

Plan your weekend with the official guide of weekly events from Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

May 18-24, 2023



Be Informed.

The below information was accurate at the time of publishing. Please contact organizers directly to double check details.

**Celebrate the Sweet Life at the 78th Annual Newberry Watermelon Festival
Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | CountryWay Town Square
1739 SW NW 248 Terr., Suite 20, Newberry, FL 32669**

Nothing says summer is on the way like the annual Newberry Watermelon Festival! Sample delicious watermelon and enjoy family fun with over 100 craft and gift vendors, food, kids zone with pony rides, carnival games and more. The watermelon parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free, parking is \$5 cash per vehicle. Sponsored in part by Visit Alachua County

**Enjoy a Special Evening of Roots and Americana Music with Award-Winning Artists and Local Favorites at First Night at Hogtown Opry
Saturday, May 20, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. | University Auditorium
333 Newell Dr., Gainesville, FL 32611**

The Hogtown Opry Band opens the show in the historic University Auditorium (pictured left). The band is composed of Patchwork (top left), Cathy DeWitt, Annie McPherson and Janet Rucker, along with Brink Brinkman on guitar, Geof Perry on violin/fiddle and vocals from Maggie Rucker. Special guests with Gainesville roots Nancy Luca and Anna Marie Kirkpatrick join the band on stage to close out the set. After intermission, two-time national fingerpicking and flatpicking guitar winners Will Maring and Robert Bowlin combine talents to create a signature sound including bluegrass, jazz, Celtic and country.

The evening concludes with bluegrass pioneer and Grammy award-winning Louisa Branscomb (top center), Grammy, IBMA award-nominated Valerie Smith, master guitarist Allen Shadd (top right), Josh Harris, Barbara Johnson on bass, vocals and fiddle from emerging artist Lucy Becker with special guests Valerie Smith and Joe Zauner.

Gainesville boasts a rich musical history, producing national recording artists and 9 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame musicians and noteworthy memorable performances. With a lineup of highly talented local musicians and national award-winning artists, Hogtown Opry aims to create another musical milestone and a new tradition.

**Discover a Majestic Endangered Species at World Tree Kangaroo Day
Sunday, May 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo
3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606**

The Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo is home to the Matschie's tree kangaroo, an endangered species native to a small area of Papua New Guinea. Learn from zookeepers with training demonstrations, keeper talks and amazing animal ambassadors. See these rare, majestic animals and learn how you can help them in the wild. Kids can enjoy fun kangaroo themed crafts and games, while the adults can savor a sample of Caffe Vita's Papua New Guinea Yopno Uruwa Som coffee. Sponsored in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County



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WALDO Car Show
COMMUNITY 3RD EDITION! May 20th, 2023



Get Up Close to Classic and Custom Cars at the 3rd Annual Waldo Car Show
Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Waldo City Square
14450 NE 148th Ave., Waldo, FL 32694

The 3rd Annual Waldo Car Show features a unique display of cars, trucks and motorcycles. Awards are announced at 2:30 p.m. Enjoy food and refreshments with music from a live DJ. Admission and parking are free.



Celebrate the Cade Museum's Birthday at Cade After Dark: Family Fun Night and 5th Birthday Bash

Friday, May 19, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention
811 S Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601

Join the Cade Museum after hours for a birthday bash. Explore the museum and enjoy snacks and drinks from the cash bar, visit the face painting booth and see the cutest animals around at the petting zoo. Admission is free.



Opening Reception

- 6:30pm Early Access for Museum Members
- 7pm General Public
- 7:30pm Program

Connect with Diverse Local Experiences at the Opening Reception for "We Are Here: Stories from Multilingual Speakers in North Central Florida"

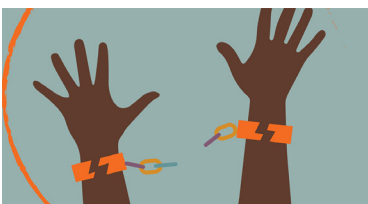
Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Matheon History Museum
513 E University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

The new, original exhibition features stories from speakers of multiple languages in North Central Florida. Through visual collages that centralize cultural images, We Are Here illustrates the immigration journeys of the North Central Florida community. The reception opens early for museum members at 6:30 p.m.



Meet Artists and Stroll Through a Charming Downtown at High Springs Artwalk
Saturday, May 20, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Downtown High Springs

Historic downtown High Springs hosts over 15 artists and makers. See art demonstrations, browse eclectic shops and dine at local cafes and restaurants. At Lanza Gallery and Art Supplies, don't miss the last weekend to view the Santa Fe Plein Air Exhibit featuring paintings created last month during artist visits to the springs. Good New Arts features several artists, the ongoing show "Obscured Messages" and an embroidery workshop 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.



Celebrate Florida Emancipation Day with the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center

Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. | Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center
837 SE 7th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

Join the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center and celebrate May 20th as the day when Florida enslaved people read the Emancipation Proclamation on the steps of the Knott's Building in Tallahassee, Florida. The outdoor festival includes food and fun for the whole family with vendors, music, dancing, drumming, spoken word poetry and memorial presentations.

This publication contains information about events, venues and activities in Alachua County, Florida. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the information is accurate. We are not responsible for errors or omissions in the information provided. For complete details, contact the host directly. The information is not advice, and should not be treated as such. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, we do not represent, warrant, undertake or guarantee that the information is correct, accurate, complete or non-misleading. We will not be liable to you in respect of any special, indirect or consequential loss or damage. If a section of this disclaimer is determined by any court or other competent authority to be unlawful and/or unenforceable, the other sections of this disclaimer continue in effect.

For a complete listing of this weekend's events visit: <https://bit.ly/whatsgood518>

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