walks. She suggests visiting the Bo Diddley Community Plaza — named for the late, great area resident — for a free concert (part of the Let's Go Downtown "Free Fridays" Plaza Series that runs May through October).

Gainesville also hosts nationally ranked events like the Downtown Festival & Art Show in October, which features more than 250 artists and attracts more than 100,000 visitors every year. More fine art and free jazz can be found at Santa Fe Spring Arts Festival in April.

Annual events like the Heart of Florida Asian Festival celebrate cultural heritage, while others like the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire are just plain quirky. Whether you love live music, fine art, or medieval jousting (or all of the above) Gainesville's got you covered.



Marjorie Rawlings' home in Cross Creek

# A Small Place of Enchantment

Experience Old Florida's literary legacy. By Ivy Lamb

In 1928, future Pulitzer Prize winner Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings made a radical move when she set her sights on the Sunshine State.

Seeking inspiration, she left a successful journalism career in Rochester, New York, and moved with her husband, Charles Rawlings, to the small,

rural community of Cross Creek in Alachua County. Enamored with the landscape and people of north Florida, Rawlings turned her pen toward capturing her surroundings.

In 1930, Maxwell Perkins — the legendary editor to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Thomas Wolfe — published Rawlings' story "Cracker Chidlins." When asked if she had material for a novel, Rawlings replied that she was "vibrating with material like a hive of bees in swarm."

After her divorce, Rawlings lived with a Cracker family for a short time ("Cracker" refers to the rural descendants of Florida's earliest settlers), learning how to hunt, fish, and make moonshine. She wove the experiences into her first novel, *South Moon Under*.

In 1939, Rawlings won a Pulitzer Prize and widespread popularity for her third novel, *The Yearling*, a coming-of-age story about a boy and his pet deer.

"I do not know how anyone can live without some small place of enchantment to turn to," Rawlings wrote after her move to Cross Creek, secluded in acres of lush, hardwood forest and fragrant citrus groves. The place never lost its magic for Rawlings, inspiring works still beloved by her many readers.



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; VISIT GAINESVILLE; SANTA FE COLLEGE; PHOTOS (FROM TOP) BY JOHN MORAN/SILVER IMAGE PHOTO AGENCY AND COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS FARM

### Take a Tour

Rawlings' home and farm have been restored with original furnishings and artifacts. Guided by park rangers in period dress, visitors step into the 1930s at the house and adjacent orange grove. In 2007, the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park became a National Historic Landmark. For more info, visit [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org).

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# Trivia Pursuit

Fun facts about Gainesville and Alachua County  
By Ivy Lamb

## Horse Haven

Alachua is a great place to retire — especially if you're a horse! In 1984, Peter and Mary Gregory began caring for abused and abandoned horses on their 140-acre farm. Today, the nonprofit Mill Creek Farm has grown to 265 acres for its 133 equines. Visitors are welcome on Saturdays (don't forget to bring carrots). [millcreekfarm.org](http://millcreekfarm.org)



## History of Rock

Thanks to its jammin' college music scene, Gainesville has a connection to nine Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees including the late Bo Diddley, Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Stephen Stills (of Crosby, Stills & Nash), and former Eagles band members Don Felder and Bernie Leadon. [rockhall.com](http://rockhall.com)



## The Wall of Wings

The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the Florida Museum of Natural History is home to more than 10 million moth and butterfly specimens — one of the largest collections in the world. Visitors can see many of them on the nearly three-story "Wall of Wings" and watch scientists at work in the labs. [fmnh.ufl.edu/mcguire](http://fmnh.ufl.edu/mcguire)

## Walk on the Wild Side

If you want to do some gator spotting outside of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (home to the Florida Gators), you're practically guaranteed to see the real deal on the LaChua Trail in Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. This three-mile hike offers scenic views of wet prairie and marsh habitats, and plenty of basking alligators. [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

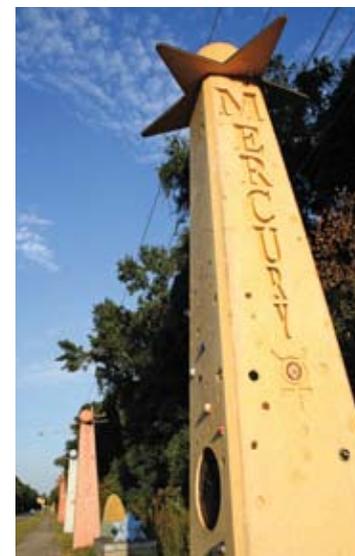


## Culinary Aces

Math, English, and ice carving: It's all part of a regular day for the students in Eastside High School's culinary arts program, where running a restaurant and catering service is part of the curriculum. Culinary students have taken first place in state competitions for the past eight years and have won top honors on the national level. [sbac.edu](http://sbac.edu)

## Astronomy 101

Interplanetary travel is possible on Gainesville's Solar Walk — a 4 billion-to-one scale model of the solar system spanning nearly a mile along NW 8th Avenue. Each planet has its own marker designed by a regional artist, and an informational plaque. [old.floridastars.org](http://old.floridastars.org)



## Gator's Aid

In 1965, Dr. J. Robert Cade and a team of researchers found that overheated University of Florida football players weren't able to replenish their bodies with vital electrolytes and carbohydrates. This discovery inspired them to develop a sports drink to keep them hydrated on the field. Two years later, the Gators credited their first Orange Bowl win to (you guessed it) Gatorade.



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT) BY ARCHIVE/ALAMY; COURTESY OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; ISTOCKPHOTO/DANIEL BENDY; COURTESY VISIT GAINESVILLE/ANNA MIKELL; COURTESY EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL; FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY/BEH. GADE; COURTESY VISIT GAINESVILLE/ANNA MIKELL



Dragonfly Sushi and Sake Company

# Diverse Appetites

Gainesville's dining scene goes independent and local.

By Alisson Clark

**I**n the 1990s, chef Bert Gill had a dream that seemed far-fetched — that this midsize college town would someday boast a culinary scene worthy of foodie road trips.

Today, Gill's restaurants — Mildred's Big City Food, New Deal Cafe, and Blue Gill Quality Foods — are part of a burgeoning independent restaurant movement that's bringing Gainesville ever closer to that vision.

"It's similar to towns such as Natchez, Mississippi, and Athens, Georgia, that are thought of as culinary destinations," Gill says.

"I always wanted Gainesville to be a place where food is important, and now it's headed that way." That's thanks in part to his eateries near the University of Florida, which emphasize locally sourced ingredients, such as local beef used in the pimento cheese-slathered Blue Gill Burger.

But the epicenter of independent restau-

rants is the city's revitalized downtown, featuring dozens of diverse choices. Here, diners sip creative cocktails at the stylish Dragonfly Sushi and Sake Company, savor Pan-Latin delicacies, such as paella and

empanadas, at Emiliano's Café, or hang with hipsters at The Top Restaurant, where the menu offers dishes like Argentinian chimichurri with organic tempheh.

The independent spirit extends beyond the downtown as well. Take the local eggs and fair-trade coffee at The Jones Eastside. Then there's the beloved Satchel's Pizza (slated to reopen in June), where you can eat a slice in the old Volkswagen bus out front.

How best to wash down all this local goodness? Try sipping some freshly roasted joe from Sweetwater Organic Coffee (available at area stores and restaurants), or visiting Swamp Head Brewery, where you can sample award-winning beers brewed on-site. With so many unique, local spots, wining and dining in Gainesville is always a one-of-a-kind experience.

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF DRAGONFLY SUSHI AND SAKE COMPANY; VISIT GAINESVILLE; SWAMP HEAD BREWERY

## Where to Stay



Magnolia Plantation

If you're looking for a unique place to stay, Gainesville's Historic Southeast Bed and Breakfast District has four restored Victorian inns featuring 1800s-style street lamps and stately wraparound porches — all within walking distance of downtown.

Cindy Montalto, co-owner of Magnolia Plantation Bed & Breakfast Inn and Cottages, notes that her guests are just as likely to be business travelers as couples. "B&Bs aren't just for romance," she says. "We have everything that a hotel has and more."

Other lodging options abound in Gainesville. Travelers who love to be in the midst of it all will enjoy the Hampton Inn downtown, while the Reitz Union Hotel on campus or the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center are convenient for visiting the University of Florida. If you're planning a conference or meeting, the Gainesville Conference Grant (offered twice a year) can reimburse thousands of dollars in meeting expenses. Find out more at [visitgainesville.com](http://visitgainesville.com).



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