

Prepared for the City Commission, January 15-February 4, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ **City offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 to observe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** Residential curbside collection of refuse will not be collected on this day, and it will be on a one-day delayed schedule for the entire week. Additionally, all RTS offices will be closed and there will be no bus service, including paratransit service.
- ✓ **The State of the City Address will take place Wednesday, Jan. 28 at noon** at the GPD's Hall of Heroes. The Honorable Mayor Ed Braddy, accompanied by City Manager Russ Blackburn and interim General Manager for Utilities Kathy Viehe, will deliver the annual State of the City Address, which will feature highlights from 2014 and lay out the vision for the continued success of Gainesville. The address will not air live on C12, but it will be recorded and air on Community 12TV a few days after the live address. The public is welcome to attend this annual address.
- ✓ Please note, **there is a brief CRA meeting Jan. 15 at 12:30 p.m.**
- ✓ **The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is a combined effort with the United Way of North Central Florida and the IRS to help low to moderate-income working people keep more of their refund and not pay for income tax services.** Many lower-income households are owed a significant refund because of the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, a federal income tax credit for low to moderate-income working people. United Way officials are hoping to find more local residents who are eligible for the EITC by offering VITA, a free service. Residents can find out more about the free program, make an appointment and find out what to bring to the appointment by calling United Way's 24-hour information line 2-1-1.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **The City Commission will review the staff recommendation for the construction manager of fire station no. 1 at the Jan. 15 meeting.**
- ✓ **The sidewalk construction project located on Southwest 43rd Street, between Southwest 20th Avenue and Southwest 24th Avenue, is complete.** This project completes a gap in the sidewalk network improving access, connectivity to transit, stormwater management and safety for all users of the corridor. This project was designed in-house by Public Works Department staff, and constructed under an annual citywide sidewalk construction/replacement contract. For more information on this project, contact Shawn Webber, project manager, at webbersd@cityofgainesville.org or 352-334-5070.
- ✓ **Construction of Phase 2 of the Main Street streetscape project started Dec. 8, with anticipated completion near April 2015.** The scope of the project includes brick paver installation between South First and Second Avenues on Main Street, public art, low-impact development stormwater treatment landscaping areas, street trees, benches and bikes racks. For more information, please visit <http://www.gainesvillepublicworks.org/projects-2/main-st-streetscape/> or contact [Stefan Broadus](#) at 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Construction of the rail-trail landscaping project is expected to start in late January and be complete around April.** The purpose of the project is to clear existing overgrowth along the rail-trail, and install landscaping and hardscaping to increase the use and appearance of the rail-trail in this area between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16th Avenue. This project is consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan's transportation mobility element to "provide a safe, convenient, accessible,

comfortable, continuous, and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that promotes walking..." that "is conducive to bicycling." For more information, please visit <http://www.gainesvillepublicworks.org/projects-2/w-6th-street-rail-trail-landscaping/> or contact [Stefan Broadus](mailto:StefanBroadus@cityofgainesville.org) at 352-393-8406.

- ✓ **Improvements to Northwest First Place between Northwest 10th Street and Northwest 11th Street is complete.** The purpose of the improvements was to capture stormwater runoff from the Northwest First Place right-of-way and convey it to the city's stormwater system. Previously, it was flowing to adjacent parcels to the south. This also provided an opportunity to bring four ADA ramps into compliance, as well as maintain the asphalt for Northwest First Place. The largest complication for the project was an existing 61-inch live oak that was preserved as part of this project. For more information on this project, please contact Andrew Roberts, project manager, at robertsas@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8408.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ **The 2014 Citizen's Report** will be released at the State of the City Address Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 12 p.m. at GPD's Hall of Heroes. The report covers the highlights of the past fiscal year. After the official release, it will be available to view online, or if you wish to receive a hard copy, please email your request to rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org. The photography contest winner from the 2014 contest will also be unveiled at the event.
- ✓ **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!
- ✓ The 2015 **City of Gainesville photography contest calendar (pdf) is now available for downloading.** Photographs in the calendar are finalists of the Sixth Annual Gainesville Photography Contest, which was held in fall 2014. The pages are 8.5"x14" and cardstock is recommended. Please note, the size of the file is large since it is a printable, hi-resolution calendar. To download the pdf, please [click here](#).

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Administration and Operations contact: Interim Chief Jeff Lane – 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.
- ✓ **GFR's second comprehensive Citizens' Survey** has been published to the GFR website and shows the comparison between the 2011 and 2014 results for GFR's services.
- ✓ **GFR is holding a promitional ceremony Thursday, Jan. 22** at 2:30 p.m. at the Support Services Bureau, which is located at 1026 NE 14th St.

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

- ✓ **Winter safety information from the National Fire Protection Association is available** on the GFR [Risk Reduction Resources](#) Web page.
- ✓ **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

- ✓ Due to the observance of the **Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday Monday, Jan. 19, residential curbside collection service for garbage, recycling and yard trash will be delayed one day for the entire week.** The regular schedule for these services will resume the following week. To see a complete list of the holidays that will affect residential curbside collection, go to www.gainesvillerecycles.com, click on “residential curbside program” and then “holiday schedule.”
- ✓ **RTS offices will be closed and bus service will be suspended Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** Paratransit service will also be suspended. Normal bus service will resume Tuesday, Jan. 20.
- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program will provide safety presentations, demonstrations, collaborations and resource information for the following meeting groups** and events:
 - Alachua County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) meeting, 10 a.m. at the Santa Fe College - GTEC Building on Hawthorne Road, Thursday, Jan. 15
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) meeting at Alachua County Administration Building, 2nd Floor, Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
- ✓ **Christmas trees can be placed at curbside for pick up on your regular trash day.** The trees need to be stripped of all decorations, including ornaments, bows, tinsel and lights, but there is no need to cut them down if they are over the 5-ft. limit. Additionally, trees can be dropped off at no charge at Wood Resource Recovery, which is located at 10606 N. State Road 121 (352-378-9133).
- ✓ **Wrapping paper and gift boxes can be recycled in your curbside orange bin.** Simply place wrapping paper in your curbside orange bin along with your Christmas packing paper, cardboard and pasteboard boxes.
- ✓ **Christmas tree and other ornamental lights can be recycled year-round at the Public Works Center,** which is located at 405 NW 39th Ave. There is a green cart by the front door of the main lobby that is available 24 hours a day for your convenience.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **Basketball for All is a free, adaptive 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. For additional information, please contact Noah's Endeavor at 352-275-9639 or info@noahsendeavor.org or visit their website at www.noahsendeavor.org. Basketball for All is offered the following Sundays from 2–4 p.m.: Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22.
- ✓ **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:**

- 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.
- ✓ **Winter operating hours for municipal pools are as follows:**
 - Northeast Pool
M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim
SA: 12-5 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim
SU: Closed
 - Westside Pool (closed for the season)
 - Mickle Pool (closed for the season)

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

- ✓ The hard work of 15 years of Great Air Potato Round-Ups, along with some persistent and hungry beetles, has made quite a dent in the air potato crop! That great news allows us to focus on other challenges in our natural areas. With the momentum and community spirit that has guided the round-up for so many years, PRCA proudly announces **the first annual Great Invader Raider Rally and Gainesville Greenway Challenge.** To register, please visit PRCA's [Nature & Heritage Events](#) page. The Great Invader Raider Rally will take place **Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.** Under trained leadership, volunteers will work to restore pre-assigned natural areas from 9-11 a.m. and then are invited to head

to Morningside Nature Center for a celebration including t-shirts, music, prizes, environmental booths and games and food.

- ✓ **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 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 Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1.

Nature Operations Contact: Linda Demetroupolos, 352-393-8445

- ✓ The **dedication of the newly renovated Smokey Bear Park, which is located at 2300 NE 15th St., will be held Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 3-4:30 p.m.** The improvements, which include a new playground, picnic facilities and a pavilion, walking paths, dog park and parking area, were funded with the voter-approved Wild Spaces Public-Places half-cent sales tax initiative. The Smokey Bear Park dates back to the 1960s, and has a unique partnership effort including the Florida Forest Service, Alachua County and the Rotary Club of Gainesville. The renovations reflect these ties, with several elements throughout the grounds. The Rotary Club provided funds for an artist to refurbish the faded Rotary wheel decorative feature that dates back to the park's origins. Also, the beloved Forest Service mascot, Smokey Bear, is featured in a uniquely themed playground. The improvements benefit the east side of Gainesville, providing citizens with a safe and inviting place to play. The public is welcome to attend the dedication to experience the new features and bring together the community spirit that makes parks like Smokey Bear special. Please contact Kim Harris, staff specialist, to RSVP at 352-393-8182 or HarrisKD@cityofgainesville.org.

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

- ✓ **Toss aside your textbooks and become immersed in history during the 29th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire school day Friday, Jan. 30.** PRCA invites all schools and home-school groups to enjoy a field trip filled with magic, history and adventure at the Alachua County Fairgrounds Friday, Jan. 30. Schools that register in advance will receive discounted admission for students and chaperones and a 50-page educational guide to supplement classroom activities before and after the faire. Ticket prices are \$2 for students and \$5 per adult. Individuals with disabilities, children under five and bus drivers are admitted free. Last year, more than 5,000 children from 26 counties attended

the faire on School Day as part of their medieval curriculum studies. For more information, call 393-8536 or visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org.

- ✓ Experience a world of medieval magic, where jousting knights, dancing gypsies and historic heroes mingle with visitors at the **29th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. On Saturday, Jan. 24 and Sunday, Jan. 25 and Friday, Jan 30 through Sunday, Feb. 1, the Alachua County Fairgrounds transforms into a medieval marketplace filled with hundreds of artisans and entertainers. A special School Day celebration on Friday, Jan 30 features reduced-price ticket sales for all guests. The bustling medieval marketplace will showcase more than 160 talented artisans and craftspeople from all over the countryside that arrive at Hoggetowne to display and sell a variety of goods, trinkets and wares. Jugglers, musicians, and dancers fill the streets and stages with ancient music and thrilling performances. Come early to enjoy a day packed with excitement and medieval merriment. Faire hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$7 for children ages 5 to 17 and free for children younger than 5. Ticket prices are reduced Friday, Jan. 30. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at www.hoggetownefaire.com, at any Domino's Pizza in Gainesville or in person at the Thomas Center. For more information, please call 352-334-ARTS.
- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *INSIDE OUT: The Spectacular World of Mr. Eddy* is in the Main Gallery Jan. 9-March 14. The opening reception is Friday, Jan. 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. *ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Visual Arts Program Showcase K-12* is in the Mezzanine Gallery Jan. 10-Feb. 14

Development and Partnerships contact: Alicia Antone – 352-393-8524

- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) has implemented a new Scoreboard Advertiser Sponsorship Program. The experimental pilot program launched in the summer of 2013 to meet the growing need of replacing outdated scoreboards at PRCA facilities. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center, located at 1028 NE 14th St., received two new state-of-the-art scoreboards as a result of the success of the pilot program. The new program is designed to partner with local businesses and civic organizations to help purchase new scoreboards, which includes an advertising panel or the purchase of a three-year commitment to become a scoreboard advertising sponsor. **A celebratory reception is planned for the business partners participating in the inaugural Scoreboard Advertiser Sponsorship Program Thursday, Jan. 29 at 4:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center.** The scoreboard advertisers will have the opportunity to see the new scoreboards in action by watching basketball scrimmages between eastside teams. Businesses participating in the inaugural program are: Cason Builders, Inc., Burger King Restaurant, Domino's Pizza, Ironwood Golf Course, Florida Credit Union, GRU, Signs By Tomorrow and TD Bank.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement contact: Chris Cooper – 352-334-5030

- ✓ The **Code Enforcement Division is conducting training on legal issues in code enforcement on Jan. 28-29.** All division members will attend, as well as the city's special magistrate for code enforcement. The training will cover subjects ranging from legal authority granted to code enforcement officers, case preparation and report writing and successful quasi-judicial and court hearing presentations. The training will be provided by a Florida Association of Code Enforcement trainer, who is also a local government attorney.

Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ On Jan. 5, the **Neighborhood Planning Program and the 5th Avenue Neighborhood Association installed a secure tool shed at the 5th Avenue Community Garden**. The colorful, new shed allows gardeners to store tools onsite, rather than carrying them from home to the garden and back every time they tend to the plants. For information about the garden, the new shed or plans for additional improvements to the garden, please contact John Wachtel, city project manager, at 352-393-8565 or wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org.
- ✓ **The City of Gainesville has hired Tindale-Oliver and Associates, Inc. (TOA) to conduct a study to determine whether or not a certain area of northwest Gainesville meets state-mandated criteria to become a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) area**. The study area includes the Northwest 13th Street and Northwest Sixth Street corridors from their intersection, south to approximately Northwest 16th Avenue. In addition, the study area extends east to include the city's Public Works complex, the Koppers superfund site, the Winn Dixie shopping center and surrounding areas. A map of the study area is available online at <http://cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/house/Lark.pdf>. TOA will hold a public meeting to discuss the CRA process and present preliminary data and findings. All citizens are invited to attend and participate. The meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the training room at the City of Gainesville's Public Works complex, which is located at 405 NW 39th Ave., building D. For more information, please contact John Wachtel, city project manager, at 352-393-8565 or wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, Jan. 15, the **City of Gainesville will participate with several community partners in sponsoring a Veteran's Job Fair**. The job fair will be held at the Senior Recreation Center on 34th Street from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Jan. 20, a **routine staff meeting is scheduled to review the status of the vehicle for hire ordinance**. A stakeholder meeting will be scheduled for the last week in January.
- ✓ On Thursday, Jan. 22, a **routine meeting of the Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority (GACRAA) is scheduled, and it is anticipated that a review of the draft ordinance regarding vehicles for hire and transportation network companies will be provided to GACRAA members by city staff**.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Jan. 27, an **I2 meeting is scheduled to occur at Gainesville Regional Utilities to review the status of Innovation Square**.
- ✓ On Thursday, Jan. 29, a **routine meeting of the City Manager's Economic Development Team** will occur, and the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the **Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting**.
- ✓ On Wednesday, Feb. 4, the Economic Development & Innovation Director is scheduled to place a **routine call to the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research** to receive an update on performance to date.

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ For the **2014 calendar year, the Building Inspections Department processed 7,137 permit applications and facilitated 129 first-step meetings.**
- ✓ **Two notable first-step meetings are scheduled for mid-January.** One proposes a new commercial shopping center as the next development at Butler Plaza North and the other is a proposed development for the University Corners property site at Northwest 13th Street and West University Avenue.
- ✓ **The Building Department's staff is busy conducting inspections** at the new Supervisor of Elections location (515 N. Main St.), Courtyards Apartments (Southwest Third Avenue) and Infinity Hall at Innovation Square (Southwest Second Avenue).
- ✓ **The Building Inspection Department is pleased to announce the availability of online building permits effective Thursday, Dec. 11.** This enhanced service is available to all contractors and property owners that register with the city (state law does require applicants to initially register in person). Applicants will be able to apply for the following permits, which account for approximately 50 percent of permits issued by the city annually: mechanical, electrical, garage door, roofing, HVAC change outs, water heater replacements, plumbing re-pipe, gas piping and window and door replacements. After registering, applicants can apply for permits on the Citizen Access Portal on the City of Gainesville website at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/BuildingInspection.aspx>.

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.
- ✓ **During this reporting period, there are three GPD retirement ceremonies.** Each person has contributed at least 30 years of service to GPD and the Gainesville community. All are welcome to attend and wish these valuable employees well on their future endeavors.
 - Thursday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m., Acting Captain Will Halvosa (held at GPD Hero's Hall)
 - Thursday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m., Captain Ed Posey (held at Senior Recreation Center)
 - Friday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m., Sergeant Rick Roberts (held at GPD Hero's Hall)
- ✓ **The Police Advisory Committee is holding an open meeting Thursday, Jan. 22 from 6-7 p.m. in the main conference room at GTEC,** which is located at 2153 SE Hawthorne Rd. The Police Advisory Committee meets every month to discuss current issues involving the police department and national issues. It is a committee that is comprised of leaders in the community who volunteer their time to this committee. The committee welcomes everyone to come to the meeting and discuss community/neighborhood issues with them and Chief Tony Jones.

The next report will cover February 5-18, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, January 29. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.