

FREE

The Waldo Phoenix



February 2026
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- Waldo's Local Newspaper -

www.waldophoenix.com | info@waldophoenix.com



Waldo Phoenix Honors Black History Month – February 2026

February is recognized nationwide as Black History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the achievements, contributions, and lasting impact of Black Americans throughout history. Established to ensure these important stories are remembered and shared, Black History Month highlights the roles of leaders, educators, innovators, and community members who have helped shape the nation, and our community.

This observance also serves as an opportunity to reflect on the past, recognize progress, and encourage continued learning. By acknowledging these contributions, Black History Month helps preserve history and promotes greater understanding for future generations.

Our friends over at the Alachua County Library District invite you

to browse their Hoopla media catalog to view great books, videos, and music related to Black history – Free with your ACLIB library card!

<https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/black-history-month/14837>



Join us for the 2nd Annual Waldo Plant Festival!

Date: Saturday March 14, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Waldo City Square –
14450 NE 150th Ave Waldo, FL
32694

Get ready to celebrate all things green and growing at the 2nd Annual Waldo Plant Festival! Whether you're a plant parent, gardening enthusiast, or just looking for a fun family day out, this community favorite has something for everyone.

What to Expect:

- A wide variety of plants, flowers, and garden goodies from local vendors

- Unique handmade crafts and artisan goods

- Opportunities to meet fellow plant lovers and community members

- Community information and resources

- Delicious food and refreshments from local food trucks

- Fun for all ages

This event is proudly hosted by the Waldo Area Historical Society and celebrates the vibrant spirit of gardening, local small business, and community connection!

Interested in becoming a vendor? We invite plant growers, crafters, food vendors, and non-profit or informational organizations to join us this year for this community fun-filled event! Vendor booth rates are fair and perfect for any small business! Non-profit/informational organizations may be exempt. Please visit www.waldoplantfestival.com/vendors and submit your application today!

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors – and don't forget your gardening gloves!

BENEFITS OF MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

**By Masonic Lodge #10 in
Waldo Fl**

Freemasonry (often called Free Masonry or the Masonic fraternity) is one of the world's oldest fraternal organizations, with roots tracing back centuries. Its members describe it as a system of moral and ethical teachings using symbols and rituals, focused on making "good men better." The benefits are largely personal, social, and communal—Freemasons emphasize that it's not about material perks, secret advantages, or networking for personal gain (in fact, using membership for undue professional benefit is explicitly discouraged).

Some of the most common benefits noted from member testimonials, and independent reports:

Personal Development and Self-Improvement, a structured path for self-reflection, moral growth, and building character through its degrees, symbols, and lessons. It also encourages values like integrity, honesty, self-knowledge, confidence, and ethical decision-making.

Many members report improved leadership skills, better

interpersonal abilities, and a stronger sense of purpose in life.

Brotherhood and Lifelong Friendships

It offers a deep sense of belonging and camaraderie with "brothers" from diverse backgrounds (regardless of social class, profession, age, or ethnicity—within the lodge, all are equals). Members often describe forming close, supportive relationships and a "second family" that provides mutual aid, encouragement, and non-judgmental fellowship. The global network means you can connect with Masons almost anywhere in the world (where it's active).

Charitable Work and Community Service

Freemasonry is one of the largest charitable organizations globally, with members actively involved in fundraising, volunteering, and supporting causes, such as education, health, disaster relief, and community programs. One of the most notable is the Shriners Hospitals. There are a total of 22 Shriners Hospitals in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Almost everyone has heard of them. The Masons can foster a commitment to "relief" (helping those in need) and make a positive impact on society, which many find fulfilling.

Other Advantages

A sense of tradition, pride in belonging to a historic organization, and opportunities for mentorship. In some cases, practical support from brothers during personal challenges, though not guaranteed or financial in nature.

Freemasonry is not a religion, a business network for profit, or a "secret society" in the conspiratorial sense—it's a fraternity with private rituals, but its principles and charitable work are public. Official groups stress joining for the right reasons: self-betterment, fellowship, and service—not prestige, power, or hidden benefits.

That said, experiences vary by individual and lodge. Some criticisms include time and commitment (meetings, events, dues), potential stigma from misconceptions and or conspiracy theories, or the fact that it's male-only in most traditional branches (though related groups exist for women/family). Drawbacks like these are often very minor compared to the positives for those who align with the values they bring.

If you're considering joining the best step is contacting a local lodge through official channels like asking a member of a local lodge—they can provide accurate, location-specific info and answer questions directly.

City of Waldo News

by Kim Worley



Waldo City Square

**VISIT THE BELOW
WEBPAGE FOR POSITIVE
WALDO INFORMATION**

[THECROSSROADSWALDO
FL.COM](http://THECROSSROADSWALDOFL.COM)

**Eat, Pray, Love - Dinner
Church on Cole Street
Dinners on Thursday
Nights and food truck on
3rd Thursday –**

Sponsored by: Free Canaan
United Methodist Church,
Waldo

For more information call 352-
339-0340 Mr. Eugene Green

**WHAT IS LOCATED AT
THE SQUARE???**

City Hall – go thru Main
doors and City Hall is located
through the door on the right.

NEW SCHOOL – opening in
the Noe Wing– Grace Christian
Prep School – Dr. Graham is
the principal -email -

dregraham@gracecpsedu.com

or

Call 352-554-4733

**This school is a private
school, you will need to
apply for funding to help
pay for the school fees** – the
school can help you achieve
this. There are deadlines that
you **MUST** follow to apply for
the funding help. Please contact
Dr. Graham to get your student
signed up for the next school
year.

**Waldo Area Historical
Museum-** Main Building, go
through the double doors to the
hallway area and turn left.

**Alachua County Sheriff's
Sub Station -** in the PODS –
you will see the star on the
building. Call 352-955-1818 to
set up a meeting **The
Community Relations
team from the Alachua
County Sheriff's Office will
be working one day a
month at all of our
substations across the
county. They will be
working in Waldo the
2nd Monday of every month
10am – 4pm.**

**Council meetings 2nd
Tuesday of the month 7pm
in building 5 Library-**

**special meetings and /or
date changes happen –
check with City Hall**

**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE**

**SPECIAL MEETINGS WILL
BE SET AS NEEDED –
SIGN UP FOR CODE RED
ON CITY WEBSITE TO
STAY INFORMED.**

REGULAR MEETING S	SECOND MEETING IF NEEDED
JANUARY 13, 2026	JANUARY 27, 2026
FEBRUAR Y 10, 2026	FEBRUARY 24, 2026
MARCH 10, 2026	MARCH 24, 2026
APRIL 14, 2026	APRIL 28, 2026
MAY 12, 2026	MAY 26, 2026
JUNE 9, 2026	JUNE 23, 2026
JULY 14, 2026	JULY 28, 2026
AUGUST 11, 2026	AUGUST 25, 2026
SEPTEMB ER MEETING S	TO BE ANNOUNC ED

New Things come up after the
paper is published – please call
City Hall or check the light up
sign board to get more
information.

Waldo City News – Continued**UTILITY BILLS**

**City of Waldo website
payments**

Waldo-fl.com

**Go to make a payment tab on
City of Waldo website**

Waldo-fl.com

**IF PAYING ON THE CITY
WEBSITE, MAKE SURE IT IS
THE CITY OF WALDO
WEBSITE AND NOT A THIRD-
PARTY WEBSITE LIKE DOXO
-IF YOU PAY TO THE WRONG
WEBSITE, IT WILL BE YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO GET
YOUR MONEY BACK AND TO
PAY YOUR BILL VIA THE
CORRECT WEBSITE OR IN
THE OFFICE. REMINDER
WHEN PAYING BY CREDIT
CARD THERE IS A 3.5%
SERVICE FEE**

WALDO-FL.COM

Do not forget to turn your bill over for messages from the City. Water bills need to be paid before the 10th to avoid late fees.

If your water is turned off for non-payment, **IT WILL NOT BE TURNED BACK ON** until the next business day. City of Waldo hours are Monday – Thursday 7am to 5:30pm. City of Waldo is closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

**Waldo Trash, Recycle & Bulk
Pickup – GFL Environmental**

Weekly Trash Pickup

GFL is contracted with the City of Waldo for residential trash service.

Pickup is every **Wednesday** — please place cans at the curb by **7:00 AM** and return them after collection.

Holiday Delays

Trash and recycling will be picked up **Thursday** instead of Wednesday on:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Memorial Day

Yard Waste Guidelines

 Accepted: Leaves, grass, shrub clippings, and small tree limbs (under 5 ft long, 8 in diameter, and 40 lbs per bundle)

 Not Accepted: Boards, fencing, lumber, dirt, rocks, bricks, or concrete

Bulk Item Pickup

Includes appliances (stoves, washers, dryers), furniture (chairs, sofas, beds), rugs (rolled into 5 ft sections under 40 lbs), large toys (bikes, play sets, strollers), and limited home repair items (cabinets, ceiling fans, doors, trim, sinks, toilets).

 Call **352-377-0800** to schedule a bulk pickup.

**CITY OF WALDO HOLIDAY
CLOSINGS: VETERANS DAY,
THANKSGIVING EVE AND
DAY, CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY, NEW
YEAR'S EVE, NEW YEARS
DAY, MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. DAY,**

**MEMORIAL DAY,
JUNETEENTH, JULY 4TH,
LABOR DAY, Extra days may
be added depending on when
holiday's fall– check with City
Hall or SIGN UP FOR CODE
RED ON OUR WEBSITE
WALDO-FL.COM.**

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY
NUMBERS:

EMERGENCY 911

NON-EMERGENCY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE for fire or police 352-955-
1818 X 5

AFTER HOURS WATER OR
SEWER ISSUE 352-258-6921 or
352-258-3110

FPL ELECTRIC OUTAGE 1-800-
468-8243

CLAY ELECTRIC 888-434-9844

WINDSTREAM 1-800-347-1991

Poison Control 800-222-1222

If you see something suspicious call
352-955-1818 X 5 right away to
report- help keep our town safe.

City Holiday Closing Dates**City Hall is closed on Fridays**

Monday January 19 - **Martin
Luther King Jr. Day**

Monday May 25 – **Memorial
Day**

July 4th observed Monday July 6 –
due to Saturday Holiday

Monday September 7 - **Labor Day**

Waldo Branch Library News

Submitted by Sarah Grainger

Waldo Branch's hours:

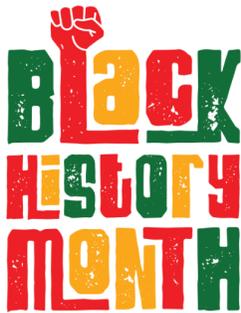
Tuesday - Friday 10 – 6 pm

Saturday 10 – 5 pm

15150 NE US Highway 301,

Waldo

(352) 866 – 7392



Happy New Year from the Waldo Branch Library! We look forward to serving the Waldo community in 2026. At the Waldo Branch Library, there's something for everyone, whether you have a card or not. We're grateful to be part of the community!



Meet Yasmin Angoe, author of "Her Name is Knight" and "They Come at Knight," during an **author visit on Saturday, February 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Headquarters**

Library. Angoe will discuss her series of books that feature elite assassin Nena Knight, as well as talk about her new book "Behind These Four Walls," which will be released in January.

**February Library Programs**

The listed ages show who the program is designed for, but everyone is welcome to join!

Programs for Children and Teens

Story Time, Every Tuesday at 10:30 (Ages 0-5)

Read With a Dog, Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. (children)

Saturday Story Time, Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. (Ages 0-5)

Family Art Time, Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. (Ages 0-5)

Tween Book Club, Saturday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. (Ages 10-14)

Programs for Adults

CarFit, Friday, Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

UF Health: Car Fit checks cars for your individual safe fit.

Stitch & Chat, Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m.

ArtSpace: Black History Month: Drawing and Painting Series for Adults, Friday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.

Virtual Book Discussion, Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 4 p.m. (online, call for more info)

Movie Talk, Friday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

The Page Turners - Book Club for Adults, Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m.

This month we will discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

ArtSpace for All Ages

ArtSpace: Black History Month Artist Spotlight – Jacob Lawrence

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

Create bold geometric art inspired by Jacob Lawrence.

Artspace – Collagraph Print Making

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

Join guest artist Natalia Guerrero for Collagraph Print Making.

Artspace – Neurographic Art

Thursday, Feb. 19 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

Calm your mind one line at a time.

Artspace – Mark Making with Recyclables

Thursday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

Join us to reuse and recycle items into art.



IS THE GREENLAND PURCHASE A JOKE OR NOT?

By Glen Johnson

1868 was an important year. The formerly enslaved people were granted citizenship, Grant was elected President, and Secretary of State William Seward went shopping. The year before he purchased Alaska from Russia, and now his eye was on Greenland. Most everybody thought the purchase of Alaska was a joke, so purchasing Greenland was never going to go through. In fact, the purchase of Alaska became known as Seward's Folly.

1910 and Greenland was back in the United States eyes again. Only this time we didn't want to buy it. Ambassador Maurice Egan sent a letter to the U.S. State Department outlining the land swap. Here's the plan. Denmark gives Greenland to the United States and then Greenland in exchange would give the U.S. gives Denmark a cluster of islands in the Philippines. Denmark turns around and gives the Philippine islands to Germany (which was seeking more influence in the East). Germany in return, gives Schleswig-Holstein back to Denmark.

1941 and the US signs the Defense of Greenland act treaty in Washington making the US responsible for Greenland's safety during the war and allow the US to build any military bases needed in Greenland. The deal worked out so well, the US tried again to buy Greenland for \$100 million in Gold. Denmark didn't like the deal, but the treaty stayed in place.

1946 was the closest the United States came to making an offer for Greenland that worked, 10,000 allied aircraft landed on Greenland to refuel on their way to make bombing runs on Germany. The Pentagon thought of Greenland as a massive aircraft carrier. Only problem was that even though Denmark declared it's neutrality at the beginning of WWII the Germans invaded and took over Denmark. People feared this would include Greenland.

1951 the Defense of Greenland Act was updated and once again in 2004 which was then signed by Colin Powell.

1979 and Greenland was granted "Home Rule" which means it's a sovereign country and doesn't answer to Denmark anymore. Denmark still helps with its defense, however. The U.S. retains a military presence in Greenland, although the Thule Air Base was transferred to the U.S. Space Force in 2020 and is now called the Pituffik Space Base. We still have hopes of having more of a presence in Greenland. We'll see what happens.

SOME OLD WIVES TALES ARE TRUE AND THEY CAN ACHE

By Glen Johnson

You take a step and wince. The pain in your leg is killing you. Going to the window you look at the thermometer and groan. It's 34° and dropping. It was 40° a half hour ago. You should have known just by the pain you feel. They told you there would be pain when the weather changed when you broke your leg. You laughed when you heard it thinking it was an old wife's tail. Not so.

Changes in atmospheric pressure when storms are moving in, the cold fronts are coming in, even rainy weather can cause changes in people's bodies. These changes are small, but troublesome. Small air pockets, fluids, even tissue can expand around old wounds.

The expansion puts pressure on nerve endings, scar tissue or hardware that has been installed in the body causing minor and some will tell you it can be major pressure in the body.

What happens when the pressure builds up in the body? Sometimes it can be stiff, other times it can cause aches and it can also cause throbbing.

Back in 2016, they took over 2,300 orthopedic trauma patients and did a study from over years. They included people with healed fractures and found that during times when the atmospheric pressure dropped, pain increased including people with long term issues of over a year or more. When the temps went up and humidity got higher, the pain can also increase. The study went on to include other kinds of injuries and arthritis, and the pain correlated with the atmospheric changes.

To try and take care of the problems, try and keep warm, take warm baths and use heating pads. Try light exercise because it helps circulation and reduces stiffness. Stay hydrated and after checking with your doctor use over the counter anti-inflammatories. Watch the weather and see if the weather does correlate with your aches. Knowing in advance helps to be prepared.



Waldo Location
17313 NE US HWY 301 Waldo, FL
32694
Open Fri - Sun 8am-5pm



First Baptist Church of Waldo
www.fbcwaldo.org
14370 SR-24 Waldo, FL 32694



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

www.childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us
4010 NW 25th Place Gainesville, FL
32606
Phone: 352-374-1830



Talkin' Cars Under the Stars

www.gainesvillestreetrods.com



The Barn at Deep Creek
Wedding Venue

www.barnatdeepcreek.com
3910 NE 156TH AVE
GAINESVILLE FL 32609
Tel: 352-317-4882
deepcreekfl@gmail.com

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 Fax: (352) – 468 – 1453

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 Columbia, Union, Bradford & Putnam
 Counties



Waldo Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M.

14370 NE 142nd Street Waldo, Florida 32694
 (352) – 240 – 6950

We believe in the family, the church, the community, and the country. Freemasonry believes in the Philosophy and practice of “making Good men better.” We are one of the world’s greatest Philanthropic Fraternities.

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the Month
 Refreshments @ 6:30 PM
 General Meeting @ 7:30 PM

Braze Ranch

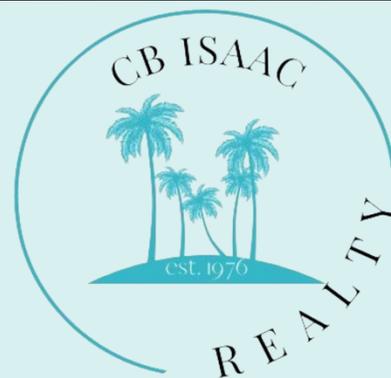


At Braze Ranch, we believe the best meals start with ingredients raised with care. Our Angus/Wagyu cattle are pasture-raised here in Waldo, producing beef that’s rich, flavorful, and perfect for gathering around the table. Paired with Waldo’s famous sweet potatoes, it’s a meal that tells the story of this place—simple, authentic, unforgettable. By choosing local, you’re not just enjoying wholesome food—you’re investing in the future of our community. From weeknight dinners to holiday feasts, make it local. Make it Braze Ranch.



- ✉ brazeranch@gmail.com
- ☎ 386.38.BRAZE
- 🌐 brazeranch.com
- 📘 @brazeranch
- 📷 @brazeranch

Mission Driven.
 Flavor Focused.



CB Isaac Realty

Tina Sirman - Realtor
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 "We Make it Happen"

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