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City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Wood & Swink Old Store and Post Office, built in 1882, is Florida's oldest working post office, and one of the last working general store post offices in the nation. It still features its old wood stove, brass mailboxes and wooden shelves, where visitors can purchase home-canned jars of peppers, fresh yellow squash, or mail a registered parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Wood and Swink has been in the Wood family since 1906 and some member of the Wood family has served as the postmaster since 1913: Henry Deaver Wood, a four-term Alachua County Commissioner, served as Postmaster from 1913 to 1930; Frederick W. Wood served as Postmaster for 44 years until 1979, longer than any other postmaster in Florida; Wilma Sue Brown Wood, Fred Wood, Sr.'s daughter-in-law and wife of Fred Wood, Jr. became the Postmaster in 1979. However; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Sue plans to retire soon, after 28 years of service as the Postmaster and the fate of the post office is a concern for the entire community because although the woodstove and ceiling fans are authentic, the store lacks modern amenities; and

WHEREAS, because the working conditions are not those most people desire, there is concern that the next postmaster would not be willing or able to work under those conditions and that the Postal Service would retire Zip Code 32633 or move the Post Office to another building; as the Wood and Swink is owned by the Wood family and the Postal Service rents out the portion of the store used for the post office; and

WHEREAS, funds to upgrade and restore the building are being raised at the Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out during April 7 - 15, 2006 sponsored by the Artists Alliance of North Florida and the Conservation Trust for Florida; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$200,000 is needed to upgrade and protect the building; the Postal Service stated in a letter they do not intend to close the Post Office, but the building's upgrades and preservation are still necessary; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville recognizes and honors the Wood family and especially Wilma Sue Brown Wood for their dedication to preserving a very special part of Alachua County's history; and

WHEREAS, the Wood & Swink has served for over 100 years as the heart of Evinston and it is the hope of the members of the community that the tradition will continue and the heritage of Evinston will be preserved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2005 as

*The Wood & Swink Old Store and Post Office
Heritage and Preservation Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens interested in preserving a portion of our county's unique history to join Wilma Sue and Freddie Wood in their efforts to renovate and preserve the Wood & Swink.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 31st day of March, A.D., 2006.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor