

Prepared for the City Commission, May 15-June 4, 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.
- ✓ In observation of the **Memorial Day holiday**, city offices will be closed Monday, May 26.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Work continues to progress on the new RTS facility.** Plumbing fixtures and fuel pumps are being installed at the fueling building. Painting, concrete patchwork and equipment testing is underway on the bus wash building. In the maintenance building, work continues on painting, restroom tile, shelving, bus lift installation, fire sprinkler installation and the exhaust system for the paint booth. Lockers and floor/wall tile are being installed in the operations and administration building, with handrail and ceiling grid installation being completed.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Work will begin working on a **roundabout within the intersection of South Main Street and Depot Avenue** and on the **reconstruction of Depot Avenue between South Main and Southwest 11th Streets** Monday, May 19. Work will require changes to the traffic pattern within the intersection. Traffic on Main Street will be maintained, however Depot Avenue will be closed west of Main Street. Motorists will be able to use Southwest Fourth, Southwest Fifth or Southwest 16th Avenues to Southwest Sixth Street as detour routes. In early June, Depot Avenue and Southwest 11th Street will be closed until the fall for construction of the roundabout near PK Yonge School. Additional detours and traffic impacts can be expected throughout construction. The reconstruction of Depot Avenue will include a two lane divided roadway, a new crossing at Tumblin Creek, three roundabouts (Southwest 11th Street, Southwest Sixth Street and South Main Street), streetscaping, landscaping, decorative lighting and improvements to the existing multi-purpose path. O'Steen Brothers of Gainesville is under contract to complete the reconstruction project at a cost of \$6.5 million. The project is scheduled to be complete by summer 2016, barring any unforeseen conditions. For more information on this project, visit www.GainesvillePublicWorks.org or call John Veilleux, project manager at 352-334-5072.
- ✓ Oral presentations for the **design services for Fire Station no. 1** were heard April 30. The bid team has determined rankings for three vendors.

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.
- ✓ National EMS Week is May 18-25.

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

- ✓ Engine 3 will visit Duval Elementary School for Career/Vehicle Day Friday, May 16 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ✓ The 5th Annual Touch-A-Truck event is Saturday May, 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Northeast Complex by Citizens’ Field.
- ✓ A group of preschoolers will visit the Airport Fire Station Tuesday, May 20.
- ✓ On Saturday, May 24, free Friend and Family CPR classes are available at GFR’s Support Services (1026 NE 14th St.). To register or to learn about class times, please call 334-5075.
- ✓ GFR is hosting an open house and health and safety fair at all GFR stations Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Citizens can get free blood pressure checks, safety information and complete “Vial of Life” documentation.
- ✓ Littlewood Elementary students will visit Safety City and Fire Station 3 Thursday, May 29.
- ✓ Requests for car seat safety checks and installation should be directed to GFR’s Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez at 393-8461. A car seat checkpoint is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3 at Fire Station 8, which is located at 3223 NW 42nd Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon. To schedule an appointment, please call 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

- ✓ In **observance of Memorial Day, all RTS offices will be closed and bus service suspended.** Summer service will resume Tuesday, May 27.
- ✓ **RTS' Later Gator service will be suspended Monday, May 5-Wednesday, July 2.**
- ✓ On May 12, the **Gainesville Clean Water Partnership provided a hands-on training session for municipal construction and maintenance employees** at the Public Works Department. The training session covered erosion control and sedimentation training.
- ✓ **RTS staff and vehicles will participate in the Sweet Dreams Touch-a-Truck event** Saturday, May 17.
- ✓ On **Wednesday, May 21, RTS and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1579 are partnering to provide a "No Fare Day" to people in the Gainesville community.** Any person wishing to purchase an all-day pass from a bus operator or the Rosa Parks Downtown Station will be able to receive one at no cost. This event is being held to bring awareness of an upcoming transportation bill in Washington. Information on the bill can be found at www.votetransit.org.
- ✓ **RTS staff and vehicles will attend numerous Alachua County elementary schools' Career Days** in May.

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.
- ✓ **Plan now for summer camp! This summer, sessions are three weeks long, and are offered for children in first-eighth grades.** Summer camps are action-packed, filled with exciting experiences, and focus on the Six Pillars of Character® program. Free swimming lessons are included in all sessions. The cost is \$142.50 for city residents (proof of residency required) and \$213.75 for non-city residents. Scholarships are available for eligible families (must qualify for reduced or free lunch through SBAC). **This summer's dates and themes include:**
 - Session 1 (June 16-July 3): Sports Extravaganza
 - Session 2 (July 7-25): The Great Outdoors
 - Session 3 (July 28-August 15): We are Family

Camps are available at the following locations: Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center, Eastside Community Center, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Porters Community Center. Register [online](#), in person at the Thomas Center (306 NE Sixth Ave.), Building B, third Floor or call for information 352-334-5067.

- ✓ **Earth Academy Day Camp is offered for children in first through sixth grades** (five, one-week sessions) at Morningside Nature Center. Camp space is limited, so be sure to register early! The cost is \$115.75 for city residents (proof of residency required) and \$173.75 for non-city residents. Scholarships are available for eligible families (must qualify for reduced or free lunch through SBAC). **This summer's dates and themes include:**
 - Session 1 (June 9-12): Bones!
 - Session 2 (June 16-20): Florida as it was
 - Session 3 (June 23-27): Happy Campers
 - Session 4 (August 4-8): Happy Campers
 - Session 5 (August 11-15): Florida as it was

Register [online](#), in person at the Thomas Center (306 NE Sixth Ave.), Building B, third Floor or call for information 352-334-5067.

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 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** began 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
- ✓ 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 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 16:** Bob Dylan Tribute by Mick Marino and Friends
 - **May 23:** Wester Joseph’s Stereo Vudu
 - **May 30:** Bob Marley Tribute by Urban Renewal
- ✓ [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.

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.

Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ During the week of May 19, the **Alachua County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) will meet twice to discuss funding recommendation for the Community Grant Program (CGP)**. The AHAC's regular meeting will be held at **6 p.m. Monday, May 19** in room 249 of Thomas Center "B," which is located at 306 NE Sixth Ave. The CGP and alternative funding recommendations will be discussed. The **AHAC and agencies that applied for the Community Grant Program will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 21** in the Alachua County Health Department Auditorium, which is located at 224 SE 24th St. They will discuss, explain the CGP and vote on recommendation.
- ✓ The **next meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD) will be held Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.** in room 301 (second floor) of Thomas Center "B." At this meeting, the CACCD will complete its site-visits reports and discuss its recommendations of the CDBG and HOME programs funds. All meetings are open to the public.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On **Wednesday, May 21, the Economic Development & Innovation Director and members of the Innovation Academy team** will discuss a few institutional arrangements flowing from the academy team's work that can encourage innovative approaches to various city issues.
- ✓ On **Thursday, May 22, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a regular meeting of the City Manger's Economic Development Team.**
- ✓ On **Thursday, May 29, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the monthly meeting of the Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority (GACRAA).**
- ✓ On **Tuesday, June 3, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the StartupQuest Workforce Development event** that is providing entrepreneurial training and the potential for self employment as an approach to workforce development in the region.
- ✓ On **Tuesday, June 3, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the city's Retiree Health Fund Investment Committee meeting.**

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 Aviation Unit is participating in the American Heroes Airshow Saturday, May 17**, which will be held at the Santa Fe College main campus from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The airshow is geared towards helicopter aviation and gives the public the opportunity to meet their local airborne heroes.
- ✓ **Chief Jones is walking the Gardenia Gardens apartments Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.** If you would like to join the Chief as he walks, please meet at the complex clubhouse (1727 NE Eighth Ave.).

- ✓ **On Wednesday, May 28, the Gainesville Police Explorer Post 917 will host their annual awards and promotional ceremony.** The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. at the Thomas Center Spanish Court. Come see our future law enforcement professionals as they are recognized for their actions during this past year.
- ✓ **Chief Jones is walking the Capri Subdivision Tuesday, June 3 at 6 p.m.** Please meet at the clubhouse, which is located at 4412 NW 36th Drive, if you'd like to join the walk.

The next report will cover June 5-18, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, May 29. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.