

# FORWARD FOCUS

## Eastern Alachua County

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



### FORWARD FOCUS

## Who Are We?

Forward Focus: Eastern Alachua County is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of life and expanding economic opportunities in eastern Alachua County, including the communities of Hawthorne, Micanopy, Waldo, and surrounding unincorporated areas.

This project will identify and address critical needs, such as affordable housing, job creation, access to healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

By engaging with community members, conducting thorough research, and collaborating with local partners, we aim to create a thriving and resilient future for the Eastern Alachua County region.

Periodically, we plan to send out a newsletter highlighting our collaboration with the community and providing updates on ongoing infrastructure projects.

## Last Month

### SUMMARIZED

Last month, we held our second meeting of Forward Focus and a commitment to uplifting Eastern Alachua. This January meeting in Waldo builds on our first Community Listening event in Hawthorne last October. These sessions are dedicated to informing residents about our initiative and learning from them about the most pressing issues in their communities.



# Waldo Community Listening Event

THIS MONTH, WE ASKED THE WALDO COMMUNITY HOW WE COULD HELP. HERE ARE OUR HIGHLIGHTS:

## Transportation

- Dangerous speeds on US 301 and SR 24, with insufficient enforcement of speed limits.
- Need for crosswalks, caution lights, and signage on SR 24 and Main Street.
- Better collaboration with the Department of Transportation is necessary.

## Economic Development

- Enhance the town's unique charm rather than replace it.
- Empty downtown buildings, limited parking, and low property values discourage businesses and visitors.
- Grants, advertising, and community engagement are essential!

## Healthcare

- Waldo lacks key services, including a pharmacy, medical facility, fresh grocery options, and senior care.
- Explore future collaborations with the UF Health bus.

## Community Engagement

- Many residents feel Eastern Alachua is overlooked compared to Gainesville.
- Share clear updates on county programs and events, especially for those living outside central Waldo.
- Ensure community concerns are heard.
- Prioritize youth services.



## Did We Miss Something?

FILL OUT OUR COMMENT FORM



Share the issues Alachua County can assist your community with! We are here to help.

*more forms available on our website*

352-374-5204 | [forwardfocus@alachuacounty.us](mailto:forwardfocus@alachuacounty.us)

[FORWARDFOCUS.ALACHUACOUNTY.US](https://forwardfocus.alachuacounty.us)



## Our Next Steps

**MICANOPY SESSION** -Next Week!

**MONTEOCHA SESSION**

02/20 | 6 PM | MICANOPY  
TOWN HALL (706 NE  
CHOLOKKA BLVD)

03/13 | 6 PM | JERUSALEM  
CHURCH OF GOD BY FAITH  
(1230 NE 156TH AVE)

We want to hear from you! These sessions are open to all residents, businesses, and local leaders, providing an opportunity to share insights and ideas about the future of eastern Alachua County. During these meetings, county staff will outline the project's goals and timeline.



Complete this form to register your organization to assist in identifying services and programs available in Eastern Alachua County.



Please complete the Individual Assistance Form to Request household assistance for specific needs and services.

**ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION**

**INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE**