



Village of *Indiantown* **News Release**

For Immediate Release

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Indiantown's Thelma Waters Selected into Florida Women's Hall of Fame

Waters Recognized as a Pioneer of Civil Rights, Healthcare and Affordable Housing

Indiantown, FL – Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the selection of Ethel Thelma Waters of Indiantown to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Each year, the governor selects three nominees from recommendations presented by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW). The nominees exemplify the great diversity of women's contributions to Florida life.

"Thelma Waters has been a pillar of the community since her arrival many years ago," explained Indiantown Vice Mayor Jackie Clarke. "She always says a community is what people make it by working together and has proven that every day. We cannot thank her enough for her service to the community and are proud to support her in reaching this pinnacle."

Waters was a leading force in the local community for civil rights. In the late 1960s, she opened up her own daycare center to offer affordable childcare options to local farmworkers. She served as the director of the East Coast Migrant Head Start for 10 years, where she held monthly meetings for parents and taught English to help them understand what their children were learning. Waters advocated for healthcare in Indiantown so passionately, that the American Friends Service Committee assisted her in establishing a full clinic with its own doctors and dentists to serve the Indiantown community. Her next area of focus became establishing affordable and quality housing in Indiantown where in 1973 Waters helped facilitate the first neighborhood of affordably priced houses.

"The Florida Women's Hall of Fame was created in 1982 to honor women who, through their lives and efforts, made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all Florida citizens," said Commissioner Maruchi Azorin, Florida Women's Hall of Fame Chair. "They are pioneers who have broken down barriers, created new opportunities, and championed issues to better Florida and its people. Only three of these trailblazing women will join their sisters and be immortalized on an honorary wall in the halls of the Florida Capitol."

The 2020 Florida Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. The FCSW will provide additional information about the ceremony on its website at <http://fcsw.net/>.

FCSW is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all Floridians, along with providing a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our state.

Other 2020 Florida Women's Hall of Fame honorees include Alice Scott Abbott and Alma Lee Loy.

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Indiantown is a rural community in Florida's Treasure Coast. First established in the early 1900s, then incorporated on December 31, 2017, Florida's youngest municipality hosts a diverse population of roughly 6,000 residents. While it may be small, its resident engagement is exemplary and its potential for community building and new business opportunity is large. The Village mission seeks to enable economic prosperity and business while building pride and cohesion through hands-on self-governance. www.indiantownfl.gov

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