

""Twitter handle (and profile name): VillageSquareFL (The Village Square)

**Twitter description:** A nervy bunch of liberals and conservatives who believe that disagreement and dialogue make for a good conversation, a good country and a good time.

**Description of the organization from a third party source:** "The Village Square grows vibrant civil discourse across the partisan divide by building relationships across political, cultural, racial and religious divides among citizens inside their community and has expanded to six cities across America."

**Scraped text from their home page of their website:** Titles: The Village Square - Tallahassee - Join the conversation with a nervy bunch of liberals and conservatives who believe that disagreement and dialogue make for a good conversation, a good country, and a good time.

**Headings:** Friday, January 26 @ 6:45 PM (doors open 6:30) | The Challenge Center; Tuesday, February 13 @ 7pm ET | UNUM digital series; Friday, February 23 @ Noon | first baptist church | God Squad; Become a member; fixing what's broken in our democracy; Village square on AEI Podcast; Village Square In the News; "Tallahassee Inspired" Series; The Village Square (noun); A nervy bunch of liberals and conservatives who believe that disagreement and dialogue make for a good conversation, a good country, and a good time.; Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, The Village Crier. Oyez, oyez.; Make a donation; Subscribe to our newsletter, The Village Crier. Oyez, oyez.

**Paragraphs:** Join us as we innovate American democracy right here in our hometown. Your tax-deductible donation of \$76 or more makes you a member, gets you some perks, and supports free events across our community all year.; Village SquareCast is part of The Democracy Group, a network of podcasts that examines what's broken in our democracy and how we can work together to fix it. Find The Democracy Group (and listen to all their fabulous podcasts) HERE and subscribe to Village SquareCast HERE or wherever you get your podcasts.; Throughout those battles, antidotes to our civic poisons have always run through the American bloodstream too. Americans have continually found ways to neutralize their discord and catalyze diversity, turning them into sources of strength.; "Everyone complains about the weather but nobody does anything about it." Liz Joyner feels that way about lack of civility and harsh political discourse but she did something about it in 2006 by starting the Village Square.; The Village Square is a 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible within limits of law. More legalese here.

**Scraped text from their about page of their website:** Titles: Our Story - The Village Square - Tallahassee

**Headings:** The Square:\_x000D\_

## **A Founding Tale?; Subscribe to our newsletter, The Village Crier. Oyez, oyez.**

**Paragraphs:** Once upon a time there was a country founded by a bunch of farmers and blacksmiths and silversmiths and bakers who got way too big for their britches and thought they ought to tell the fancy pants king to put his taxes where the sun don't shine. They tossed tea in the harbor in case the king wasn't clear they were right seriously peeved, and declared themselves independent. At the heart of their audacity was a big idea about regular people with no crowns on their heads at all. They believed that when common folk can talk to each other and think for themselves, they come up with some pretty good ideas and can be their own bosses.; READ MORE; Tea in the Harbor; As so often is the case with folks who've had to shut up for way too long and listen to a fancy pants king, these people became real chatterboxes. They talked to each other while they milled flour, hunted turkey, milked cows, dipped candles, carded wool, made wigs, built wagon wheels, hammered metal, shod horses. . . well, you get the point. They were very tired people. Nonetheless, these blabbermouths talked and talked. They even talked on paper as printing presses made it so farmers and blacksmiths and silversmiths and bakers could talk to more and more people at the same time.; The Marketplace of Ideas; The Village Square was born. It wasn't always exactly a "square" in the "village," although sometimes it was. It was the spirit of all this talking. All of a sudden good ideas were coming from a bazillion different brains, not just the king's one brain. As you might imagine, the hotsy totsy wrinkled old King, who liked ideas to come from his brain because he usually agreed with himself, didn't like the Village Square a bit and he got pretty snippy and tried to make them shut up.; It didn't work.; He got so mad that he put his people in some spiffy looking bright red coats and the kickin'est powdery wigs that were ever to dude up an army, he gave them bayonettes and stood'em in a real straight line in front of the farmers and blacksmiths and silversmiths and bakers and asked them to march. Well, that didn't work out so well for the king, but that's a story for another day.; Agreeing to disagree; These regular old folks without crowns on their heads found out soon enough that it's a lot easier to make decisions if you're the king and you've only got to convince yourself. Not only did they often disagree when they talked, they sometimes made each other really mad. They fussed and fought among themselves about this and that, but in the end, they decided to agree on what they could agree on and agree to disagree about the rest. And they decided to keep right on talking. They eventually agreed on a lot of important things so they wrote them down on paper. They even put in a lot of words to make it safe to keep disagreeing. You might have read it, it begins "We the People."; While these men in tights were going about the business of making a new country, some of them even threw in making a brand new church, nevermind it was pretty much exactly the same as the King's old church. But just to make their point that this brand spanking new country was all about agreeing to disagree, they eventually made rules that no one had to join this new old church of theirs. In this country, people could make their own churches about worshiping bricks if they wanted to and even though most everyone would probably think that worshiping bricks was really really stupid, they'd die to defend their right to do it.; Big Idea heard far and wide; Soon enough with all this talking going on, word got out about this big idea and people from all over came to the place where regular people with no crowns on their heads could talk to each other, think for themselves, and be

their own bosses. Truth be told, lots of the people who showed up didn't look much like guests you'd be inviting for dinner, much less to stay on. They were shabby and dirty and smelly and tired and had eaten a lot of potatoes or maybe not eaten much at all. There were probably even 3 or 4 of them who worshipped bricks. But this country kept saying to these tired, poor and hungry people "welcome, have a seat at our table to talk," and they even put up a statue that welcomed them and invited them to "breathe free." Sometimes they didn't even speak the same language, but they kept right on talking.; It wasn't long before pretty much everyone knew this was a special country indeed.; A few wrinkles to iron out; Now don't get me wrong, things didn't always go smoothly for this country of chit-chatters. Despite all this talking and thinking and reading there was still more than just a little lunk-headedness going on. Apparently forgetting altogether about all that talking they were doing about being created equally, they actually refused to let whole big groups of people talk and think and be their own bosses. And once this talking, thinking country disagreed so much that they starting killing each other and kept on killing each other. But in the end, even though their hearts were broken from all the arguing and killing they had done, they stayed together, bound up their wounds, and agreed to keep on disagreeing.; This and that happened. These people had a lot of good ideas along the way, and more than a few really bad ones, but because so many different voices were heard, wonderful things happened. Before long so many great ideas were heard that life became pretty easy. They spent a lot of time inside because there was a refrigerator with lots of good food in it, and there was an air conditioner and a comfy couch to sit on. Soon enough there was a box that pretty much everyone could buy that had people inside it who talked. It wasn't long before the people in the box talked every single minute of every single day.\_x000D\_

**Watching the box got to be more fun than a barrel o' monkeys and that country of non-stop talkers, sort of just stopped talking. Neighbors didn't talk to neighbors so much anymore, husbands stopped talking to wives (especially during the playoffs), kids stopped listening to their parents. (OK, so maybe the kids never did listen.) All these chatty farmers and blacksmiths and silversmiths and bakers were all so comfortable now that sometimes they didn't feel like working so hard at agreeing to disagree.; Remembering and forgetting; Then something happened one day in September hundreds of years after these uppity colonists built this country on talking and it happened right where that statue was put up about welcoming people, talking, and breathing free. What happened broke all of their hearts into a million tiny pieces. But on that day an amazing thing happened as well. The people all looked up from the box long enough that they saw each other again. They talked to people in their village they had never talked to. On that day, and some days that followed, they felt what had connected them all that time, even through yelling and fighting and killing, even with people they disagreed with.\_x000D\_**

**On that day they remembered that there were things more important than agreeing. They remembered the Village Square. And, for that moment as they remembered who they really were deep down, there was a chance to share with the whole world -many of whom were still having very bad problems with bossy kings, many of whom lived**

in places where people would sooner kill each other than find something to agree about - the beauty of this country they had built on regular people agreeing to disagree.; And then, just as suddenly as they remembered who they were, they forgot everything they had just remembered. They went back to their air conditioning and the good food in the refrigerator and the comfortable couch and turned the box back on, and listened to only the people they agree with because their hearts were broken and they just wanted to feel better, to feel sure. Their broken hearts made them all confused and they began thinking that to stay a special place, everyone must begin agreeing, and fast. They forgot that what had always made this country they loved a very special country indeed was that they had agreed about disagreeing. This is what they had agreed on, this is what they had in common, and it was profound.; It seemed like this time, sadly, the farmers and blacksmiths and silversmiths and bakers with their hearts broken into a million tiny pieces had forgotten forever that they came from people who had a big idea.; Or had they?; Liz Joyner\_x000D\_

July 4, 2006; ; READ LESS; America's founders were well ahead of their time when they built a country where "the constant clashing of opinion" solved problems. But now as technology too often divides us, to keep the marketplace of ideas healthy we'll have to breathe a little life into the neighborly civic connections that used to exist without much effort on our part.; Take notice: To all brave, well disposed American citizens in this neighbourhood, who have any inclination to join the democracy, now raising under our founding principles. Join the Village Square. We exist through the support of membership donations from citizens like you.; The Village Square builds community in our hometown across the ideological, racial, ethnic and religious divisions that have deepened so dramatically in our nation and that have prevented us from addressing the challenges we face together. Hometowns with strong and deep relationships are communities that thrive.; When you set Big Audacious Goals like ours you'd better have a pretty audacious team leading you onward. Meet the bipartisan community of leaders who volunteer their time on our board of directors to embrace our Impossible + Mandatory mission - and our staff who make pigs fly daily. (They have to blow hard.); The Village Square is a 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible within limits of law. More legalese here.

**Scraped text from their mission page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Scraped text from their history page of their website:** Titles: NA

**Headings:** NA

**Paragraphs:** NA

**Summaries of Links:** Based solely on the provided information, it appears that this organization is focused on promoting civic engagement and fostering community dialogue

around important issues. The presence of links to events, blog posts, and podcasts suggests that the organization aims to educate and inform the public on various topics. The inclusion of donation links indicates that the organization relies on financial support from individuals or institutions. The references to "democracy" and "our story" hint at a commitment to democratic values and a sense of shared identity within the community. Furthermore, the links to social media platforms and press releases suggest that the organization actively engages with the public and seeks to amplify its message. While the specific nature of the organization's activities cannot be fully determined from the provided information, it appears to be a platform for civic discourse and community building."""