

Prepared for the City Commission, October 2-15, 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. The United Way campaign now has a more prominent place on the city's [intranet](#) (listed under the shortcuts menu), making it easier for you to access information, pledge forms or the many upcoming events that benefit the United Way of North Central Florida.
Upcoming United Way fundraising events:
 - Thursday, Oct. 2 – Bake sale at Public Works administration building
 - Thursday, Oct. 2 (2-4 p.m.) – [Ice cream and toppings](#) at Thomas Center B
 - Thursday, Oct. 16 – Bake sale at Public Works administration building
 - Thursday, Oct. 23 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) – [The Amazing Race](#) at the GRU's EOC
- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission is hosting its first **Telephone Town Hall Wednesday, Oct. 8.** Approximately 27,000 randomly selected home phone numbers will be called. If you would like to participate in the call, please provide your home or cell phone number [online](#). Gainesville's first Telephone Town Hall will feature a discussion about the transportation surtax referendum that will be on the November 2014 ballot. If you'd like information about the referendum, please visit the [Moving Alachua County Forward website](#) or join the discussion on the [Facebook page](#).
- ✓ The City of Gainesville Office of Equal Opportunity is holding a **[Small Business Workshop Thursday, Oct. 9](#)** from 4-7 p.m. at Gainesville Regional Utilities, which is located at 301 SE Fourth Ave. Attendees will have the chance to meet city staff, learn about doing business with the city and how to find out about purchasing opportunities.
- ✓ The **Moving Alachua County Forward surtax initiative 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 site is being monitored by city and county staff as part of a public education campaign. A 10-minute informational video is available online featuring Gainesville Mayor Ed Braddy, City Commissioner Lauren Poe, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Public Policy Kamal Latham and more. It provides a detailed overview of the ballot initiative, as well as an overview about the transportation challenges our community faces. The Moving Alachua County Forward transportation sales surtax initiative will be on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Crews at the new RTS maintenance facility** have started punch list item work on the interior of the buildings; new equipment continues to be installed and tested; video, security and communications equipment is being installed; work continues on fencing and entry turnstiles from the employee parking lot; striping of the bus parking area and landscaping of the facility grounds is on-going. The Art in Public Places outside sculpture has been placed. Work continues on the subgrade of the additional bus parking area just to the north of the facility. Concrete paving of this area is expected to begin in the next week, depending on weather.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ The submission period for the **Sixth Annual Gainesville Photography Contest** is over. The **judging panel begins meeting for evaluation sessions Oct. 8**. Finalists' work will be on display at a photo exhibition, and will be notified on or before Dec. 1, 2014.
- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the Fall 2014 Citizens' Academy** begins Wednesday, Oct. 8 and will be held for seven consecutive weeks. The first session includes overviews of the charter offices and the City Commission.
- ✓ **The Communications Office has started initial preparations for the upcoming annual report.** Department and division managers have been asked to compile their information for the report and **submit it no later than Wednesday, Oct. 8**. The 2014 Citizen's Report (annual report) will be released at the annual State of the City Address in January 2015. Please contact Laura Rawson at ext. 8740 or rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org for more information.

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.
- ✓ **Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5–11**. This year's theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month."
- ✓ **Project Get Alarmed helps those who cannot afford smoke detectors.** Applications are [available online](#) or by calling Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.

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

- ✓ **Engine 4 will visit Love N Care Preschool**, along with GPD, Friday, Oct. 3.
- ✓ GFR will host a special **Family Fun Fire Safety Day** at Fire Station 3 and Kiwanis' Safety City, located at 1025 NE 13th St., **Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- ✓ **Quint 8 will visit Sunshine House Preschool** Monday, Oct. 6.
- ✓ **Kindergarten students from the Rock School will visit Station 3 and Safety City** for fire and bike safety programs Monday, Oct. 6.
- ✓ **Engine 7 will visit Stepping Stones** at Trinity United Methodist Church Wednesday, Oct. 8.
- ✓ **Glenn Springs kindergarteners will visit Safety City and Station 3** Thursday, Oct. 9 for fire and bike safety programs.
- ✓ **Screaming for Safety**, GFR's annual Fire Prevention Week program, will be held **Thursday, Oct. 9 at Safety City from 4-7 p.m.**
- ✓ **Engine 2 will visit La Petite** Wednesday, Oct. 15.
- ✓ **Engine 3 will attend GPD's Celebrate Safe Communities** at 545 NW Eighth Ave. Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 5-8 p.m.
- ✓ **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:
 - Oct. 2: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPo) University Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study Open House at GRU Administration Building
 - Oct. 3: Kids Count afterschool program at Faith United Methodist Church site
 - Oct. 5: Gainesville Kids Triathlon at Citizen’s Field and Open Streets-Cyclovia Festival along University Avenue
 - Oct. 9: Glenn Springs Elementary and 8th Annual Screaming for Safety event at GFR Safety City facility
 - Oct. 15: City of Gainesville 101: Fall 2014 Citizen’s Academy Public Works site visit and GPD Celebrate Safe Communities event at GPD Headquarters

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.

- ✓ In July 2014, the **Solid Waste Division** gave a presentation to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee (RCAPWC), updating them on **efforts to achieve a 75 percent recycling rate by 2020**. The division also expressed some concerns about possible inequities stemming from the way commercial refuse contracts are being written in Gainesville. The RCAPWC directed staff to notify garbage haulers and other stakeholders about the presentation and to solicit their input on the issue. Solid Waste staff has scheduled a meeting with all franchised garbage haulers to answer questions and solicit further input. The Solid Waste Division is also be sending out a survey to several hundred local businesses requesting their comments on the subject. The intent of the survey is to determine whether local businesses have any significant concerns about their ability to shop for and acquire garbage service at competitive rates. In the meantime, Solid Waste staff has been attempting to conduct some surveys face-to-face but may also mail out a survey link to those businesses for which contact information is limited.

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 final race of the season taking place **at the Northeast Pool Saturday, Oct. 11**. 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!

- ✓ 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 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:
 - **Oct. 3:** GramFest (Gram Parsons tribute)
 - **Oct. 10:** Relics and Erasables (Woodstock era music and originals)
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries: *The HEART OF A CULTURE The Santos of Xavier Colon*** debuted 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.

Celebrate Design (American Institute of Architects) debuted in the Thomas Center Galleries’ Mezzanine Gallery Thursday, Sept. 25 and continues through Saturday, Nov. 15.

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ The **Building Official will attend the Builder Association of North Central Florida monthly meeting** Monday, Oct. 20 at Thomas Center “A.”
- ✓ **Three notable First Step meetings** are scheduled for late September and early October. One is **proposing two new hotels** in the area of Southwest 40th Boulevard and Southwest 42nd Way, and **Blaze Pizza is proposing to occupy the recently vacated Willy’s Mexicana Grill** on Archer Road, making it the first Blaze Pizza in Gainesville. The third notable meeting is for a **major redevelopment of the Woodlawn Park Public Housing Complex** on Southeast Fourth Street. Pinnacle Housing Group will work with the Gainesville Housing Authority to relocate existing residents, demo all buildings, build new buildings and relocate the tenants back to the newly built complex.
- ✓ **Congratulations to John T. Martin** who has been named Interim Chief Building Inspector for the department.
- ✓ The Building Department’s staff is currently **reviewing permits** for a new store and kiosk at the Oaks Mall called **Charming Charlie** and **O’Chi Massage**.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Monday, Oct. 6, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the GAIN shootout**, which provides an educational forum regarding entrepreneurship and showcases a competition for entrepreneurs to receive capital to fund their business plans.
- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting with the new UF Real Estate Director** Wednesday, Oct. 8.
- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a routine meeting of the IT Project Board** Tuesday, Oct. 14.

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.
- ✓ You’re invited to **join Chief Tony Jones as he walks the Stephen Foster neighborhood Tuesday, Oct. 7**. Please meet at 6 p.m. at the Parkview Baptist Church, located at 3403 NW 13th St., if you would like to join the walk.

The next report will cover October 16-November 5, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, October 9. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.