

Prepared for the City Commission, November 6-19, 2014

City Manager

- ✓ The City of Gainesville held its annual employee award ceremony Tuesday, Oct. 14. **Congratulations to the following individual and team City of Gainesville employee award recipients:** GSA Facilities Team (General Government Team), Energy Supply GT4 Life Extension Major Inspection Team (GRU Team), GPD Youth/Community Services Bureau (Public Safety Team), CGI Advantage Upgrade Team (Cross-Functional Team), Stephanie Seawright (Community Service Award), James Frampton and Erica Chatman (Customer Service Award), Audrey Gainey (Diversity Award), Lila Stewart and Samantha Wolfe (Innovation Award), Diane Wilson and John Weber (Leadership Award), Christopher Cardwell (Public Service Award), Michael Gardiner (Special Recognition), Patrice Kafle (Above & Beyond), Craig King (Administrative Services), Stephanie Marchman (City Attorney's Office), Roschella Ford (Facilities Management), Captain Shawn Hillhouse (Gainesville Fire Rescue), Detective Christopher King (Gainesville Police Department), John Skaja (Human Resources), Jacqueline Richardson (Neighborhood Improvement Department), Mary Harker (Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs), Stefan Broadus (Public Works), Jim Gilmartin (GRU Customer Support Services & IT), Bob Morelli (GRU Energy Delivery), Randy Knapp (GRU Energy Supply), Jim Severance (GRU Finance) and Billy Dampier (GRU Water & Wastewater Systems).
- ✓ In observance of Veterans Day, **city offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.** All RTS offices will be closed and there will be no RTS bus service. Curbside collection service for solid waste, recycling and yard trash will **not** be affected by the Veterans Day holiday.
- ✓ **Fire Chief Gene Prince is retiring.** GFR will celebrate his career and accomplishments at the **Senior Recreation Center Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please be sure to RSVP to Kathy Driggers at ext. 8378 or driggersks@cityofgainesville.org.
- ✓ A **farewell reception for County Manager Betty Baker will be held at the Thomas Center Thursday, Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m.**
- ✓ The 2014 **Gainesville's Little Ones (GLO) Food Drive continues through Thursday, Nov. 13.** Boxes are available throughout city facilities.
- ✓ **The GLO Program (Gainesville's Little Ones) is underway** for this year. **There is still time to adopt a family.** Please contact Susanne Olivas at 393-7967 as soon as possible if you (or your department/division) are interested. Participating staff will be notified about the family before the long Thanksgiving weekend, so please contact Susanne no later than Monday, Nov. 17. This will be the *36th year* GLO families have benefited from the generosity of city employees.
- ✓ Join RTS staff, elected officials and other dignitaries as **RTS celebrates its 40th Anniversary and the opening of the new Corrine Brown Transit Facility.** The event will be held Monday, Nov. 17 beginning at 10 a.m. at the new facility, which is located at 34 SE 13th Rd. Light refreshments and tours of the facility will be provided. This event is open to the public.
- ✓ The **City Commission is holding a joint meeting with the UF student body Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at Hillel,** which is located at 2020 W. University Ave. Items of discussion include transportation concerns, the Gainesville experience and safer Gators.

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 has met for evaluation sessions and the winners have been selected**. Finalists will be notified on or before Dec. 1, 2014.
- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the Fall 2014 Citizens' Academy** began in early October and continues through Nov. 19. During this reporting period, attendees will visit GRU's South Energy Center and see presentations from Planning and Development Services, the Economic Development & Innovation Department, the Communications Office and the Neighborhood Improvement Department. While the fall session is filled, interested participants are encouraged to preregister for the spring 2015 session online at <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org>.
- ✓ **The State of the City Address will be held at GPD's Hall of Heroes Wednesday, Jan. 28** and will begin at 12 noon. Please save the date!

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 Chief Gene Prince is retiring**. GFR will **celebrate his career and accomplishments at the Senior Recreation Center Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please be sure to RSVP to Kathy Driggers at ext. 8378 or driggersks@cityofgainesville.org.

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

- ✓ **Quint 8 will visit the Pineridge Community Center for Safety Day Saturday, Nov. 8** from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. **Engine 7 will also be there** from 12-2 p.m.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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 City of Gainesville is partnering with Megabus and other parties to provide inter-city bus service from the Rosa Parks Downtown Station beginning Saturday, Nov. 1. Please visit Megabus online to view their schedule for service. Martz Motorcoach (AMTRAK provider), Ride Solution of Palatka and the Magenta Line from Keystone Heights are currently using the facility.
 - ✓ **The grand opening/ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Northwest 12th Street bike boulevard takes place Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8:30 am.** The ceremony will be located at the corner of Northwest 13th Street and 19th Lane, across from Gainesville High School. A group bike ride to the Helyx bridge will follow for those interested.
 - ✓ **The Solid Waste Division will have a recycling information booth at the Downtown Festival and Art Show** Saturday, Nov. 8 and Sunday, Nov. 9. It will be located in space #C6 on the west side of the Hippodrome in the Community Information section.
 - ✓ **Beginning Monday, Nov. 10, the lane configuration at the intersection of Depot Avenue and Main Street will switch.** The plan includes a closure of the northbound lane of Main Street, in addition to the closures of the eastbound and westbound movements of Depot Avenue, as have currently been set up. The new configuration is expected to be in place from Nov. 10 through Dec. 5. The best detours will be Southwest Sixth Street and Southeast Fourth Street.
 - ✓ **The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program will provide safety presentations, demonstrations, collaborations and resource information for the following meeting groups and events:**
 - Annual Alachua County Public Schools Partner Breakfast Thursday, Nov. 6
 - Grand Opening of the bike boulevard (Northwest 13th Street and 19th Lane) Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8:30 a.m.
 - Alachua County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) hosts the statewide CTST Coalition Meeting Thursday, Nov. 13
 - MTPo Technical Advisory Committee Wednesday, Nov. 19
- 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.
- ✓ RTS will suspend service Tuesday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veteran's Day. Normal service will resume Wednesday, Nov. 12.
 - ✓ **There is no schedule change for solid waste curbside collection for the Veteran's Day holiday week.** Curbside collection normally **picked up on Thursday**, will have a **one day delay Thanksgiving week**, and will be picked up Friday. Monday through Wednesday collection during Thanksgiving week will be picked up on its regularly scheduled day.
 - ✓ The City of Gainesville will host a **public meeting to discuss a pilot program for skateboarding facilities along the rails-to-trails network.** The meeting will be held at the GPD Hall of Heroes Community Room, which is located at 413 NW Eighth Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12.
 - ✓ **The Gainesville Clean Water Partnership was selected from more than 80 applicants as a finalist for the Sustainable Florida Best Practice awards** in both the government and partnership categories. Sustainable Florida advances the vision of sustainability by identifying, supporting and communicating best management practices — those which protect and preserve Florida's environment while building markets for Florida's businesses by enhancing their competitive advantages today. Sustainable Florida forms the forefront of sustainable practices in our state.

- ✓ Join RTS staff, elected officials and other dignitaries as **RTS celebrates its 40th Anniversary and the opening of the new Corrine Brown Transit Facility**. The event will be held Monday, Nov. 17 beginning at 10 a.m. at the new facility, which is located at 34 SE 13th Rd. Light refreshments and tours of the facility will be provided. This event is open to the public.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, in cooperation with the Gainesville-Alachua County Art in Public Places Trust (APPT), the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board (CAB), the Nature Centers Commission (NCC) and the Public Recreation and Parks Board (PRPB), is **seeking nominations for the Arts Awards, STAR Awards and the Albert “Ray” Massey Citizen Volunteer Awards for citizens who have made outstanding efforts to promote cultural and arts activities, environmental awareness and recreational activities** in 2014. Submissions are due Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. For all details and forms, please visit www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org.

Recreation and Aquatics contact: Jeff Moffitt – 352-393-8732

- ✓ **Need a place for your kids to go on teacher work days or school holidays?** [Out-of-School Days](#) is a convenient option for busy parents. Let's work together to give your child a foundation for success! During camp, kids enjoy games, activities and crafts that encourage achievement, a sense of community, good health and strong character! The **remaining dates for 2014–15 are:**
 - Monday, Nov. 24–Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014 (teacher workdays)
 - Friday, Jan. 16, 2015 (teacher workday)
 - Monday, Feb. 16, 2015 (President's Day)
 - Friday, April 13, 2015 (teacher workday)
 - Friday, June 5, 2015 (teacher workday)

Camps are located at Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center, 1001 NW 34th St., and Eastside Community Center, 2841 E. University Ave. Hours of operation are 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and the camp is offered for children in first through eighth grades. Cost per day is \$5.50 for city residents and \$8.40 for non-city residents. Proof of residency, such as a GRU bill or voter ID card, is required at the time of registration.

- ✓ The **Foundations After-School Program aims to foster ethical values and teach academic and life skills for youth**. The **program is offered through 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.
- ✓ The **Soccer for All** program is offered through a partnership with the non-profit corporation Noah's Endeavor, Inc., 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. The final game is Thursday, Nov. 20 from 4-6 p.m. at Albert “Ray” Massey (Westside) Park, ball field #3. For additional information, please call Noah's Endeavor: 352-275-9639, www.noahsendeavor.org or email info@noahsendeavor.org.
- ✓ [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 shallow and deep water, and are taught by certified instructors. Classes are available at the Northeast Pool Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (Oct.-Nov.) from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. This is perfect for city

employees who can 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.

- ✓ Through fitness, fair play and sportsmanship, the [Youth Coed Basketball](#) program teaches youth, ages 5-14, how character counts on and off the court. There are no try outs, and each participant gets to play. Practice starts Monday, Dec. 1 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center, which is located at 1028 NE 14th St., from 6-8 p.m. Games begin in January, and run through March 2015, taking place in Alachua County and the surrounding areas. **New This Year:** On Saturday, Dec. 6, there is a free throw contest from 5-7 p.m. at the MLK Center. Show off your skills for great prizes. There is a \$10 discount for those registering before Dec. 1. Registration closes Dec. 15.

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

- ✓ **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 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 Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1.
- ✓ The [Annual Cane Boil and FiddleFest](#) will be held at Morningside Nature Center Saturday, **Nov. 29** from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle Contest will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and will be followed by traditional music by talented local musicians. Held every year the Saturday after Thanksgiving, this event combines traditions of giving thanks and fall harvest with live fiddle, banjo and string band music, an influence on American entertainment for more than 150 years. Bring your out-of-town guests, local relatives, friends, and family out to Morningside’s beautiful Living History Farm to experience the making and bottling of sugar cane syrup, biscuits hot from the wood cookstove, live roots music, and living history interpreters and demonstrators bringing to life a day in the country in 1870. Make this event part of your Thanksgiving weekend tradition! A special feature of this year’s Cane Boil & FiddleFest is free workshops for those interested! Event admission is \$3 for those 13 and older, \$1 for children ages 3-12 and free for children under three.

Cultural Affairs contact: Russell Etling – 352-393-8532

- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department has launched a county-wide public survey as part of the cultural planning initiative it is spearheading. Through an extensive public awareness campaign, **the community at-large, artists, creative individuals and organizations providing arts and cultural activities are being asked to go to www.352arts.org to answer a brief survey which will help create the 352ArtsRoadmap.** 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. As the designated Local Arts Agency of Alachua County, the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is leading this initiative with the support of: the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and Florida Arts Council; VisitGainesville; the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board; the University of Florida's Center for Building Better Communities; the creative community and a group of dedicated arts stakeholders, community leaders and educators. **Take the brief survey at www.352arts.org before Saturday, Nov. 15.**
- ✓ **Gainesville will transform into a masterful blend of art, music and entertainment during the [33rd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show](#),** one of the nation's premier outdoor fine arts festivals. Presented by the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, the festival draws a crowd of more than 100,000 visitors each year. **On Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,** visitors can meet the exhibiting artists, enjoy live music and sample international cuisine. The Festival weekend kicks off with a Downtown Blues Concert on Friday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. featuring Rick Randlett, Bridget Kelly Band and Selwyn Birchwood the 2014 International Blues Challenge winner. The music continues throughout the weekend featuring live entertainment on three stages. Children can immerse themselves in creativity at the Imagination Station, a free, hands-on art activity area. Begin your holiday shopping at one of the top fine art shows in the nation, ranked #12. Come enjoy the arts at north Central Florida's most celebrated fine arts festival, the Downtown Festival & Art Show. For more information, visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org or call 334-ARTS.
- ✓ **Jewel Box Concerts at the Thomas Center:** The Jewel Box Concerts at the Thomas Center are provided by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department in cooperation with Shakerag Culture Center, Inc. and are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. This intimate monthly concert series features national and international touring artists in the Historic Thomas Center's Spanish Court. Admission is charged at the door. Visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org for more information. The upcoming Jewel Box Concerts are:
 - **Friday, Nov. 14:** Walter Parks (Americana)
 - **Sunday, Nov. 23:** Chuchito Valdes (Cuban piano, jazz)
- ✓ The **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire is hosting a Student Art and Essay Contest.** The contest is open to students from kindergarten through high school. Fifty-six students will receive awards for their creativity. All participants and teachers will receive certificates of accomplishment. Winners in the first, second and third place categories within each grade level will receive two complimentary tickets to the faire, a commemorative T-shirt and recognition in a special awards ceremony presided over by the King and Queen of Hoggetowne Saturday, Jan. 24. Three grand-prize winners will also receive \$25 gift certificates, to be spent at the medieval faire. The work of all winners will be displayed at the Alachua County Library Headquarters during the month of January, and all the entries will be displayed during the faire. The deadline for all entries is Monday, Dec. 1. Entries may be dropped off

at the Thomas Center at 302 NE Sixth Ave, Room 211. For more information contact Faire Coordinator Linda Piper at 352-393-8536 or visit 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.

Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ The **Downpayment Assistance Workshop for first-time homebuyers is scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 12** from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. The training will be held in the Thomas Center Long Gallery, 306 NE Sixth Ave. For additional information, please contact the HCD Division at 352-393-8618.

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ Merri Ellis and Teri Genovese attended the **Project Dox User Group Conference in Tallahassee** at the end of October.
- ✓ **Three notable first-step meetings** are scheduled for late October and early November. One is **proposing a new, two-story McDonald's** in the 1200 block of West University Avenue and the other is **proposing a new hotel, freestanding restaurant and assisted living facility** project just north of Gainesville High School. The third notable meeting is for a **new St. Francis Pet Clinic building** along Southeast Fourth Place. The clinic provides free pet care to the area's homeless population.
- ✓ **Building Department staff is currently reviewing and issuing permits** for a new **Home 2 Suites hotel** on Southwest 13th Street at the former Bambi Hotel site and a **new Tractor Supply Co. store** on Northwest 13th Street at the old Scotty's site.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the Economic Development & Innovation Director **will attend and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Roundtable** at the Santa Fe Center for Innovation and Economic Development. In addition, there will also be a meeting with representatives of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Florida and the Gainesville Regional Airport to **discuss a company expansion at the Gainesville Regional Airport**. Finally, there will be a consultation with the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research regarding **the status of the work by the institute within the City of Gainesville**.
- ✓ On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **present the scope of duties/activities that are involved with the department to the Citizens' Academy**.

- ✓ On Thursday, Nov. 13, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a meeting of the **City Manager's Economic Development Team**.
- ✓ On Monday, Nov. 17, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a **non-mandatory pre-bid meeting regarding lot no. 10**.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a GRU Management meeting to **discuss the Innovation Team Charter**.

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.
- ✓ **Join Chief Jones Wednesday, Nov. 19 as he walks the Duval neighborhood.** If you would like to attend, please meet at 6 p.m. at Duval Elementary School, 2186 NE Eighth Ave.

The next report will cover November 20-December 3, 2014. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, November 13. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.