

**Ironwood Homeowners Association Presentation  
City Commission Meeting  
March 27, 2006**

*Submitted by  
Juan Harrison  
05/12/06*

The Ironwood Golf Course Village Homeowners Association feels that it is important to express its concern regarding the sites being considered to feed the homeless that appeared in the March 23, 2006 edition of the Alligator. Article attached.

Our Homeowners Association has been devoting a great deal of time and effort in the past few years to change the perception of our area being a lower income neglected part of the city. Our property values have finally risen with the rest of the city.

We are currently working on our Neighborhood Improvement Plan to enhance the landscape in and around our neighborhood community. We are also working with FDOT to have all the islands landscaped along NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Waldo Road to Main Street. Their last communication indicated that this project should take place sometime in 2007.

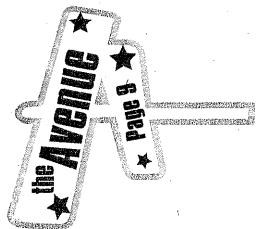
We feel that through recent efforts of the City and the University of Florida the eastside of Gainesville is beginning to turn the corner.

We feel that locating a site to feed the homeless in our neighborhood would have a one step forward two steps back affect on our community.

Our main concerns are as follows:

- There are many schools, daycare facilities and the McGurn YMCA right in the immediate area. The safety of our children will be compromised. Map attached.
- Property values will begin to decrease.
- Smokey Bear Park will be taken over by the homeless, much like Lynch Park downtown.

Recommendation: Remove the Fire of God Ministries (Old Moose Lodge) on NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & NE 15<sup>th</sup> Street from the sites being considered to feed the homeless.



# the independent florida a l l i g a t o r

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida

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VOLUME 99 ISSUE 121

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006

## City names new spots to feed homeless

### But not all places may be willing

By **DOMINICK E. TAO**  
Alligator Writer

City officials have made themselves clear: They don't want scores of homeless people gathering downtown for free meals. Earlier this month, the city ended an agree-

Hencin and City Manager Russ Blackburn will meet Wednesday with groups that provide the meals to discuss four new meal sites. The meeting will be in Room 201 of the Thomas Center.

"Hopefully, [the groups] will look at the sites and give them consideration," he said. The new locations are Fire of God Ministries, at 1801 NE 23rd Ave., the Salvation Army Thrift Store, at 55 NW 23rd Ave., the

Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, at 1028 NE 14th St. and Parkview Baptist Church, at 3403 NW 13th St. Only Fire of God Ministries, which is on the No. 15 bus route, is currently allowing groups to serve meals.

In a meeting March 2, city officials discussed alternatives to the Downtown Plaza. Some of the homeless people in attendance **SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 8**

City had hard time finding new hosts

**HOMELESS**, from page 1

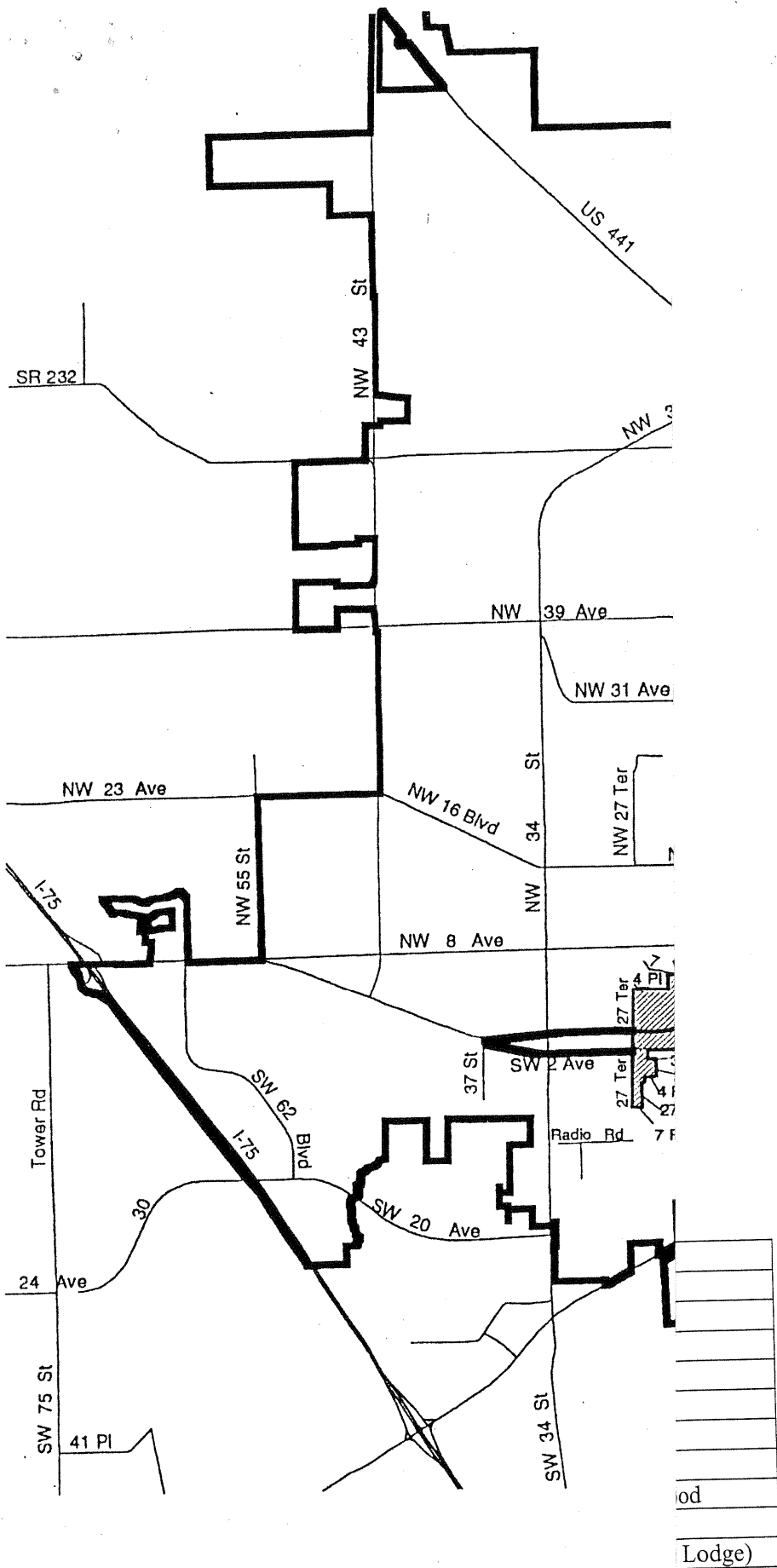
were brought to tears. "There are so many folks clustered in downtown. It's becoming a crisis," Blackburn said at the meeting.

"There are so many folks clustered in downtown. It's becoming a crisis."

**Russ Blackburn**  
city manager

Area businesses have been complaining about the large crowds of homeless people, Hencin said. Since that meeting, Hencin said, he has been "knocking on doors" in the community to find suitable replacement sites. "We've had a very poor response," he said. Hencin said other locations could not accommodate hosting homeless meal services because they also ran schools or day care centers. He said it was the city's goal to have "sites for seven days a week."

Despite the announcement of the new locations, some homeless advocates remain concerned. "People that take advantage of these meals have physical limitations," said Joe Jackson, a professor at the UF law school. "We want to be sure they have the access they need."



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Lodge)