

*Prepared for the City Commission, June 5-18, 2014*

## City Manager

- ✓ The **City Commission will hold its annual Strategic Planning Retreat Wednesday, June 11** from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. **and Thursday, June 12** from 1-6 p.m. **at GPD's Hero's Hall**, which is located inside the new GPD Administration Building. At the strategic planning retreat, goals and initiatives that improve the quality of life in Gainesville will be prioritized and then matched with available fiscal resources through the normal budget process.
- ✓ The City of Gainesville has initiated its **first virtual town hall**, dubbed [engageGNV](#). This online forum allows for topics to be posted to solicit input from citizens. The first topic has been initiated to garner **input from the public about the Southeast Fourth Street reconstruction project** by answering the question "How should the City of Gainesville rebuild Southeast Fourth Street?" By accessing the online forum at <http://www.peakdemocracy.com/1899>, the public may express an opinion for decision-makers to read and may also read what other residents are saying about the project. Since this town hall is virtual, it can be accessed by citizens at any time of the day.
- ✓ The City of Gainesville is pleased to announce that **access to City Commissioner emails is now available online** at <http://ccemail.cityofgainesville.org/>. Site visitors can browse email correspondence for current and outgoing commissioners or search message archives by date, sender, recipient, subject and/or key words in the body of the text. Email search results may be exported or printed individually or in bulk.
- ✓ The **Alachua County Food Services Program is providing free meals to any child between 0-18 years of age**. Participating sites are providing free, nutritious breakfast and lunch while school is not in session. For a list of locations and to register, please visit <http://www.summerfoodflorida.org/>.
- ✓ **Follow @GRUStormCentral on Twitter for outage information during severe weather.**

## Capital Projects

- ✓ In late May, a **pre-bid meeting was held for the Westside Pool chemical building roof replacement**.
- ✓ Facilities Management is in the process of releasing a **bid for the Gainesville Empowerment center restroom renovation in dormitory D**.
- ✓ **Crews continue to work on the interior of the buildings at the new RTS facility**. Testing of placed equipment, such as vehicle lifts, is ongoing; and concrete pavement is being laid around the facility. The maintenance, operations and administration buildings are energized after passing their electrical inspections. Work continues to be on schedule for completion late in 2014.
- ✓ Construction of the **Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Place sidewalks** project began Feb. 10 and is anticipated to be complete in June. The goal of this project is to construct a sidewalk on the south side of Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Place between Southwest 34<sup>th</sup> Street and the existing sidewalk, approximately 450 ft. east of Southwest 27<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information, [click here](#), or contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Hurricane season officially began June 1** and lasts until November 30. The city's website has [updated information](#) about planning for a hurricane, shelter information, weather advisories and emergency contact information.
- ✓ In March, the **Broadcast Service Division began producing *City Snapshot*, a video series spotlighting city programs, projects and departments.** These short, informational videos are featured on the [city's YouTube channel](#) and air regularly on Community 12TV. Recent episodes have focused on the RTS bus fleet facility construction, the Traffic Management System and orientation for new commissioners. Please contact [Raul Merlo](#) at ext. 8550 if your department has an idea for an upcoming edition of *City Snapshot*.
- ✓ **Communications Office staff has started planning for the Sixth Annual Gainesville Photography Contest**, which will begin Aug. 1. A contest theme will be announced in late July.

## 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](http://www.gfr.org).
- ✓ **Seven new firefighters will be sworn in Thursday, June 19 at 11 a.m.** The ceremony will be held at GFR's Support Services Bureau, located at 1026 NE 14th St.

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

- ✓ The **Junior Fire Academy** will be held at Safety City Monday, June 9-Thursday, June 12.
- ✓ **Engine 4** will visit Westwood Middle School Sports Camp Friday, June 13.
- ✓ **Tower 1** will visit the PRCA Junior Lifeguarding program at Westside Pool Friday, June 20.
- ✓ **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](http://gfr.org/community_training).

## Public Works

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

- ✓ **The City of Gainesville was recertified as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.** The certification considers a broad range of factors inclusive of engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, evaluation and equity. City staff will continue to work with local and regional partners to fulfill the city's bicycle transportation goals and will use the recent evaluation results to benchmark the efforts and continue to improve the system.
- ✓ **RTS' Later Gator service will be suspended Monday, May 5-Wednesday, July 2.**
- ✓ **On Saturday, June 7, the [Bicycle/Pedestrian Program](#) is participating in the Annual Community Block Party at Greater Bell A.M.E. Church and the Summer Reading Community Resource Fair at Tower Road Library.** For more information, volunteering or scheduling an event, please contact Dekova Batey, bicycle/pedestrian program coordinator at 352-334-5070 or [bikeped@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org).

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

**Administrative Office – 352-334-5067**

- ✓ It was down to the wire, but **the citizens of Gainesville made it into the net, scoring big for Summer Heatwave!** The crowdfunding goal of \$20,720 has been met and more! **This is a great success for our community and the youth that the program will serve.** The dividends from this investment in our community will pay out for years to come with better quality of life and less crime. Summer Heatwave is a partnership between the Gainesville Police Department (GPD); the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) and the State Attorney's Office, and is thought to be one of the factors leading to a reduction in local juvenile crime. Operation Respect Yourself Pool Parties, HeatWave Basketball and a Summer Teen Lounge offer a place for engagement between GPD and local youth with a curriculum adopted by PRCA that encourages positive youth development through a nationally-sponsored program called Character Counts. This additional funding will make it possible to include tennis, golf lessons, free swimming, transportation to activities, special instructors for life skills courses and much more to broaden the appeal to more youth. PRCA and GPD wishes to thank the community for the support they have received. They are grateful to all the individual donors and groups, and would like to extend a special thanks to the Alachua County School Board and the Fraternal Order of Police. The donations of these organizations helped close the gap, and demonstrated the value of Summer Heatwave as a program vital to Gainesville.
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **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.

- ✓ The **Summer Heatwave Program begins June 16**, and offers a **free basketball league to teens** (age groups are 13-15 and 16-18). Games are played during the week at the MLK Center between 2-9 p.m. nightly. MLK also hosts a **teen lounge** from 6-9 p.m. on weeknights, and Friday nights will have many **special events scheduled in the evening** such as movie nights, video game tournaments, fitness/weightlifting classes, nighttime swimming, golf lessons, tennis and more! There will also be **three free pool parties**, part of "Operation Respect Yourself" pool parties, which is part of the larger Summer Heatwave program. Although the pool parties are aimed toward teens, the pool is open and free to all who attend during the event. Food and drinks will be provided by GPD, along with music, games and fun activities. The dates and times for each pool party are as follows:
  - Thursday, June 5 from 3-7 p.m. at Mickle Pool
  - Wednesday, July 18 from 12-4 p.m. at Northeast Pool
  - Saturday, Aug. 16 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Westside Pool

- ✓ **Junior Lifeguard Camp is available** at the H. Spurgeon Cherry "Westside" Pool, located at 1001 NW 31st Dr. This program, which is developed by the American Red Cross, encourages campers to take on leadership roles, as well as challenge them mentally and physically. All campers will learn the primary responsibilities of a lifeguard. This camp is action packed with fun activities, games and swimming! When all modules are successfully completed, campers will receive certification in CPR, AED and first aid. The cost is \$78.75 for city residents and \$118.25 for non-city residents (scholarships are available).

**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 next race of the season taking place **at the Westside Pool Saturday, June 14**. 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!

- ✓ On **Friday, June 20 at 11 a.m.**, thousands of children and adults at aquatics facilities around the globe will unite to **set a new global record for the World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ (WLSL)**. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) is joining Team WLSL to break a world record and send the message that swimming lessons save lives. The global record attempt will take place at **three Gainesville locations**: Andrew R. Mickle Pool, Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool and H. Spurgeon Cherry (Westside) Pool. To participate in this free event, please check-in by 10:45 a.m. Friday, June 20.
- ✓ **Swimming lessons at the Northeast and Westside Pools available!** The summer sessions of [swim lessons](#) are being offered at both the Northeast Pool and the Westside Pool beginning Monday, June 9. The fees are \$44.50 per session for city residents and \$67.75 for non-city residents. The dates and times vary based on location and skill level and can be [viewed here](#). For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.
- ✓ **Aqua-Fit water aerobics classes** are of low- to medium-intensity and feature aerobic cardio and core training while focusing on flexibility and total body toning. The classes take place in both the shallow and deep water, and are taught by certified instructors. Classes are available at the Northeast Pool, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (May-Sept.) from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. Perfect for city employees to stop by on their lunch break or after work 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! The class fee is \$2.55 a class.
- ✓ **All three city pools**, the H. Spurgeon Cherry "Westside" Pool, the Dwight H. Hunter "Northeast" Pool and Andrew R. Mickle, Sr. Pool, **are all open and ready for summer fun!** The pools have times for lap swimming and open swimming. There is plenty for both adults and kids of all ages to enjoy. The Westside and Northeast Pools both have splash pads, slides and diving boards, while the Mickle Pool has the Kersplash climbing wall! Be sure to visit [our website](#) for information and hours for each pool.
- ✓ 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:
  - **June 6:** [Little Jake Mitchell & the Soul Searchers](#) (blues)

- **June 13:** Cool Corporate Cats (jazz, blues)
- ✓ **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.

## Community Redevelopment Agency

**Community Redevelopment Agency contact: Anthony Lyons – 352-334-2205**

- ✓ Join the **CRA Friday, June 13 for a food truck rally celebrating the opening of the new public park and roadways at Innovation Square.** The food truck rally features 11 food trucks, science and creativity-focused children’s activities, music and street performers. Pets are welcome! This fun-filled evening runs from 5:30-8 p.m. and is located at the new crossroads of Southwest Third Avenue and Southwest Ninth Street. For information, please call Suzanne Wynn at 352-393-8208 or email [wynnsn@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:wynnsn@cityofgainesville.org).

## Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ A regularly scheduled meeting for the **Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development will be held Tuesday, June 17 at 6 p.m.**, at the Thomas Center, Building B. All meetings are open to the public.
- ✓ A **public notice for a public hearing on the Annual Action Plan will be published in The Gainesville Sun Saturday, June 14 for 30-day** availability for public review and comments from the general public.
- ✓ **On May 21, the city’s Affordable Housing Advisory Committee held a public hearing where they finalized funding recommendations for local, nonprofit agencies that applied to participate in the Community Grant Program (CGP).** The committee’s recommendation will be considered by the City Commission at the June 19 City Commission meeting at 1:45 p.m. First implemented in FY10-11, the purpose of the CGP is to provide small amounts of funding to small nonprofit organizations performing community services that advance city goals, and support activities that serve a public purpose and improve the quality of life for Gainesville residents. The maximum grant award is \$3,000 per year, per eligible non-profit organization. The City Commission has developed and adopted guidelines describing eligible organizations, reimbursable activities, and program requirements and procedures. This year, the total of all eligible funding requests equals \$110,920. For more information about the Community Grant Program, contact the Housing and Community Development Division at 393-8565.

## Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ The Planning and Development Services Department has **developed a revised Development Plan Review schedule to address concerns raised by the development community, and to improve customer service.** The following enhancements to the Development Review process are:

1. Common submittal date for Gainesville Regional Utilities and General Government. This will ensure all reviewing agencies are reviewing the same plans, which will add for consistency in reviews.
2. Implementation of a completeness review. This will help ensure that city resources are being most effectively used.
3. More timely staff comments. Staff comments will be provided to applicants on Monday instead of Thursday, so that the applicant will have more time to review the comments and ask questions prior to meeting with the city's Technical Review Committee.
4. Coordinated applications submittal dates. Requests for special use permits and planned developments will follow the same schedule.
5. More consistent hearing dates for resubmittals. Resubmittals for Development Review Board (DRB) review will be scheduled automatically for the next DRB meeting after submittal, unless continued by the applicant, which provides more flexibility and coordination when items are placed on the DRB agenda.
6. Establishes a biweekly schedule for the submittal of final plans. Previously, plans were submitted on an ad-hoc basis and managing the cases for reviewing agencies was challenging. This new enhancement will create a systematic approach to managing development applications with more certainty and consistency for both staff and applicants.

## Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On **Thursday, June 5**, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **meet with Career Source of North Florida staff regarding the Gainesville Empowerment Center.**
- ✓ The **Economic Development & Innovation Director and members of the Innovation Academy Team will meet with the City Manager Monday, June 9** to discuss team recommendations.
- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of the IT Project Board Tuesday, June 10** to discuss status of various organizational IT projects.
- ✓ The **Economic Development & Innovation Director** will attend the City Commission Strategic Planning session June 11-12.
- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of the Manufacturer's Council Thursday, June 12.**
- ✓ A **meeting of the Small Business Growth Task Force inclusive of City of Gainesville and Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce staff and members is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 18.**

## 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.
- ✓ **GPD will hold an oath of office ceremony for five new police officers at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 10.** The ceremony will be held at the GPD's Heroes Hall.

- ✓ **Chief Jones will walk the Woodland Park neighborhood Tuesday, June 17.** The walk is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. If you would like to join Chief Jones, please meet at the Woodland Park Boys and Girls Club.

*The next report will cover June 19-July 16, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, June 12. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*