

FREE

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The Waldo Phoenix

- Waldo's Local Newspaper -
www.waldophoenix.com | info@waldophoenix.com



Waldo Honors Retiring City Manager Kim Worley After 25 Years of Dedicated Service

WALDO — Local citizens, family members, and city officials gathered at Waldo City Square on May 26, 2026, to celebrate the retirement of long-serving City Manager Kim Worley. The event marked the conclusion of Worley's impressive 25-year career dedicated to the administration and development of the community.

Throughout her two and a half decades of public service, Worley navigated the unique economic and

structural challenges frequently faced by small-town America. Under her administrative guidance, numerous new businesses, community organizations, and public events successfully established roots in the city. The retirement ceremony featured several formal presentations from city leadership. City Council Chairman Glen Johnson presented Worley with a key to the city, recognizing her decades of leadership and institutional dedication.

Following the presentation, Mayor Louis Davis presented Worley with an inscribed crystal vase detailing the prominent milestones and achievements reached during her tenure as city manager. Members of the public also participated in the celebration, taking turns at the podium to express their gratitude for Worley's multi-decade public service and to offer well-wishes for her retirement. While Worley is officially retiring from her role, attendees noted that her long-term initiatives and administrative footprint will remain visible throughout Waldo for years to come.



Among the community organizations offering tributes was the Waldo Historical Society, which issued a statement thanking Worley for her steadfast support of local history preservation initiatives and for serving as a "guiding north star" for the community.



The Dangers of A.I. in Historical Preservation

The use of generative A.I. has been the topic of controversy in recent months, especially across fields of academia, the arts, and research. In a peer reviewed study by Alex de Vries, the footprint of A.I. data center in 2025 were estimated to be between 32.6 – 79.7 million tons of CO2 emissions and between 312.5 to 764.6 billion liters of water used for cooling. This significant environmental impact has led to an increase in activism surrounding the environment, local community, and the limitation of allowing these data centers to be built further. A recent rumor spread across Alachua County which worried residents that an A.I. data center would be built within the county. Many residents became very vocal about their opposition and the impact that it could have on our local environment. This rumor was discredited by county officials as current county land development codes prohibit the building of large data centers.

How is generative A.I. a danger to historical preservation? Firstly, the building of data centers often means the demolition of previous structures in the area they are being built. The areas where these centers are built often become very loud with noise pollution and may have other effects such as damage to the local water supply. Every town and city has history, therefore, when communities are abandoned, that history disappears along with them. Secondly, A.I. can be factually incorrect in search queries when the user is not careful to double check sources. An A.I. research tool scrapes the internet for information and since the user wants a quick answer, it does not bother with strictly finding peer-reviewed information. These services frequently use sources such as Reddit, Facebook, blogs, and other non-sourced websites as a basis for their response. These tools can be helpful for finding primary sources, but we must ensure we check them before taking them as fact. The Waldo Area Historical Society aims to use primary sources such as donated historical documents, historical written account, and newspaper report from the timeframe of the information. We are greatly appreciative of our library district, Alachua County Library District, for access to

crucial sources such as the Gainesville Sun. Their database has records as far back as 1911, which has greatly aided in our efforts for researching Waldo history.

The use of generative A.I. for graphics, flyers, and images should also be cautioned. If you ask A.I. to fix a historical image, that service completely redraws the image and will often change specific features. This can greatly affect portrait images as the photo is no longer original and specific facial features may be altered. Alternatives for enhancing or correcting images including tools such as Photoshop and Affinity Photo. Our goal is to preserve history, which means preserving every little detail of the beautiful faces we come across in historical record.

Would you like to be a part of this effort? The Waldo Area Historical Society is always looking for volunteers! We meet on most Saturdays from 11am - 4pm and our museums are also open on that day. If you have any historical items, documents, information you would like to donate or allow us to scan into our archive, please reach out to us! Contact us: info@waldohistoricalsociety.org



Waldo City News

New City of Waldo Manager:

Amanda Brown

Welcome to the City of Waldo, Amanda! We look forward to working with you for Waldo.

Visit the below webpage for positive Waldo information.

THECROSSROADSWALDO
FL.COM

THE SQUARE

* Grace Christian Prep School – Open House Tuesday Nights 5:30 PM - 7:30PM. They will help you sign up your child for the next school year in Waldo.

* Alachua County Sheriff's Substation at the Square will be open to the public the second Monday of the month from 10am to 4pm. Come meet with them regarding any concerns or issues you may have.

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 our substations across the county.

GARS/Gainesville Amateur Radio Society – upstairs in the main Waldo City Square building.

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 Meetings	Second Meeting if Needed
May 12, 2026	May 26, 2026
June 9, 2026	June 23, 2026
July 14, 2026	July 28, 2026
August 11, 2026	August 25, 2026
September Meetings	TO BE ANNOUNCED

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

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

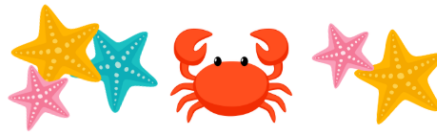


3D Printing now available!

The library is excited to introduce a brand-new 3D printer and a series of MakerSpace programs for the community. **MakerSpace: Intro to 3D Printing**, offered Thursday, July 9 and Saturday, July 11 from 10:30–11:30 a.m., gives participants ages 11 and up a beginner-friendly introduction to how 3D printing works and the creative possibilities it offers.

MakerSpace: Open Studio

will be held on Saturdays from 3:30–4:30 p.m. in the Artspace. Participants can submit 3D printing projects for a small fee, explore the Cricut, or work on personal creative projects in a collaborative environment. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



July Library Programs

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

Programs for Children and Teens

Pajama Story Time, Tuesday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m. (Ages 0-5)

Story Time, Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. (Ages 0–5)

Read with a Dog, Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m. (Children)

Saturday Story Time, Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m. (Ages 0–5)

Family Art Time, Saturday, July 18 at 11:30 a.m. (All Ages)

Tween Book Club, Saturday, July 18 at 3 p.m. (Ages 10–14)

This month we will read *We Are So Good at Smiling* by Amber McBride.

Programs for Adults

ArtSpace: Drawing and Painting Series for Adults, Friday, July 10 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Virtual Book Discussion, Tuesday, July 14 at 4 p.m. (online, call for more info)

Movie Talk, Wednesday, July 17 at 1:30 p.m.

The Page Turners - Book Club for Adults, Wednesday, July 29 at 3 p.m.

This month we will discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kreuger.

America 250: Genealogy, Wednesday, July 29 at 4 p.m.

Research your ancestors from the time of the American Revolution.

ArtSpace for All Ages

ArtSpace: D&D Dice Making Thursday, July 2 at 4 p.m.

Create your own unique dice inspired by Dungeons & Dragons with guest artist Dawn Hudson.

Continued on Next Page -

ArtSpace: America 250**Cattle Brand Stamps**

Thursday, July 7 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 9 at 2 p.m.

Design a cattle brand stamp and learn about Florida's agricultural history.

ArtSpace: Crochet 101

Thursday, July 16 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 18 at 2 p.m.

Discover the joy of crochet as we learn essential techniques.

ArtSpace: Dinosaur Circuits

Thursday, July 23 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 25 at 2 p.m.

Create dinosaur-shaped circuits that light up with guest artist Natalia Guerrero.

ArtSpace: Paint and Pencil Series: Dinosaur Eye

Thursday, July 30 at 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 1 at 2 p.m.

Enjoy drawing and painting a dinosaur eye.

Special Summer Events**Cardboard Sandcastles,**

Wednesday, July 1 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

Clay Dinosaur Fossils,

Wednesday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

America 250: Friendship

Bracelets, Wednesday, July 15 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

Nintendo Switch

Tournament, Friday, July 17 at 2:30 p.m. (Teens)

DIY Suncatchers,

Wednesday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

Summer Perler Bead

Magnets, Wednesday, July 29 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

Wild Wonders, Friday, July 10 at 3:00 p.m. (Children)

Experience extraordinary reptiles and learn about their world.

Science Surprises, Thursday, July 23 at 11:00 a.m. (Children)

Explore natural phenomenon and how they occur presented by the Florida Museum.

Story Time with Therapy

Horses, Friday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m. (Children)

Experience story time with a visit from Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses.

Bats at the Library, Thursday, July 30 at 11:00 a.m. (Children)

Visit with real bats from the Lubee Bat Conservancy.

MakerSpace Programs**MakerSpace: Intro to 3D Printing**

Thursday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, July 11 at 10:30 a.m.

A beginner-friendly class teaching the basics of 3D printing. Children 10 years old and younger will need an adult with them.

MakerSpace: Open Studio

Saturdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Get help with 3D printing, submit 3D print jobs, explore the Cricut, or work on personal art projects. Children 10 years old and younger will need an adult with them. Cricut and art supplies are not provided.

The library will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, and Saturday, July 4th, in celebration of Fourth of July.





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

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GAINESVILLE FL 32609
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deepcreekfl@gmail.com

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Fax: (352) – 468 – 1453**

**Serving: Alachua, Gilchrist, Suwannee,
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
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🌐 brazeranch.com
📱 @brazeranch
📷 @brazeranch

**Mission Driven.
Flavor Focused.**



CB Isaac Realty

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evaluation!

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