

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Forrestergroup <gforres182@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 11, 2025 3:37 PM  
**To:** Planning and Development  
**Cc:** johnmoranphoto@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Scenic Road designation for Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Ken McMurry, A/CP  
Senior Planner  
Growth Management  
10 SW 2nd Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. McMurry:

Please consider a Scenic Road designation for Lakeshore Drive. Lakeshore Drive is my daily source of recreation, walking and running 9 miles daily to see the birds, wildflowers, deer, squirrels, alligators, meeting others from the University and residents out riding bikes, fishing, rowing, walking, running, birdwatching and generally enjoying the area.

This is an area of great community enjoyment and relaxation that should be designated a Scenic Road and receive the recognition deserving of a local treasure.

Geneva Forrester  
156 NE 46th Terrace  
Gainesville, FL 32641  
geneva@theforrestergroup.com

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** John Moran <johnmoranphoto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 2:37 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development; Ken McMurry  
**Subject:** In Praise of Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

With the coming development of Eastwood Preserve, I'm still searching for the words to convey why Lakeshore Drive is worthy of Scenic Road status.

No doubt, Newnans Lake and Lakeshore Drive are some kind of special. But rather than tell you it's better perhaps to show you, and so I've put together a selection of pictures I've made over the years, along or within sight of our beloved Lakeshore Drive.

In my view it's past time this extraordinary byway be given the recognition and protection it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you, dear Commissioners, for all you do to make tomorrow a better day in Alachua County.

Sincerely,

John Moran



*Sunrise Sentinel • Nezumans Lake*

*photo by John Moran*



*Joy of Rowing • Newnans Lake photo by John Moran*



*Eye of the Gator • Newnans Lake photo by John Moran*



*Study in Orange and Blue • Newnans Lake photo by John Moran*



*Light Up the Night • Newnans Lake photo by John Moran*



*Flying Fish • Newnans Lake photo by John Moran*



*Veins of Fire • Newnans Lake • photo by John Moran*



*Day of the Longest Night/Winter Solstice 1981 • Newnans Lake • photo by John Moran*



*Spring Bouquet • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Mike and Ken • Newnans Lake • photo by John Moran*



*Two of a Kind • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Anya and Tre • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Magnolia • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*JD and Diesel • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Blue Flag Iris • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Bennie • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*







*Newnans Lake 15K • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Natural Balance • Palm Point • photo by John Moran*



*Gainesville Area Rowing • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Boat Crossing • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Wildlife Crossing • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Big Sky • Newnans Lake • photo by John Moran*



*Cycling Heaven • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Winter Sunrise • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*







*Morning Commute • Post-Hurricane Irma, 2017 • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Palm Point • Newnans Lake • photo by John Moran*



*No Place Like Home • Lakeshore Drive photo by John Moran*



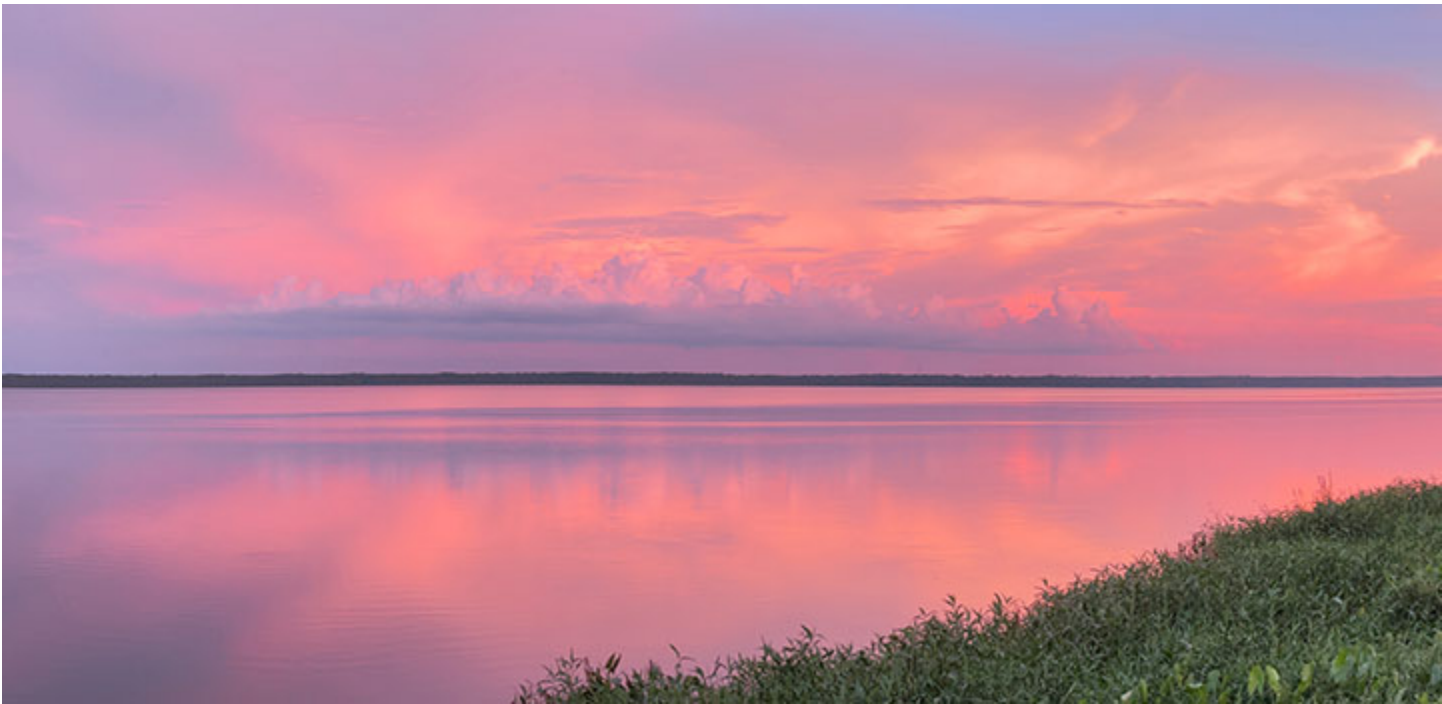
*Pithlachocco Moonrise photo by John Moran*



*Cycle of Life • Lakeshore Drive • photo by John Moran*



*Pithlachocco Sunrise • photo by John Moran*



*Pithlachocco Sunset • photo by John Moran*



*Where Wild Meets Scenic • Lakeshore Drive photo by John Moran*



# The history-

Preserving this part of our history is necessary, and it is something at which we need to work harder.

**O**n May 24 at 8 a.m., I arrived at Gum Rock Swamp Conservation Area, the trail he leading to the north shore of Newnan's Lake. It was a beautiful day.

The sun, already high, sent strobelike flash through the trees onto my left shoulder. I walk carefully along the narrow path, trying not to t over the stubby cypress knees poking through t ground. Several times in the past year I had hik to the site where 93 aboriginal canoes were c covered when the lake level dropped. I was w ried about the canoes and curious to see w conditions prevailed after a yearlong drought.

The "soil" matrix that holds the canoes is sa Probably the only reason the canoes survives the first place is because the sand was satura With no appreciable rain to saturate the gro surrounding the canoes, I wondered if they w becoming desiccated to the point that they w degrade totally.

Wood deteriorates even in a wetland enviro ment but will appear "healthy" as long as moist replaces the inner structure that has degrad When moisture is withdrawn and no conservati has been applied, the cellular structure collaps and causes irreversible damage. Upon dryin specimens lose about 90 percent of their w weight, and they distort and splinter.

I also wondered if the newly exposed lake shor — which used to be lake bottom — would begin to grow with vegetation whose roots would grow



**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** bmorgan994@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 11:10 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners); Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

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Dear Alachua County Commissioners:

No need to repeat myself. I believe most of you know where I stand in regard to the continuing degradation of our County through overdevelopment.

I strongly urge you to support John Moran's petition to grant Scenic Road Status to Lakeshore Drive. Such status is currently insufficient to offer any real protection, but it is a start.

Should you have the will to do so, the County could give teeth to the existing ordinance, and use those teeth as a basis to deny future inappropriate zoning changes such as the poorly considered decision to permit Eastwood Preserve (sic).

Consider how the County, and our community, came together to fight for the preservation of Millhopper road. It was a great success, proving that it can be done.

There are many roads in Alachua county that need such protection. First and foremost is Williston road, SR 121, south of Gainesville. This beautiful two lane highway is canopied and entirely rural for much of its length. I understand that it is a State road, not a County road, but I believe that the County retains some jurisdiction. With beefed up protection, those who enter Alachua County from the south would have proof that "Where Nature and Culture Meet" is more than just a slogan.

Southern Alachua County is thus far mostly rural and undeveloped, arguably one of the most beautiful and natural areas remaining in our otherwise degraded State. I urge you to consider some blanket protections such as Marion County's Farmland Preservation Area which protects our southern border. I applaud Marion County's decision to limit density in the Preservation Area to one home per ten acres. It is too late for that here, but if nothing else, please hold the line in regard to our current southern Alachua County zoning of one home per five acres.

The fate of our once green County lies in your hands. Please act!

Bruce Morgan  
15430 SW 75th Street  
Archer FL 32618  
352 495 9748

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** DAVID C SR WILLKOMM <willkomm\_d@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 3:15 PM  
**To:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Fw: Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** DAVID C SR WILLKOMM <willkomm\_d@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** bocc@alachuacounty.us <bocc@alachuacounty.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 03:12:15 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider granting approval of Lakeshore Drive becoming a Scenic Road. It sits on the western rim of Newnans Lake with many trees, and only 5 miles from downtown Gainesville.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

David Willkomm

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Lola Haskins <haskinslola65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Accord Lakeshore Drive scenic road status, please do not destroy it

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Dear Commissioners,

It didn't take John Moran's glorious pictures to convince me of the beauty of that road and the lake beside it. I've walked to Palm Point and around the lake in general.

Years ago when I was in my fifties, I won the Masters award for the 15K that's held annually out there and I've treasured that vase ever since because of its symbolism- not a manufactured thing but a handmade one-off vase with an egret on it.

We need the few unspoiled places that are left to us--places full of wild creatures and darkness at night. If you approve this project and others like it, generations to come will never know they existed. Please listen to your hearts and ignore the money. Please please keep your fingers in this dike.

Sincerely,  
Lola Haskins, poet  
[lolahaskins.com](http://lolahaskins.com)

*The sky has eaten fire.  
Quietly, the ibises roost.*

Leave it and them alone.

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Lesley Gamble <hrhindness@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:36 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Lesley Gamble; Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Drive is rare treasure in Alachua County- please make it official

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Dear Commissioners

I am moved to write you about this opportunity. I ask that you please designate Lakeshore Drive, a lovely, verdant reminder of Alachua county's bounty of beauty, as an official Scenic Road.

I am deeply dismayed by news of the proposed development at the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Hawthorne road. This needs to be reassessed for a number of reasons, primary among them environmental impact.

"Environmental impact," as you well know, includes the despoiling of our waters, soils and air through stormwater runoff; use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides; and other forms of human pollution. The proposed development would only increase and exacerbate problems we are already struggling to solve.

"Environmental impact" also extends beyond the concerns listed above to include impacts on quality of life and well being. Areas of quiet, plentiful and diverse plant and animal life, dark skies and natural beauty are no less vital to human health and happiness than clean air, water and soil. We KNOW this to be true: without environmental health there is no real or lasting economic health nor social justice.

The neighborhood around Lakeshore Drive and Newnan's Lake is exceptional for all the reasons listed above and needs to remain so.

Even though I do not live there I visit the lake regularly as a retreat, a place of contemplation, pleasure and rejuvenation. It's a treasure and sanctuary for all of us who picnic at Palm Point, paddle Newnan's Lake, and marvel at the astonishing magnificence of mature live oaks sheltering us from the various assaults of a hotter climate. The critical and long term value of the trees alone far outweigh any possible short term profits.

Rather than becoming yet another story of environmental regret may this beautiful slice of Alachua county be respected and protected for the vision it lives, the dreams it invites and the delight it offers everyone.

Lakeshore Drive merits our strongest levels of protection. We can begin by officially designating what it already is, a gorgeous and much loved Scenic Road.

With gratitude for the work you do and the kindest of regards, Lesley Gamble  
32601

Sent from my iPhone

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Dawn Lauryn <dawnlauryn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 3:45 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please support Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear BOCC/cc Planning

I am writing to express my full support of the petition of Scenic Road Status for Lakeshore Drive. More information is provided below for your reference, as a neighbor, John Moran, has advised he's written to you requesting this petition & already provided the information below. We're heartbroken about the reckless devastation headed in this environmentally sensitive area, the countless lives of animals to be murdered, orphaned, displaced, and will suffer immensely due to loss of habitat crucial to their survival. The impacted wildlife and recreational visitors will need as much protection of Lakeshore Drive as possible to allow them access to the life-sustaining lake. In fact, it shouldn't be a through road AT ALL due to the environmentally sensitive nature of the area. Not only should it be for local/recreational access only, the speed limit is already too fast, resulting in unnecessary loss of life. There should be slow/watch for wildlife, wildlife crossing signs as well as tables/speed bumps to slow and discourage auto traffic. There is already excess stress and burden just from one very poorly planned property with a SINGLE house, that over a year later, wildlife has been unable to adapt to after losing safe cover to travel through. I highly question the competency of people making such irresponsible and far-reaching decisions. All development is detrimental, but the poor planning and removal of crucial natural habitat created far more stress than was necessary. No one seems to care about the devastation and burden poor decisions made by the commission, planning board, etc. creates. I can only hope and pray that making Lakeshore Drive an Official Scenic Road can provide some kind of extra protections to offset the harm that has occurred here by the lake & trust the board will vote unanimously to approve this to help offset some of the very damage the board has already created.

PLEASE GRANT SCENIC ROAD STATUS.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Lauryn  
Alachua County Resident & Constituent  
1508 SE 69th Way  
Gainesville, FL 32641  
[dawnlauryn@gmail.com](mailto:dawnlauryn@gmail.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Moran** <[johnmoranphoto@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoranphoto@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 2:11 PM

Subject: Please support Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

To: Moran John <[johnmoranphoto@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoranphoto@gmail.com)>

Friends and Neighbors,

With the county's recent approval of a land-use change, major development is coming to Newnans Lake. A 149-home subdivision called Eastwood Preserve is on track for construction at the intersection of Hawthorne Road at Lakeshore Drive, which many of you know as the picturesque road along the western shore of Newnans Lake .

I'm writing to ask your support of our petition to the County Commission to accord official Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive, which could bring a modest level of enhanced protection by way of road weight limits and increased setbacks for construction.

Newnans Lake has been my home since 1977. We value that it has remained largely natural, and quiet, and dark. To borrow from the great Florida naturalist and writer Archie Carr, Newnans Lake is ***something real to hold onto in a world all broken out with man***. I've sent an email to the commission, making the case in photographs why I believe designating Lakeshore Drive as a scenic road is warranted. That message is copied below.

Public input and neighborhood support are valued by the Board of County Commissioners. If this is an issue you can get behind, please send an email indicating your support to [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us) . Please cc the county planning department at [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us).

Thank you for your time and interest.

John Moran

Learn more about the proposed Eastwood Preserve in this [news story](#) in the Independent Florida Alligator.

Learn more about the Alachua County Scenic Road program [here](#).

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**From:** John Moran <[johnmoranphoto@gmail.com](mailto:johnmoranphoto@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** In Praise of Lakeshore Drive

**Date:** July 21, 2025 at 2:36:46 PM EDT

**To:** "BOCC (Only Commissioners)" <[bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)>

**Cc:** [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us), [kmcmurry@alachuacounty.us](mailto:kmcmurry@alachuacounty.us)

Dear Commissioners,

With the coming development of Eastwood Preserve, I'm still searching for the words to convey why Lakeshore Drive is worthy of Scenic Road status.

No doubt, Newnans Lake and Lakeshore Drive are some kind of special. But rather than tell you it's better perhaps to show you, and so I've put together a selection of pictures I've made over the years, along or within sight of our beloved Lakeshore Drive.

In my view it's past time this extraordinary byway be given the recognition and protection it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you, dear Commissioners, for all you do to make tomorrow a better day in Alachua County.

Sincerely,

John Moran

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Robert Mounts <robert.t.mounts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 3:08 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development; johnmoranphoto@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support Scenic Road Designation for Lakeshore Drive

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Commissioners,

I strongly support Nature photographer John Moran's call for the protection of Lakeshore Drive at Newnan's Lake from undue and potentially destructive overdevelopment. At the very least, this road should be declared a Historic Scenic Road, eligible for special protection under the law.

As John has explained in words and photographs, I'm writing to add my support of his petition to the County Commission to accord official Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive, which could bring a modest level of enhanced protection by way of road weight limits and increased setbacks for construction.

It seems like the least we can do in light of the large residential development planned nearby.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Mounts  
5205 SW 103rd Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32608-4373

## Support Lakeshore Drive scenic road designation

**From:** [Thomas Hawkins <wthomashawkins@gmail.com>](mailto:wthomashawkins@gmail.com)

**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)

**Date:** Wed, 23 Jul 2025 16:06:33 GMT

**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

I recently learned that residents along the western shore of Newnan's Lake have initiated a process for Alachua County to consider designating Lakeshore Drive a scenic road. Because a scenic road designation could help to protect the beauty and rural character of this part of our community without prohibiting new homes, I believe this is a worthwhile idea. I encourage you to consider the proposal quickly, in advance of development proposed for the area.

Thank you for your consideration and work for Alachua County,

Thomas

(352) 377-3141

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Jim Pruitt <jimdpruitt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:58 PM  
**To:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Fw: Lakeshore Drive request

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 07:53:52 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Drive request

Dear Sirs at Alachua County Planning & Development,

It has come to my attention that a 149 - home development to be called Eastwood Preserve is slated to be built off of Lakeshore Drive, east of Gainesville.

I have driven along Lakeshore Drive numerous times and have always appreciated its special beauty.

I am asking that Alachua County, in your interaction with the developers, require that the integrity of this scenic beauty be preserved.

Thank you,

Jim D. Pruitt  
High Springs

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** MaryEl <duncn.mary.el@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 6:35 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please protect the wilderness feeling around Newnans Lake. Designating Lakeshore Drive as a Scenic Road will offer some protection there, it's an Alachua County treasure!

Sincerely,  
MaryEl Duncan

Residing in 32607 since 1998

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Jen Figueroa <figarower@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:41 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Drive & Scenic Road Status

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Dear Commissioners,

For the last 22 years I have had the privilege of rowing at Newnan's Lake and running and biking on Lakeshore Drive. Like so many who cherish how unspoiled the area is, I am concerned about Eastwood Preserve and its effect on the surrounding environment. I am writing in support of Lakeshore Drive receiving its well-deserved Scenic Road Status. The lake contains the rich history of our ancestors, the trees house multiple pairs of bald eagles, and the shore and surrounding woods protect and shelter abundant wildlife. We do not have other streets that border the shoreline of a majestic and unspoiled lake in Gainesville. Trying to add some protections to this scenic road is the very least we can do.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jen Figueroa  
Gainesville Area Rowing  
352-219-0717

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Peggy Bowie <peggybowie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 3:54 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Scenic road

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I lived on Newnan's Lake for 33 years. Visitors to my yard included wild turkeys, alligators, foxes, snakes, raccoons, possums and many birds. There was an eagle's nest right off my sleeping porch. Only 6 miles from downtown Gainesville, many people didn't know it existed. But the joy of biking or walking on that road around the lake was a constant. And kayaking in the lake a serene gift. Declaring this road a scenic road would do much to preserve what is there. Wild, wonderful and undeveloped. May it stay that way forever. Thank you.  
Peggy Bowie  
Sent from my iPhone

**Ken McMurry**

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**From:** Steve Robitaille <videoman49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:53 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Eastwood Preserve proposed subdivision

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners.

I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed Eastwood Preserve subdivision proposed for the intersection of Hawthorne Road and Lakeshore Drive, a stretch of pristine natural beauty a short drive from my home.

I had the privilege of producing a documentary on the late UF naturalist and writer, Archie Carr, who lamented the loss of what remains of Natural Florida, what Bob Graham called "the best of our state." I know were he alive today, he and his wife, Marjorie Harris Carr, the founder of Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE) for which I currently serve as president, would also be contacting you to reconsider this development.

Lakeshore Drive represents what has been called the "Other Florida," one of those increasingly rare remaining vestiges of Natural Florida. You have the privilege and responsibility that comes with your office to save that which, once lost, is forever lost to future generations.

Sincerely,

Steve Robitaille, PhD  
Gainesville, FL  
(352) 213-3882

## Ken McMurry

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**From:** Alexis Moran <j.alexis.moran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2025 2:32 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

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Dear Board of County Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask for your support of the petition to the County Commission to accord official Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive. It's one of the most special natural areas in Gainesville and I'm hoping that the Scenic Road status will protect it for future generations and for all the wildlife that live nearby.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Moran

## Ken McMurry

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**From:** Caitlin Moran <caitlin.m.moran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2025 2:13 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Scenic Road Status for Lakeshore Drive

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you on behalf of Lakeshore Drive. I grew up on Newnan's Lake and it truly is a special place. Lakeshore Drive is dark (as it should be at night to be able to enjoy the stars), natural, wild and just so beautiful. Please help to preserve this beautiful road by designating it Scenic Road status.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Moran

## Ken McMurry

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**From:** Celeste Shitama <celesteas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2025 6:06 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Scenic Road Status for Lake Shore Drive

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Dear Alachua County Commissioners:

As we all know, our county, Alachua, is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. The area that surrounds Newnan's Lake is an example of an incredible natural space circling a body of water that has enriched the lives of people, stretching back to the early indigenous tribes and original Seminoles to today's population, as well as supporting the natural population of wildlife, in and out of water to this day. The human population, including paddlers, fisherman, runners, photographers, cyclists and hikers have benefited from proximity to this lovely space. The wildlife thrives and depends on it.

A designation of Scenic Road, which it undoubtedly is, will help preserve what so many enjoy. Historically, the county, with nearly unanimous support from residents, has worked toward the shared goal of protecting that gift and benefit of living where we have found ourselves, by choice or fate. Although there has been approval of development, perhaps the injury of that decision will be lessened in its scope and in the details of execution. By designating Lake Shore Drive as a Scenic Road, I believe this will go far to protect it and, hopefully, discourage too much further development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Celeste Shitama  
Alachua County resident

## Ken McMurry

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**From:** Jerry Thompson <jerrythompsonfl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2025 5:02 PM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners); Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

County Commissioners and Planners-----thank you for the good work that you folks have done in the past.

I'm writing as a descendent of the David Mizell family, many of whom were early settlers around Orange Lake and Newnans Lake-----and some who served their community in local government.

The times have changed-----but thoughtful stewardship of the natural resources in our area remains a constant. In that spirit, I ask for your consideration and ultimate support of the proposal to designate Lakeshore Drive a **Scenic Road**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry Mizell Thompson, ED.S.  
Melrose

## Ken McMurry

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**From:** Janice Garry <jg.community23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2025 11:12 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners)  
**Cc:** Planning and Development; Janice Garry  
**Subject:** Support Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners

One of the wonderful things about living in Alachua County is that we have leadership and staff who appreciate the natural beauty of our little Florida sanctuary. Towards that end, I hope you will support giving Lakeshore Drive the designation of a Scenic Road.

Small adjustments can have a larger impact. The protections of a Scenic Road are not unreasonable, but they would help to preserve the beauty and wildlife habitat of Lakeshore Drive. And we humans would continue to breathe more deeply and rest our minds while we are in that space.

Thank you for your consideration. I know that each of you cares about our natural environment, which is, after all, our home.

In community,  
Janice Garry

## The Preservation of Lakeshore Drive

**From:** [Haley Holder <hrholder12@gmail.com>](mailto:hrholder12@gmail.com)  
**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)  
**Date:** Sat, 26 Jul 2025 14:21:25 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Alachua county my whole life, I'm heartbroken everyday because everywhere I drive I am forced to see so much destruction to the land. So I was equally heartbroken to learn of the plan for Eastwood Preserve.

I strongly support Lakeshore Drive becoming a Scenic Road. So, Commissioners I encourage you to go for a drive one late afternoon on Lakeshore Drive to see why it deserves protection.

See how the setting sun illuminates the trees that have been standing longer than we've been alive, claiming their territory.

See the stillness beyond them and the wildlife who have no idea the uproot and destruction that could come.

Sit in the silence of our old Florida and ask yourself if you can hear the birds sing.

Sincerely,  
Haley Holder

## Please support Scenic Road status for Lakeshore Drive

**From:** David Wilson <[dcswamp@yahoo.com](mailto:dcswamp@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us) <[bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)>  
**Date:** Fri, 25 Jul 2025 15:29:32 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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Dear County Commissioners:

I strongly urge you to support John Moran's petition to grant Scenic Road Status to Lakeshore Drive. Also, I would like to see the County give teeth to the existing ordinance to deny future inappropriate zoning changes such as the poorly considered decision to permit the 149 homes as part of the Eastwood Preserve development.

Newnans Lake is a treasure that should be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dave Wilson  
1905 NW 7th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32603  
1-352-275-1251

## Lakeshore Drive

**From:** [Howard, Richard <howarr@lifequest.ufl.edu>](mailto:howarr@lifequest.ufl.edu)  
**To:** [cschestnut@alachuacounty.us <cschestnut@alachuacounty.us>](mailto:cschestnut@alachuacounty.us)  
**Date:** Tue, 29 Jul 2025 14:11:31 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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I hope you will support the continuation of the Lakeshore Drive receiving Scenic Road around Newnan's Lake. Thanks for your support.

Richard J. Howard

## Support Scenic Road designation of Lakeshore Drive

**From:** Ray Brady <rbrady1959@gmail.com>

**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)

**CC:** [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us)

**Date:** Mon, 28 Jul 2025 21:35:55 GMT

**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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*Dear Commissioners*

*One of the wonderful things about living in Alachua County is that we have leadership and staff who appreciate the natural beauty of our little Florida sanctuary. Towards that end, I hope you will support giving Lakeshore Drive the designation of a Scenic Road.*

*Small adjustments can have a large impact. The protections of a Scenic Road are not unreasonable, but they would help to preserve the beauty and wildlife habitat of Lakeshore Drive. And we humans would continue to breathe more deeply and rest our minds while we are in that space.*

*Thank you for your consideration. I know that each of you cares about our natural environment, which is, after all, our home.*

*In community,*

*Ray Brady  
5519 NW 51st Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32653*

## Ken McMurry

---

**From:** Carol Mitchell <cmbbluewing61@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** BOCC (Only Commissioners); Planning and Development  
**Subject:** Please support Scenic Road designation of Lakeshore Dr

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

*Dear County Commissioners*

*I hope you will support giving Lakeshore Drive the designation of a Scenic Road. The protections of a Scenic Road are not unreasonable, but they would help to preserve the beauty and wildlife habitat of Lakeshore Drive.*

*This really important to the quality of life in Alachua County.*

*Also, this is a kind of local negotiation that pays attention to diverse local people in addition to moneyed developers. There are lots of local folks who will benefit by having a home. And if the Scenic Road designation is applied, lots of other folks will benefit by still being able to enjoy the natural scenic beauty of Newnan's Lake. We need to show the country how it's done.*

*Thank you for your consideration. I know that each of you cares about our natural environment, which is, after all, our home.*

Carol Mitchell  
[Cmbbluewing61@gmail.com](mailto:Cmbbluewing61@gmail.com)  
5014 NW 40th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32606

## Lake Shore Drive

**From:** Isabel Coutts <[izzybarten@gmail.com](mailto:izzybarten@gmail.com)>  
**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us) <[bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)>  
**CC:** [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us) <[planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us)>  
**Date:** Tue, 29 Jul 2025 20:12:24 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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Dear Commissioners

I am recommending that you designate Lake Shore Drive a Scenic Road.

I was brought up in coastal SE Florida and can recall the scenic and moving views of the undeveloped Atlantic beaches, now burdened by development in many instances. I am a Gator and longtime resident of Gainesville. Although it has saddened me to see so much local beauty succumb to development, I am grateful for every effort we have made as citizens preserve what is left.

I have visited friends who live on Lake Shore Drive and can attest to its unique character. With that in mind, please create the Lake Shore Drive as a Scenic Road.

Sincerely,

Isabel Coutts  
1902 NW 36th Terrace  
Gainesville, 32605

## Supporting Scenic Road Status for Lakeshore Drive

**From:** Paul Psychas <[ppsychas@gmail.com](mailto:ppsychas@gmail.com)>  
**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)  
**CC:** [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us), Marjatta Eilitta <[meilitta@gmail.com](mailto:meilitta@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, 04 Aug 2025 11:35:39 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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To the Board of County Commissioners -

We are writing in support of designating Lakeshore Drive in east Gainesville an an Alachua County Scenic Road.

We live across that road from Newnan's Lake and know that Alachua County is fortunate that such a beautiful, peaceful spot remains to enjoy in spite of the rapid growth across Florida. Every day we see people bicycling, fishing, birding, and cruising in their cars or boats So often, after a car trip to a distant Florida coastal town, we'll turn onto Lakeshore Drive, pass the cathedrals of cypress trees and think: "This is the prettiest spot of the whole trip-- right here in Alachua County."

We first began appreciating Newnan's Lake and Palm Point Park when we moved to Gainesville in 1991 as graduate students. We took our four children canoeing amongst the cypress trees and alligators. In the early 2000s, our daughter rowed crew on the lake with Gainesville Area Rowing, whose boathouse as you know is situated on Lakeshore Drive. In 2005, we purchased our home on Lakeshore Drive.

Photographer John Moran, our friend and neighbor, has shared with you a set of photos which capture better than words can the beauty of Lakeshore Drive and the enjoyment local residents take in this special setting. We agree with John that the Scenic Road designation feels long overdue!

Respectfully,  
Paul & Marjatta

Paul Psychas  
Marjatta Eilitta  
7000 Lakeshore Dr., Gainesville  
(352) 507-9923  
[ppsychas@gmail.com](mailto:ppsychas@gmail.com)

## Plea for Scenic Road status

**From:** [Andreana Lisca <cheesybananas@icloud.com>](mailto:cheesybananas@icloud.com)

**To:** [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)

**CC:** [planning@alachuacounty.us](mailto:planning@alachuacounty.us)

**Date:** Fri, 01 Aug 2025 23:26:36 GMT

**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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Dear Members of Alachua County CC Board and Planning Committee,

I write to support any move on your part to elevate 329B County road to Scenic status.

I have lived on and off along that road since 1968 when my parents built there. I now own that house and I enjoy the surrounding nature immensely. My mother was a staunch defender of the wildlife that abounds and spent a lot of energy interacting with sightseers along the road. It is one of the local places alligators can be observed swimming along the shoreline.

It is a truly beautiful, historic, unique part of the Gainesville area and Alachua County that now more than ever needs special consideration. There is a plan to build many houses nearby that will damage the scenic nature of the route with much additional traffic. Perhaps a change in status can protect it?

I know many citizens who will bring visitors for a drive along that road as a way of introducing the local beauty and unique landscape and wildlife.

As I have been reminded by local photographer John Moran this is something I want to urge you to do.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andreana Lisca  
6340 Lakeshore Drive  
Gainesville, NFL 32641

## Support Scenic Road designation of Lakeshore Drive

**From:** Darlena Cunha <darlena.cunha@gmail.com>

**To:** bocc@alachuacounty.us

**Date:** Thu, 07 Aug 2025 20:37:46 GMT

**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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Dear Commissioners,

One of the wonderful things about living in Alachua County is that we have leadership and staff who appreciate the natural beauty of our little Florida sanctuary. Towards that end, I hope you will support giving Lakeshore Drive the designation of a Scenic Road.

Small adjustments can have a large impact. The protections of a Scenic Road are not unreasonable, but they would help to preserve the beauty and wildlife habitat of Lakeshore Drive. And we humans would continue to breathe more deeply and rest our minds while we are in that space.

Thank you for your consideration. I know that each of you cares about our natural environment, which is, after all, our home.

In community,

Darlena Cunha

32606

## Newman's Lake / development/Scenic Road

**From:** P. Sullivan <posullivan911@yahoo.com>  
**To:** cschestnut@alachuacounty.us <cschestnut@alachuacounty.us>  
**Date:** Sat, 06 Sep 2025 19:51:22 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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A few words about me. I am 75 years old and was born in Gainesville. Graduating from GHS, married my highschool sweetheart and moving to Tampa for school graduating with a degree in Architectural Design.

I know a little about development, we can not grow as a community with out it.

That said it's the responsibility of the design team to integrate and blend the development to take advantage of the surrounding beauty and adding to it for the betterment of the community.

I grew up fishing and swimming at Palms Point. I've seen the lake over running the road and nearly dry. It is a beautiful scenic road and resource and the county should be ashamed not to recognize it. I live on Bream Lake in Hawthorne but every time I go Gainesville I come back along Lake Shore Drive just for the memories of my childhood.

The county has great opportunity at this juncture to provide additional housing for our growing community to keep and improve the beauty of Lake Shore Drive for the new residents and old guys that still remember as it was in our childhood.

Thanks

Preston Sullivan

Feel free to contact me

PS

The county should also look into Magnesia Springs in Hawthorne it to is beautiful resource that needs to be brought back to life

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

## Yes to scenic road designation

**From:** Elizabeth Byrd <lizbyrd1777@gmail.com>

**To:** bocc@alachuacounty.us

**Date:** Thu, 04 Sep 2025 13:51:38 GMT

**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

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I have ridden the lake road on my bike since I was 15 ; that's starting over 40 years ago. I am surprised it has not been designated as a scenic road by now. It's one of the prettiest roads in SE Gainesville.

Thanks,  
Liz Byrd

## Fw: [EXTERNAL] Lakefront Scenic Road Support

**From:** Willits, Casey W <WillitsCW@cityofgainesville.org>  
**To:** Board of County Comm [Email bocc@alachuacounty.us] <bocc@alachuacounty.us>  
**Date:** Tue, 09 Sep 2025 23:19:43 GMT  
**Processed By:** CHARLES CHESTNUT

Lakefront\_Scenic\_Road\_Support\_Letter\_TimesNewRoman.pdf

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FYI

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**From:** J <englj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:16:44 PM  
**To:** citycomm <CityComm@gainesvillefl.gov>; Book, Edwin A <bookea@gainesvillefl.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lakefront Scenic Road Support

Please respond so I know that you have received this message, sincere thanks, Joan English

# Support for Scenic Road Designation of Lakefront Drive

To: City Commission, City of Gainesville

From: Joan English, 3671 NW 36th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605

Phone: (352) 372-0102

Email: englije@gmail.com

Subject: Support for Scenic Road Designation of Lakefront Drive

Dear City Commission,

I am a recent graduate of the Alachua County Citizens Academy and want to be a stronger voice for the community I've gone to university at, built my career in, and lived in since 1990.

I am writing to express my strong support for designating Lakefront Drive as a Scenic Road. I have witnessed firsthand how the wildlife corridors and naturally beautiful places in our area are slowly being whittled away.

Lakefront Drive is a valuable and irreplaceable part of Gainesville's natural character. Preserving it as a scenic road will help protect the unique landscapes, wildlife habitats, and peaceful quality that make our community special.

I urge you to move forward with this designation to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy this treasured area.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Joan English

3671 NW 36th Street

Gainesville, FL 32605

(352) 372-0102

englije@gmail.com