

Prepared for the City Commission, May 1-14, 2014

City Manager

- ✓ **Thank you, Commissioners Bottcher and Hawkins, for serving the City of Gainesville as commissioner.** We appreciate the hard work and dedication you gave the city and its residents over the years and wish you the best in your future endeavors! **The last meeting for the outgoing commissioners, known as sine die, will be held at the regular scheduled City Commission meeting Thursday, May 15.**
- ✓ **The swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner-elect Craig Carter, Commissioner Todd Chase and Commissioner-elect Helen Warren will be held Thursday, May 22 at 12 p.m.** at the Thelma Boltin Center.

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.
- ✓ Construction for Phase 1 of the **Main Street streetscape** project is complete. This project includes the replacement, relocation and new installation of more than 130 roadway and pedestrian scale lights on Main Street between Depot and NW Eighth Avenues. Also included in this project was an LED upgrade of 27 pedestrian lights on South First Avenue between the Bo Diddley Community Plaza and the parking garage. For more information on this project, [click here](#), or contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.
- ✓ Construction on the **West Sixth Street Rail-Trail Section 3** project is complete. This project consists of the construction of the Sixth Street Rail-Trail multi-use path connecting the two existing sections at Southwest Second Avenue and Northwest 10th Avenue. This project included two medians with refuge islands on Northwest Eighth Avenue at Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest Second Street. For more information, [click here](#), or contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.
- ✓ Construction of the **Southwest 35th Place sidewalks** project began Feb. 10 and is anticipated to be complete in May. The goal of this project is to construct a sidewalk on the south side of Southwest 35th Place between Southwest 34th Street and the existing sidewalk, approximately 450 ft. east of Southwest 27th Street. For more information, [click here](#), or contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.

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 Fire Rescue

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

- ✓ 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 **Norton Elementary School Friday, May 9** from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ **Engine 5** will attend the **AAA Annual Salute to Safety Patrols Friday, May 9** from 4-5 p.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

- ✓ **GFR will have a team competing in the annual ShandsCair Advanced Life Support Competition** Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ For the past 14 years, the **FDOT has conducted a statewide survey of seat belt use**, as directed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The surveys are conducted annually at various locations and this year **Alachua**, Duval and St. Johns counties have been selected to be surveyed. The intent of the survey is simply to determine seat belt usage statewide. This **survey is scheduled to begin during the end of May and will last approximately one month**. For more information, please contact [Shaun E. Stewart](#), Safety Program Administrator, Florida Department of Transportation / District Two, 1109 S. Marion Ave., MS 2019, Lake City, FL 32025-5874 or call 800-749-2967, x7454.
- ✓ **RTS and its consultant will have informational meetings Thursday, May 1 to discuss a proposed new route system**. People may attend one of the three meetings:
 - Rosa Parks Downtown Station: 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m.
 - Oaks Mall Bus Stop: 7:30-9:30 a.m.
 - Butler Plaza Bus Stop: 2:30-4 p.m.
 - GRU downtown, multipurpose room: 6-8 p.m.

- ✓ On **Monday, May 12, the Streetcar Project Technical Advisory Committee will meet in room 17 (basement) of City Hall at 10 a.m.** The public is invited to attend this meeting to hear about the ongoing streetcar study.
- ✓ **RTS' summer service will begin with reduced service on many routes between May 5 and May 11.** Routes 1, 2A, 2B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25A, 25B, 43 and 75 will run their normal summer schedule. Routes 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 34 and 35 will run a reduced schedule which is marked by an "R" in the online and printed schedules. Routes 38, 46 and all UF campus routes will not be running. Normal Summer Service will resume Monday, May 12. Please visit the RTS website for more information at www.Go-RTS.com.
- ✓ **RTS routes 21, 27, 28, 36, 38T, 39, 41, 62, 76 and 77 are suspended for the summer beginning Monday, May 5.** These routes are expected to return for RTS' Fall Service.
- ✓ **RTS' Later Gator service will be suspended Monday, May 5-Wednesday, July 2.**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Administrative Office – 352-334-5067

- ✓ Help today by investing in Summer Heatwave! 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](#).
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **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

year long. **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 [Biathlon Challenge](#), which consists of eight races that alternate between Northeast and Westside Pools, continues with the second race of the season taking place **at the Westside Pool Saturday, May 24**. The biathlon consists of a 5k run and an 800-meter swim. Early registration fees are \$17.25 per race for city residents and \$23 for non-city residents, or \$23 for city residents and \$34.50 for non-city residents on the day of the race. On-site registration and check-in begins at 7 a.m., and the first wave beginning at 7:45 a.m. and the second wave beginning at 8:30 a.m. The first 15 people to register will receive some sweet swag!
- ✓ [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
- ✓ The **spring pool hours** begin Friday, May 2 at the **Westside Pool**:
 - Mon.-Fri.: 3-8 p.m. – open swim
 - 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 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

- ✓ You are invited to the **“Free Fridays” concert series**, 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. Featuring some of the best local and regional musicians, this series runs for nearly six months and is highly anticipated by its many fans. For well over a decade, all ages have brought their blankets and lawn chairs into our beautiful downtown amphitheatre and joined in the fun under the stars. Upcoming performers include:
 - **May 2:** Eric Clapton Tribute by Mike Boulware and Friends
 - **May 9:** The Shambles and Steely Dan Tribute
- ✓ **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.gviculturalaffairs.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.

Getting to Know You: Our Neighbors of European Heritage is a multi-media exhibition, featuring student interviews and depictions of local residents with family roots located in Europe. The exhibit runs May 10–June 21 in the Mezzanine Gallery, with the opening reception Sunday, May 11 from 3–5 p.m.

Housing & Community Development

Housing & Community Development contact: Jackie Richardson– 352-334-5026

- ✓ The Housing & Community Development Division **monthly Homeowners Training workshop for homeowners is scheduled for Thursday, May 8 from 1:30–4:30 p.m.** The training will be held at the Thomas Center B, 306 NE Sixth Ave., in room 249. For more information, please contact the HCD Division at 352-393-8618.
- ✓ The Housing & Community Development Division/Block Grant Administration is **reviewing all CDBG and HOME applications projects for eligibility.** All agencies’ presentations have been

presented before the Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD). The CACCD is conducting site visits to the various agencies to obtain more details regarding the potential projects. The next step in the application process is for the CACCD to complete all site visits and make their funding recommendations. All meetings are open to the public.

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ Building Official John Freeland is happy to report that **online inspections are available**. Please visit the [Building Inspection Web page](#) for more information and a tutorial on how to learn to register and use Citizen Access.
- ✓ The **Building Official attended the Builder Association of North Central Florida monthly meeting** April 21 at Thomas Center “A.”
- ✓ **The Building Inspection Department staff is reviewing permits for the vacant Wal-Mart site** at 2643 NW 13th Street. The plans call for two separate tenants, with Ross and Burlington occupying the building.
- ✓ The **Building Inspection Department has issued a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) for the new Gainesville Police Department building** complex.
- ✓ **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.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On **Monday, May 5**, there will be a **follow-up meeting between GRU and General Government development plan review staff to check the status of the soon-to-be launched and in-sync development review process** between the two organizations. This will include a common submittal date with a focus on quality control at the outset and then comments forwarded to the applicant to allow sufficient time for response. This revised process will be effective in June.
- ✓ On **Thursday, May 8**, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a **walk-through of the Southwest Third Avenue and Southwest Ninth Street improvement in Innovation Square**, as part of the I2 implementation team.
- ✓ On **Thursday, May 8**, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a **meeting of the City Manager’s Economic Development Team**.
- ✓ On **Tuesday, May 13**, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce focused on **developing an area-wide international commerce strategy to position the city to take advantage of business opportunities** with other countries.
- ✓ On **Tuesday, May 13**, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a **meeting of the I2 implementation team** at the GRU Administration Building.

- ✓ On **Wednesday, May 14**, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a **meeting of regional partners** at the Chamber of Commerce.

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.
- ✓ The Gainesville Police Department is thrilled to host **its grand opening ceremony for its new headquarters Saturday, May 3**. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., and tours will begin at 11 a.m. The public is welcome to come and see their new police department!
- ✓ **Chief Tony Jones will walk the Holiday Gardens neighborhood Tuesday, May 6 at 6 p.m.** Those interested in joining should meet at the mailboxes (1499 SW 18th Place) to walk with the chief.

The next report will cover May 15-June 4, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, May 8. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.