

Prepared for the City Commission, September 18-October 1, 2014

City Manager

- ✓ The **United Way campaign for General Government officially kicked off Wednesday, Sept. 3!** The City of Gainesville supports this campaign year after year because United Way's work in our community is extremely important. Team captains will distribute pledge forms by the end of the month, so if you have not received it yet, you will be receiving your pledge form soon. To keep up to date with the campaign's many upcoming events, visit the [United Way campaign page](#) on the city's intranet.
- ✓ The **Moving Alachua County Forward surtax initiative now has a [Facebook presence](#)** and a dedicated website at <http://www.movingalachuacountyforward.com>. The website includes an interactive map and project lists for the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and other county municipalities. The Moving Alachua County Forward transportation sales surtax initiative will be on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot. The site is being monitored by city and county staff as part of a public education campaign.
- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission and Alachua County Board of County Commissioners have partnered to create an **advisory board that will provide oversight for the Empowerment Center**. The oversight board will develop a long-term vision for the success of the Empowerment Center and the broad range of homeless and social/community services that are or may be provided at the Empowerment Center. The oversight board will review the performance of the providers (including the existing Provider) that utilize the Empowerment Center; however, they will not direct the day-to-day operations of the providers or the Empowerment Center. The governing board will be advisory to the City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. The oversight board consists of five members: two members of the City Commission; two members of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and one appointed member, who is a resident of Alachua County. Applications are being solicited for the fifth member of the Oversight Board who must be a resident of Alachua County, and will be appointed by the other four members. There is an **open deadline**.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Construction of the Southwest 35th Place sidewalks project is complete**, and includes sidewalks along the south side of Southwest 35th Place, between Southwest 34th Street and the existing sidewalk, approximately 450' 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

- ✓ Staff are encouraged to participate in the **Sixth Annual Gainesville Photography Contest, which runs from Aug. 15-Sept. 29, 2014**. Finalists' work will be on display at a photo exhibition that will be held at the Hippodrome State Theatre in early 2015, and the grand prize winner will be unveiled at the State of the City Address and featured in the *2014 Citizen's Report*. Complete contest rules are available [online at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CommunicationsOffice/CommunicationsOffice/PhotoContest.aspx>](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CommunicationsOffice/CommunicationsOffice/PhotoContest.aspx).

- ✓ Communications staff has **started coordinating and recruiting attendees for the fall session of Gainesville 101: Citizens' Academy**. Interested parties should visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org> for more information or to register.

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.
- ✓ The **architectural firm has been selected for the Fire Station 1 construction project**. Bentley Architects + Engineer, Inc. will take the project from conceptual through construction phases **and it is anticipated that the station will be in the construction phase in late summer 2015**.

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

- ✓ GFR units will rotate at a **community open house for the Kids Academy Friday Sept. 19**.
- ✓ **Engine 2 will visit the Old Navy Family Safety Day Saturday, Sept. 20** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ✓ **Engine 7 will visit the Pro Taekwondo Back to School Bash at Possum Creek Park Saturday, Sept. 20** from 11-11:30 a.m.
- ✓ **Wiles Elementary School students will visit Safety City and Station 3 Monday Sept. 22, Tuesday Sept. 23, and Thursday Sept. 25**.
- ✓ **St. Patrick's School kindergarteners will visit Fire Station 3 Wednesday, Sept. 24**.
- ✓ **Engine 4 and Quint 8 will visit the Shift Church Family Fest at Westwood Middle School Saturday, Sept. 27** from 10-11:30 a.m.
- ✓ **Engine 3 will visit the Highland Court Manor Neighbors Community Meeting at 2505 NE Ninth St. Monday, Sept. 29** from 7 to 8 p.m.
- ✓ **Engine 3 will visit St. Patrick's preschoolers Wednesday, Oct. 1**.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. For information on **Safe Assembly Training 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

- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program will provide safety presentations, demonstrations, collaborations and resource information for the following meeting groups** and events:
 - Sept. 18: Alachua County – Community Traffic Safety Team
 - Sept. 19: iKids Academy Open House
 - Sept. 22, 23 and 25: Wiles Elementary visit to GFR’s Safety City
 - Sept. 24: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization – Technical Advisory Committee
 - Sept. 25: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board meeting

For more information, volunteering or scheduling a bicycle/pedestrian event, please contact Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Coordinator Dekova Batey at 352-334-5070 or bikeped@cityofgainesville.org. Visit the bike/ped website at www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Recreation and 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, Sept. 13**. (The final race takes place Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Northeast Pool.) 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!
- ✓ Session 2 of **fall swimming lessons** begin Sept. 15 and run through Oct. 3. Lessons are offered at both the Northeast and Westside Pools. 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. For more information, or to register, please call 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 (May-Sept.) 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 or \$20.40 for eight classes.
- ✓ The **fall adaptive programs are offered through a partnership with Noah’s Endeavor, Inc., a non-profit corporation 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. For additional information, please contact Noah’s Endeavor at 352-275-9639, info@noahsendeavor.org, or visit their website at www.noahsendeavor.org.
Soccer for All: This free program is Thursdays (Sept.-Nov.) from 4-6 p.m. at the Albert “Ray” Massey (Westside) Park, Ball Field #3.
Aquabilities: This program provides an introduction to water and swimming skills to participants with

disabilities. The cost is \$23 for four-week sessions (Saturdays in Sept., 2-3 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. at H. Spurgeon Cherry “Westside” Pool).

- ✓ The **Foundations After-School Program** aims to foster ethical values and teach academic and life skills for youth. The program is offered Sept. 2, 2014 to June 4, 2015. Participants will be involved in structured activities, such as tutoring, homework help, arts/crafts, recreation and sporting activities. All children are welcome, but pre-registration is required. Space is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Please note, transportation is not provided for this program. The program is for kids in first-eighth grade with convenient locations at four recreation and community centers (Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation, Eastside Community, Clarence R. Kelly Community and Porters Community Centers). For full details, visit our [After-School Programs](#) page or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ **Fall operating hours for municipal pools (effective Aug. 18) are as follows:**

<u>Northeast Pool</u> (through Nov. 3) M-F: 6-9 a.m., Lap Swim M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open Swim (lap lanes available) SA: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Open Swim SU: 12-5 p.m., Open Swim	<u>Westside Pool</u> (through Oct. 24) M-F: 6-8 a.m., Lap Swim M-F: 3-7 p.m., Open Swim SA: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Open Swim SU: 12-5 p.m., Open Swim
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Mickle Pool (closed for the season)

Environmental Education contact: Sally Wazny – 352-334-3326

- ✓ Take advantage of the largest offering of native plants in north Florida during the **2014 Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center Saturday, Oct. 4** from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (open to the public). An **exclusive member’s sale is Friday, Oct. 3** from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and is open to members of the Friends of Nature Parks (FNP) and Paynes Prairie chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) only. Memberships are available at the gate. Cash, checks and debit/credit cards are accepted! The sale is hosted cooperatively by the City of Gainesville’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, the Friends of Nature Parks and the Paynes Prairie chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. For images from last spring’s sale, please visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gainesvilleprca/sets/72157635508119064/>.
- ✓ **Jean Dorney Memorial Wildflower Walk return Saturdays in October!** Participants will enjoy the spectacular fall wildflower bloom in the piney woods of Morningside Nature Center during a guided walk. The guided walks are free and take place every Saturday in October. The walks begin at 9 a.m. On Oct. 4, the walk will start at 11:30 a.m. by the pavilion. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and any field guides you would like to use. These walks are courtesy of a grant from the Friends of Nature Parks in honor of charter member Jean Dorney.
- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center** (3540 E. University Ave.)! The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and continue through May! For more information, please call 352-334-3326.
 - C’mon home to the Living History Farm and experience a time when the rooster’s crow and the rising sun, not an alarm clock, welcomed a new day! During **Living History Days**, interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm. Living History Days take place the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all year long. The remaining Living History Days dates are Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 7, April 4 and May 2. Step back in time, enjoy nature, and experience Florida as it was!
 - Morningside Nature Center has a farm, ee—i—ee—i—oh! On this farm, 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 the animals love donations of carrots, squash, apples, sweet potatoes, and melons (please give these items to a staff member and not directly to the animals). With a sheep here—and a cow there—learning about heritage breeds is fun! The **Barnyard Buddies Program** takes place Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the Living History Farm.

- 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. Join the fun, get the facts! This free program begins at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. The remaining Frogs and Friends Friday dates are Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1.

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 Diddle 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:
 - **Sept. 19:** The Imposters (Beatles tributes band)
 - **Sept. 26:** Tropix (Latin fusion)
- ✓ Mingle with nationally acclaimed artists and lend a hand in Gainesville’s art community by **volunteering at the 33rd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show**. You can become a part of this award-winning art festival; four-hour shifts are available Saturday, Nov. 8, or Sunday, Nov. 9, for volunteers of all ages. Volunteers can assist the artists by booth-sitting, helping with the Children’s Imagination Station, a free, hands-on art activity area or with the Jr. Fire Fighting Challenge, an obstacle course for preschoolers. As a token of our appreciation, volunteers will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Volunteers will gain more than a T-shirt from their time at the festival. They will see downtown Gainesville as they have never seen it before. The historic, tree-lined streets of downtown Gainesville, from City Hall to the Hippodrome Theatre, will be transformed into a celebration of art and creativity. One of north Florida’s most beloved traditions, the Downtown Festival & Art Show offers visitors the opportunity to meet the exhibiting artists, sample fine cuisine and enjoy live, continuous entertainment. Volunteering at the Downtown Festival & Art Show is a great way to have fun while giving back to the community. If you would like to join an amazing team of volunteers please contact Linda Piper, festival coordinator, at 352-393-8536. Applications are also available online at www.gvlculturalaffairs.org.
- ✓ **Show your support for the arts in Alachua County by becoming an Art Sponsor at the 33rd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show** Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov.9. As an Art Sponsor, you can make your name stand out among the crowd by pledging a minimum of \$50 in advance toward the purchase of any piece of art. Art Sponsors have the opportunity to choose their favorite art work from a wide variety of original pieces. Once an Art Sponsor selects a favorite piece, the chosen artist proudly displays a ribbon and certificate personalized with their sponsor’s name. Art Sponsors will be recognized throughout the festival during live announcements from the Plaza Stage. To request a pledge form, contact Festival Coordinator Linda Piper at 352-393-8536, or visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org.
- ✓ PRCA, in cooperation with Shakerag Culture Center, Inc., is pleased to announce **the first of the Jewel Box Concerts at the Thomas Center Saturday, Sept. 20**. The concert features **composer/conductor/virtuoso bassist Terry Plumeri leading his jazz quartet**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 at the door. The *Jewel Box Concerts at the Thomas Center* are a new series of multi-genre musical events staged in the historic Thomas Center’s

Spanish Court. They will feature a spectrum of national and international touring artists from folk to classical and from jazz to bluegrass, with special holiday shows and surprise guests.

- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *ABOUT FACE: Portraits with a Presence* will be on display in the Main and Mezzanine Galleries through Sept. 20. This exhibition features a contemporary look at the timeless tradition of portraiture and the artist's ongoing quest to capture a sense of the presence of a person on canvas and paper. In response to requests for extended hours, there will be a **special evening viewing of the exhibition Thursday, Sept. 18 from 6:30-8 p.m.** The exhibition curator, Anne Gilroy, and a number of the artists and collectors will be on hand to celebrate the exhibitions successful run and speak with guests.

The HEART OF A CULTURE The Santos of Xavier Colon debuts in the Main Gallery at the Thomas Center Galleries Saturday, Sept. 27 and continues through Saturday, Jan. 3. This exhibition features the centuries-old Hispanic tradition of depicting "Santos" continues as this young master presents his renditions of the Madonna. The opening reception is Saturday, Sept. 27 from 6-9 p.m., and music will be provided by Gilberto de Paz.

Celebrate Design (American Institute of Architects) debuts in the Thomas Center Galleries' Mezzanine Gallery Thursday, Sept. 25 and continues through Saturday, Nov. 15. The opening reception is Thursday, Sept. 25 from 6-8 p.m.

- ✓ **352Arts** is the exciting new project aimed at bringing artists and art lovers together in the community. The results of discussions and surveys will shape the 352ArtsRoadmap that will help chart the course for the future of arts and culture in Gainesville and Alachua County. **Please go to www.352arts.org to fill out the survey.** The 352ArtsRoadmap will be a set of priorities that will help chart the future of arts and culture in Gainesville and Alachua County over the next five to 10 years. This cultural master plan will build on the extensive arts and cultural activities already available to our residents and visitors; better promote our community as a cultural destination and bolster the arts' role as an economic engine for the region.

Natural Resource Management contact: Linda Demetropoulos – 352-393-8445

- ✓ An **additional 4.2 acres of land adjacent to the Forest Park natural area have been donated** as a part of land mitigation for the Butler Plaza development. Forest Park is located between Southwest 20th Avenue and Southwest 43rd Street. This donation brings the total park acreage to 28.23, and 3,206 acres overall that are managed by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a First Step meeting Thursday, Sept. 18 involving a proposed craft brewery** to be located adjacent to downtown Gainesville.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Sept. 23, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the Hob Nob event at Innovation Square designed to be a workforce development opportunity for potential innovative economy participants.**
- ✓ On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a meeting of the City Manager's **internal Economic Development Team** and the **monthly GACRAA meeting** at the Gainesville Regional Airport.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Sept. 30, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the GTEC Open House hosted by Santa Fe College.**

- ✓ On Wednesday, Oct. 1st, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the Community Education Forum hosted by Plum Creek and Santa Fe College.**

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 next report will cover October 2-15, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, September 25. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.