

Prepared for the City Commission, April 17-30, 2014

City Manager

- ✓ **Congratulations to Commissioner Todd Chase who was re-elected to the District 2 seat, Commissioner-Elect Craig Carter who was elected to the District 3 seat and Commissioner-Elect Helen Warren who was elected to the At-Large 2 seat.** The commissioners-elect will participate in a two-day orientation Tuesday, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30. The swearing-in ceremony will be held Thursday, May 22 at 12 p.m. at the Thelma Boltin Center.
- ✓ TEAM and LifeQuest are pleased to announce the return of the **2014 Employee Rally**. The rally is scheduled for **Thursday, April 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Center**, which is located at 1028 NW 14th St. Invitations have been mailed, so be sure to return all healthy meal reservations and to-go orders.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **The new Gainesville Police Department Headquarters** building and Physical Training facility project is complete and a certificate of occupancy has been issued. During the month of April, furniture and equipment is being installed. The police department staff began a phased move-in starting in early April and the facility will be fully operational by the first of May. Final project delivery is expected to be within budget. The entire construction team congratulates the City of Gainesville on the addition of this modern facility to our community! **The ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony will be held Saturday, May 3** from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and is open to the public.
- ✓ The construction of the new **RTS facility continues to be on schedule for completion** during fall/winter of 2014. Crews have completed the window installation and water line/communication conduits in the maintenance building. The roofing, interior paint and air line piping are complete in the bus wash building. Additionally, the first floor of the administration building has been primed and painted and the lockers have been installed. Work continues on sewer and lateral water lines on 13th Road and First Street. In the maintenance building, work continues on the priming and painting of the interior, the automotive system piping installation, installation of bathroom lockers and the fire sprinkler. In the bus wash building, the equipment installation continues. In the administration building, work continues on the installation of glass, the ceiling grid and plumbing fixtures, as well as priming and painting the second floor.

Communications Office

Communications Office contact: Bob Woods – 352-393-8627

- ✓ The redesigned City of Gainesville website is now accessible at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/>. The public and staff are encouraged to provide direct, real-time feedback to city staff about the redesigned website by clicking on the “submit feedback” tab at the lower right corner of each page throughout the site. Comments will be used to identify and resolve site problems and provide responses to the public. Subcommittees are currently working on the mobile website and the calendar system.

- ✓ Gainesville 101: the Spring 2014 Citizens' Academy began Wednesday, March 12 and concluded Wednesday, April 16. **Graduation for the 2014 Spring Citizens' Academy is scheduled for the April 17 City Commission meeting.**

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Administration and Operations contact: Chief Gene Prince – 352-334-5078

- ✓ **Sunrise Rotary is hosting the 8th Annual Lois and Jim Hensel Firefighter Appreciation Picnic** Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the south parking lot of the Oaks Mall.
- ✓ **The annual GFR Retiree cookout will be held Saturday, April 26 from 12-5 p.m.** at the Kanapaha Veteran's Memorial Park, which is located at 7400 SW 41st Place.
- ✓ **Oral presentations for design services for Fire Station 1 are scheduled for Wednesday, April 30** in room 16 of City Hall (200 E. University Ave.).
- ✓ **The Gainesville Fire Rescue Strategic Plan and Standards of Cover may be viewed on the GFR page** of the city's website at www.gfr.org.

GFR Risk Reduction Bureau contact: Asst. Chief JoAnne Rice – 352-393-8377

- ✓ **Quint 8 will visit the Northwood neighborhood's Easter Egg Hunt at Northside Park** Saturday, April 19 from 1-2 p.m.
- ✓ **Engine 3 will visit Rawlings kindergarten students** Monday, April 21 from 10-11 a.m.
- ✓ **Sidney Lanier students will visit Fire Station 8** Friday, April 25 from 10:15-11 a.m.
- ✓ **Micanopy School pre-schoolers will visit the airport fire station** Tuesday, April 29 from 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. For information on **Operation Safe Club** classes, please call 334-5065.

GFR Support Services Bureau contact: Capt. Joseph Hillhouse – 352-393-8459

- ✓ Gainesville Fire Rescue continues to provide **CPR and related course offerings to the community through its Operation C.A.R.E** or Citizens Aiding in Response to Emergencies. The program is being provided on a fee basis by the City Of Gainesville to increase the number of persons who can perform CPR, first aid and other skills during an emergency until help can arrive. For more information, please visit gfr.org/community training.

Public Works

Public Works contact: Chantel Thomas – 352-334-5070

- ✓ **A Transit Development Plan Non-User Group Workshop will be held Tuesday, April 29** in the GRU multipurpose room at 2 p.m. The meeting will allow local employers, stakeholders, non-profit organizations and others to discuss ways RTS can improve its services in the future.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Administrative Office – 352-334-5067

- ✓ The City of Gainesville launched its **first crowdfunding campaign to raise \$20,800 to expand the popular Summer Heatwave program**, which provides a place for Gainesville youth to go during evening hours with activities ranging from structured team sports, a life skills class and open lounges to socialize and play games. Citizens can make tax-deductible donations to the project at <http://www.citizeninvestor.com/project/summer-heatwave->. Community investors' credit cards will not be charged unless the project reaches 100 percent of its funding goal before the May 24 deadline. For more information, [click here](#).
- ✓ **Baseball for all!** This program is offered through a partnership with the nonprofit corporation Noah's Endeavor, Inc., for children with special physical and developmental needs. The program teaches children to be comfortable on the field while they have fun and learn important safety skills.
Location: Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, Ball Field # 3, 1001 NW 34th St.
Remaining Program Dates and Times: Wednesdays: 4–6 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
April: 19, 23 and 26
For more information, please visit www.noahsendeavor.org, call Noah's Endeavor at 352-275-9639 or email info@noahsendeavor.org.
- ✓ To have a strong, sound structure you have to begin with a solid foundation! **Plan ahead for Foundations After-School Program, which continues through Thursday, June 5, 2014** (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:45-6 p.m. and Wednesday from 12:30-6 p.m.). The program is for kids in first-eighth grade and there are convenient locations at four of our recreation and community centers: Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center, Eastside Community Center and Porters Community Center. Participants will be involved in structured activities, such as tutoring, homework help, arts/crafts, recreation and sporting activities. All children are welcome, pre-registration is required. The cost per day is \$3.30 for city residents and \$5 for non-city residents (pay at the administrative office). Space is limited and is available on a first come first serve basis. Transportation is not provided for this program. For more information, please visit www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ **Need a place for your kids to go on teacher work days or school holidays? [Out of School Days](#)** camp hours are from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Fees are \$5.50 per day/per child for city residents (proof of residency required) and \$8.40 per day/per child for non-city residents. Lunch is **not** provided. You may register online or at the PRCA Administrative Office, which is located on the third floor of the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Please call 352-334-5067 with any questions. The Recreation Division offers full day camps at Eastside Recreation Center and Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center on the following dates:
 - Friday, June 6
- ✓ Come to the **36th Annual Farm and Forest Festival Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Morningside Nature Center**, which is located at 3540 E. University Ave., just three miles east of downtown Gainesville. Celebrate Earth Day at Farm and Forest Festival 2014! This event focuses on sustainable opportunities that are available in our community, in our neighborhood and home, with a special emphasis on historical people and practices that help balance modern trappings. Enjoy food, music, demonstrations, environmental displays and activities, live animals, guided walks and talks and wagon rides in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age three to 12. Admission is free for children under three. For more information about this festival and celebrating Earth Day, please contact Sally Wazny, environmental and cultural history programs coordinator, at waznysa@cityofgainesville.org or 352-334-3326, or visit www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org.

- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and end the last week of May! History comes to life at the little farm in the Piney Woods during **Living History Days**. Interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all yearlong. **Barnyard Buddies Program** takes place every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Youngsters, with an adult, can meet and greet farm animals by helping staff with afternoon feeding on the Living History Farm. This program is free, but you may bring donations of animal favorites like carrots, squash, apples and sweet potatoes and give it to staff. At the **Frogs and Friends Friday** program, children, with an adult, can join a Morningside Nature Center animal caretaker for an exciting and educational program featuring live amphibians and reptiles. The program takes place the first Friday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. Morningside Nature Center is located at 3540 E. University Ave., approximately three miles east of downtown Gainesville. For more information, please call 334-3326.

Aquatics contact: Jeff Moffitt – 352-393-8732

- ✓ The **2nd Annual Gainesville Kids Tri-Hard Triathlon will be held at Westside Pool Sunday, April 27**. This fun, kids’ triathlon is organized by Youth Combine and co-sponsored by the City of Gainesville. For more information, please visit Youth Combine’s website at www.gainesvilletrihard.com. The entry fee is \$30 per child. The triathlon will consist of biking, running and swimming.
- ✓ **Aqua-Fit water aerobics classes are available at the Northeast Pool**, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (in March and April) from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Perfect for city employees to stop by on their lunch break for a great workout (which can count toward your Pro-Club exercise points)! This program is offered throughout the year, so employees can join in at any time! This low/medium-intensity class offers more aerobic, cardio and core training, but also focuses on flexibility and total body toning. The class fee is \$2.55 a class.
- ✓ The **spring pool hours** began Monday, March 24 at the Northeast Pool:
 - Mon.-Fri.: 6-9 a.m. – lap swim
 - Mon.-Fri.: 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. – open swim (lap lanes available all afternoon)
 - Sat.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. – open swim
 - Sun.: 12-5 p.m. – open swim
- ✓ **Group swim lessons are offered for children ages 6 months to adults at the Northeast Pool.**
 - Session 2 (April 14 to May 2): 4–4:30 p.m., 5–5:30 p.m., 5:45–6:15 p.m.
 - Session 3 (May 5 to May 23): 5–5:30 p.m., 5:45–6:15 p.m.
 For full prices and other information, please visit the [swim lessons Web page](#).
- ✓ **New private swim lessons** are available this year **for one-on-one swimming development** for participants 3 years old or older on Saturdays at the Northeast Pool. [Register early](#); these sessions will fill up quickly!
 - Session 2 (April 26, May 3 and May 10)
- ✓ The **American Red Cross first aid, CPR and AED class** is available for anyone who is interested in becoming certified. Attendees must be at least 11 years old. Classes are available:
 - **Session 1** (Albert “Ray” Massey Center): May 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - **Session 2** (MLK Multipurpose Center): July 26 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ✓ Unleash the athlete within with **Triton Fitness Gainesville!** This high-intensity program is a blend of extreme land and aquatic training. This program incorporates competition and camaraderie to develop an environment where everyone will experience new mental and physical challenges.
Ages: 15 & Older

Fee: \$5 per class or 6 for \$25!

Times: March–November, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.

Locations: Dwight H. Hunter “Northeast” Pool, 1100 NE 14th St., 352-334-2191
Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, 1028 NE 14th St., 352-334-5053

Cultural Affairs contact: Russell Etling – 352-393-8532

- ✓ **Jest Fest!, a free, fun, family-friendly event produced by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, returns this April** with a great lineup of international stars. Last year, thousands of captive audience members, innocent bystanders, gawkers and curious on-lookers were stricken with contagious, uncontrollable laughter caught from the antics of an impressive assembly of some of the world’s finest cirque and comedy/variety acts. This year’s stellar lineup of thrilling daredevils and laughable buffoons will “strut and fret their time upon the stage” at the **Bo Diddley Community Plaza each Saturday night in April at 6 p.m.**, highlighting the virtues of hilarity and derring-do. Each Saturday night will feature entirely different world class entertainers so, to enjoy all that Jest Fest! has to offer, patrons should plan on attending all four evenings. Some of the astounding entertainers traveling to Gainesville to perform include:

April 19:

- The fun continues with Marc Dobson’s walking one-man-band.
- Following onstage is comedy juggler extraordinaire Dan Raspyni.
- To top off the evening, star of Broadway and film Avner the Eccentric, will delight audiences with his silent comedy and physical humor.

April 27:

- For the festival grand finale, the circus returns to downtown Gainesville with a performance by the Walten’s Acrobatic and Performing Dog Show.
- The evening will also feature a puppet and mask procession through the plaza featuring puppets from Santa Fe College Theatre, Rainbow Tiger Circus, Moxie Productions and the Thomas Center Theatre for Young Audiences.
- Jest Fest! will culminate with an electric stage performance by acrobat, comedian and hand-balancing artist Cory Tabino. Tabino is a multitalented circus performer with 21 years’ experience onstage working for more than 25 circus companies, including the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil.

For more details on Jest Fest!, giveaways and a photography contest (with a grand prize of tickets for two to Cirque du Soleil in Orlando), please visit the Jest Fest! Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/jestfestgainesville>. For the full list of Jest Fest! performers, visit www.GvlCulturalAffairs.org.

- ✓ **The “Free Fridays” concert series returns Friday, May 2 with an Eric Clapton tribute by Mike Boulware and friends.** “Free Fridays” are held each Friday May–October from 8–10 p.m. at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza, which is located on the corner of Southeast First Street and East University Avenue. A complete listing of the “Free Fridays” entertainment can be found on the [“Free Fridays” Web page](#). “Free Fridays” is presented by the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department. For more information on “Free Fridays,” please contact David Ballard at 352-393-8746.
- ✓ **Artist applications are now available for the 33rd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show.** With its blend of art, food and music, the Downtown Festival & Art Show has consistently been recognized as one of the top 200 shows in the nation since 1996. The Downtown Festival & Art Show jumped into the top 10 in national art show rankings last year to No. 10 on Sunshine Artist magazine’s “200 Best” list of top fine arts festivals in the nation. On Saturday, Nov. 8 and Sunday Nov. 9, 2014, more

than 250 artists will display original oils and acrylics, vibrant watercolors, captivating sculptures, dazzling jewelry, decorative ceramics and vivid photography in historic downtown Gainesville. They will compete for \$19,000 in cash prizes and purchase awards. The festival attracts more than 100,000 visitors, who travel the historic streets of Gainesville to purchase one-of-a-kind art work. Visitors can savor local and international cuisine, enjoy live music from three stages, and explore the Community Information Area, featuring 50 nonprofit organizations showcasing their services. Children can enjoy free, hands-on art activities at the Children's Imagination Station. Applications for the Downtown Festival & Art Show are available upon request at 352-393-8536 or online at <http://www.gvlculturalaffairs.org>. The **application deadline is Friday, May 5.**

- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** The *ART THRU ARCHITECTURE: The Work of Ron Haase* exhibition will be on display in the Main Gallery March 28-June 21.

Also in the Historic Thomas Center's Mezzanine Gallery is the *Alachua County Public Schools' Visual Arts Program SHOWCASING STUDENT ART Elementary* exhibition, which will be on display April 5-May 3.

Planning and Development Services

Planning & Development Services contact: Steve Dush – 352-393-8690

- ✓ **The Planning and Development Services Department continues its outreach efforts on the Land Development Code (LDC).** Staff has held (and continues to hold) several neighborhood workshops to inform residents about the land development code update. Staff prepared more than 10,000 notices that will be mailed out this week in anticipation of the Plan Board's May 6 and 7 public meetings. Staff anticipates the update items to be continued to the Plan Board's regularly scheduled meetings in May and June.
- ✓ **The Planning and Development Services Department hosted the Florida Urban Forestry Council visit to the City of Gainesville** (April 8-9, 2014) in the Long Gallery of the Thomas Center. The council promotes sound urban forestry policies and practices by educating citizens and communities throughout the state of Florida. The members are volunteers that collaborate in pursuit of advocating urban forest issues in the state of Florida.

Economic Development & Innovation

Economic Development & Innovation contact: Erik Bredfeldt – 352-393-8614

- ✓ **On Thursday, April 17, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a portion of the Plum Creek Phase III meeting** at the Senior Recreation Center.
- ✓ **On Thursday, April 24, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a meeting of the City Manager's internal Economic Development Team.**
- ✓ **On Thursday, April 24, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend the monthly GACRAA meeting** at the Gainesville Regional Airport.

Gainesville Police Department

Gainesville Police Department contact: Officer Ben Tobias – 352-393-7525

- ✓ The [Gainesville Police Department Community Calendar](#) provides information on crime watch meetings and other community meetings, such as the Black-on-Black Task Force. Please view the calendar for meeting dates and locations.
- ✓ **On Tuesday, April 22 at 6 p.m., the public is invited to “Walk with the Chief”** as Chief Jones walks the Phoenix Neighborhood. To join, meet at the GPD Annex (3124 SW 26th Terrace).

The next report will cover May 1-14, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, April 24. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.