

*Prepared for the City Commission, March 5-18, 2015*

## City Manager

- ✓ **Daylight saving time (DST) will officially begin at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 8, which means we will move our clocks forward one hour.** Gainesville Fire Rescue wants to encourage residents to change the batteries in their smoke alarms every time there is a time change. This is the perfect time to adopt this simple, life-saving habit. The National Fire Alarm Code recommends a minimum of one smoke alarm on each level of a home, including one inside each bedroom for new construction and one outside each sleeping area. Homes should also have at least one working carbon monoxide detector. Through [Project: Get Alarmed!](#), Gainesville Fire Rescue offers free smoke detectors including installation to homeowners who apply. Call 334-5065 or stop by any fire station for an application. Once the application is submitted, you will be contacted for an installation appointment.
- ✓ **A joint special meeting of the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of Commissioners is Monday, March 9** at 3 p.m. in the Jack Durrance Auditorium, which is located at 12 SE First St. On the agenda are an update on the downtown plaza/lot 10 and an update on homelessness.
- ✓ **The City Manager will present at the first session of Gainesville 101: the Spring 2015 Citizens' Academy**, which begins Wednesday, March 11 and continues for seven consecutive weeks. During this reporting period, attendees will meet with the mayor and representatives from each charter office at City Hall, and with Gainesville Fire Rescue.
- ✓ The **Gainesville Leadership Forum** will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 12 at Ironwood Golf Course. A presentation on media relations will occur. Please contact Eric Milch at ext. 8702 for more information.
- ✓ **[City of Gainesville elections](#) will be held Tuesday, March 17.** Registered voters citywide will elect the at-large (seat 1) commissioner, and registered voters in district one will elect a commissioner to represent its district. Early voting will be available Monday, March 9-Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Early voting will be held at the Supervisor of Elections Office, the Cone Park Library and the Millhopper Branch Library. For additional information on the upcoming election, including sample ballots, contact the Alachua County [Supervisor of Elections Office](#) at 352-374-5252.
- ✓ **March is National Ethics Awareness Month.** The City of Gainesville is committed to ethics. As such, we are committed to: fair and equal treatment for all people; effectively using public funds and resources; supporting our citizens, the environment and our community; being responsive to the public; quality and excellence and our community. For more information on Gainesville's commitment to ethics, please [click here](#).
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Work on the **sandhill restoration project at the Boulware Springs Nature Park** began Feb. 16, and is expected to be complete by early March. A segment of the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail has been rerouted from Southeast 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, to the south entrance of Boulware Springs Nature Park, located at 3400 SE 15<sup>th</sup> St. The north entrance of Boulware Springs Nature Park has also been closed. The closures are to accommodate the removal of invasive hardwoods for the first phase of habitat restoration at Boulware Springs Nature Park in conjunction with Alachua County's Sweetwater Preserve and adjacent private lands. The removal will begin to restore approximately 80-acres of sandhill habitat to its former health. Please note that the landscape will look different, especially at first, but over time a beautiful transformation will take place. For project history, maps and other information, please visit <http://bit.ly/1F528JL>.
- ✓ **A fence has been installed around the track and field facility at Fred Cone Park**, which is located at 2841 E. University Ave. The fence is to improve usability for track meets as well as long-term maintenance. The fence completely surrounds the facility and is a combination of decorative aluminum and chain-link fencing. Additionally, two sets of 10-row bleachers were relocated from the southeast area of the park to the east side of the track and placed on concrete pads.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the Spring 2015 Citizens' Academy** begins Wednesday, March 11 and continues for seven consecutive weeks. During this reporting period, attendees will meet with representatives from each charter office at City Hall, and with Gainesville Fire Rescue.
- ✓ Communications staff is taking part in a **monthly emergency management coordination team meeting** Wednesday, March 11.
- ✓ Staff from the Communications Office will deliver a presentation on media relations at the **Gainesville Leadership Forum**. The forum will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 12 at Ironwood Golf Course. Please contact Eric Milch at ext. 8702 for more information.
- ✓ The Communications Office is hosting a **webinar on GoToWebinar basics Thursday, March 12** at 1 p.m. For more information, please contact Bob Woods at ext. 8627.
- ✓ Staff from the Communications Office and the City Manager's Office are meeting to begin **coordination of the upcoming City Commission Orientation**, which is held every year a new commissioner is elected.

## 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](http://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.
- ✓ The **application period for fire special assessment hardship assistance and fire flow (sprinkler) mitigation credits is open until May 1, 2015**. Please visit the [fire assessment Web page](#) for information and forms, or call 352-334-5078 to request a form.

- ✓ The **open data portal now has information on fire safety inspections and community outreach.** Please visit <https://stat.cityofgainesville.org/public-safety#operational> to view the information.

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

- ✓ The **Spring 2015 Family Fire Safety Expo is Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at fire station no. 3**, which is located at 900 N. Waldo Rd. Demonstrations will be held at the top of every hour and attendees also have the opportunity to tour the fire engine, spray the fire hose and much more! This event is free and open to the public.
- ✓ **GFR is now accepting applications for the Junior Fire Academy** (June 8-11, 2015) for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. The cost is \$50 for city residents and \$60 for non-residents. Applications are due Thursday, April 30. Visit [www.gfr.org](http://www.gfr.org) for forms and information, or call Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 352-393-8461.
- ✓ **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](http://gfr.org/community_training).

## Public Works

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

- ✓ The **Solid Waste Division will help sponsor a Level II Neighborhood Cleanup at North Lincoln Heights Saturday, March 14.** A level II cleanup entails the community coming together to organize a cleanup through Keep Alachua County Beautiful and the Solid Waste Division with volunteers from the neighborhood. The Solid Waste Division furnishes the roll-off boxes, equipment and a Solid Waste inspector to oversee the staging area, which will be at the Church of the Kingdom of God (402 SE 14th St.) from 8-11 a.m. The inspector distributes equipment and oversees the roll-off boxes to make sure there is no contamination or hazardous waste. After the event, the inspector ensures all equipment is returned and coordinates the pickup of the roll-off boxes.
- ✓ **Solid Waste Division employees will be out by 6 a.m. working hard** to provide 170 garbage containers and 95 recycling containers along the **March of Dimes Walk and staging area**, located at Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park. After the event, all garbage and recycling will be collected and properly disposed of by the Solid Waste Division, and will provide three, 20-yard roll-offs for this purpose.
- ✓ The **Great American Cleanup** starts March 1 and continues through May 31 each year. The main **Alachua County event is Saturday, March 21 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, which is located at 1001 NW 34th St. The Solid Waste Division is heading up the

City of Gainesville's portion of the county-wide cleanup by providing supplies and equipment, designating clean-up sites within the city and coordinating the strategic placement of dumpsters and disposal for the collection of trash and recyclable materials such as tires, metal, bottles and cans. The Solid Waste Division will also have an informational recycling/adopt-a-street booth, along with other environmental booths, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all volunteers. For more information on becoming a volunteer or the information booths, contact Gina Hawkins at Keep Alachua County Beautiful, 352-371-9444, or visit [www.kacb.org](http://www.kacb.org).

- ✓ The City of Gainesville is taking an **innovative approach to improving travel times, reducing carbon emissions and increasing driver and pedestrian safety by using an adaptive traffic control system**. The Public Works Department - Traffic Operations Division has been installing equipment along the Northwest Eighth Avenue corridor that is anticipated to help reduce congestion and handle fluctuating demands more efficiently. Technicians will bring the system online and calibrate it starting March 10. The adaptive traffic control system will be working at the following intersections:
  - NW 8th Ave. at 43rd St.
  - NW 8th Ave. at 34th St.
  - NW 8th Ave. at 22nd St.
  - NW 8th Ave. at 18th Ter.
  - NW 16th Ave. at 34th St.

Existing conditions have been continuously monitored and studied to provide a quantitative analysis for comparison when the new system goes live. Although the impacts may not be immediately noticed, good results are anticipated from the new system and expectations are to bring improved traffic flow through the area. For more information, contact Steven Max Elliott in Traffic Management at 352-393-7960 or visit [www.GAC-SmarTraffic.com](http://www.GAC-SmarTraffic.com).

- ✓ The **[Bicycle/Pedestrian Program](#) is available for bicycle and/or pedestrian safety presentations or an on-bike training event for children, adults or senior citizens**. For more information, scheduling a bicycle/pedestrian event, questions or volunteer opportunities, please contact Dekova Batey, bicycle/pedestrian program coordinator at 352-334-5070 or [bikeped@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org). Visit [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **Baseball 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](mailto:info@noahsendeavor.org) or visit their website at [www.noahsendeavor.org](http://www.noahsendeavor.org). Baseball for All is held at ball field no. 1 at the Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, which is located at 1001 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St. It is from 2–4 p.m. on the following remaining Sundays: March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29 and April 12.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ **Plan ahead for spring break (March 23-27) and check out the** several options offered by PRCA to make it a great week for kids, and convenient for busy parents. During camps, kids will enjoy games, activities and crafts that encourage achievement, a sense of community, good health and strong character!

#### [Earth Academy Day Camp](#)

**Location:** Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E University Ave.

**Hours:** Mon.–Fri., 7:00 a.m.–6 p.m., with early drop-off and late pick-up services

**Cost:** City Residents: \$115.75, Non-City Residents: \$173.75

**Ages:** 1<sup>st</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### [Recreation Day Camps](#)

**Hours:** Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Fees:** City Residents: \$47.50, Non-City Residents: \$71.25

**Ages:** 1<sup>st</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Locations:** Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.); Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)

- ✓ **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, April 13, 2015 (teacher workday) and 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.

- ✓ **Swim lessons are offered for children ages 6 months to adults.** The focus is on fun, safety and basic swimming skills. Swim lessons are available **this spring at the Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool**, which is located at 1100 NE 14th St., offering convenient evening sessions. Class times depend on which level the child is in. For more information, and a full schedule, please visit the [Swimming Lessons Web page](#). The fee is \$44.50 for city residents and \$67.75 for non-city residents. **Registration is now available; the first session begins March 23.**

- ✓ **[Aqua-Fit water aerobics](#) is a low/medium-intensity class offers more aerobic cardio and core training which also focuses on flexibility and total body toning. Aqua-Fit classes began March 2 at the Dwight H. Hunter "Northeast" Pool (1100 NE 14th St.).** All instructors are certified.

**Times:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 13 and older  
**Fee:** \$2.55 a class or buy 8 classes (\$20.40) and get 2 classes free!

- ✓ **Winter operating hours for municipal pools are as follows (until March 14):**

<a href="#">Northeast Pool</a> (spring hours begin March 16)	<a href="#">Westside Pool</a> (closed for the season)
M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim	<a href="#">Mickle Pool</a> (closed for the season)
SA: 12-5 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim	
SU: Closed	

- ✓ **Spring operating hours for municipal pools are as follows (beginning March 16):**  

<u>Northeast Pool</u>	<u>Westside Pool</u> (reopens May 1)
M-F: 6-9 a.m., Lap Swim	<u>Mickle Pool</u> (reopens May 22)
M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim	
SA: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Open Swim/Lap Swim	
SU: 12-5 p.m. Open Swim, Lap Swim	

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

- ✓ Be a part of helping to keep our natural areas well-maintained and free of trash and invasive plants. Individuals and organizations can be part of the **Gainesville Greenway Challenge, offering year-round volunteer opportunities for invasive plant removal.** Please contact [gnavgreenwaychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gnavgreenwaychallenge@gmail.com) to learn more!
- ✓ **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 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 March 6, April 3 and May 1.

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

- ✓ The Thomas Center Associates is hosting the **Spring Promenade from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7.** The tour of historic homes in the Duckpond neighborhood features six houses of various sizes and one beautifully remodeled historic house that is now a business. Transportation by van will be available, although the sites are all within easy walking distance. Tickets cost \$15, and may be purchased on the day of the event at the Historic Thomas Center.
- ✓ On **Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m., deceased Masons interred at Evergreen Cemetery will be honored and remembered.** This annual celebration is hosted by the Evergreen Cemetery Association and the Masonic Lodge #41.
- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is pleased to announce the **next Jewel Box Concert at the Thomas Center Thursday, March 12.** The concert **features Lonesome River Band, one of the most respected names in bluegrass music.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Lonesome River Band performs at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 at the door - cash or check only.

- ✓ It is with great pleasure that we announce the **third season of [Jest Fest!](#)**, Gainesville's newest signature event. This year, Jest Fest! is moving to our cultural center at the Historic Thomas Center and Gardens. With the move, there will be five stage locations, both indoors and out, and all of the wonderful entertainers will be performing on one fun-filled festival day. The lineup this year's features the Flying Wallendas, plus last year's smash hit Johnny Peers And the Muttville Comix dog show, silent clowns Avner the Eccentric and Arsene Dupin, Magical Mystical Michael, comic cellist Rushad Eggleston, one-man-band Marc Dobson and introducing 12-year-old ventriloquist Cole Tucker, plus many more! **Jest Fest! is Sunday, March 29 from 12-6 p.m. at the Historic Thomas Center, and is free and open to the public.**
- ✓ **[Thomas Center Galleries:](#)** *INSIDE OUT: The Spectacular World of mr. Eddy* is in the Main Gallery Jan. 9-March 14. **ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Visual Arts Program Showcase – Secondary** is in the Mezzanine Gallery Feb. 21-March 28.

## Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) application cycle** for potential applicants seeking funds for FY15-16 is underway. The HCD Division will **receive applications from non-profit community organizations interested in seeking CDBG and HOME Programs funds through 5 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2015.** Applications may be picked up from the HCD office, which is located at Thomas Center "B," 306 NE Sixth Ave., room 236 or on the City of Gainesville's website at: <http://www.cityofgainesville.org>. For more information, please contact 352-393-8864.
- ✓ **The Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD) monthly meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 24 at 6 p.m.** at Thomas Center "B," 306 NE Sixth Ave., room 201. All meetings are open to the public and public input is always welcomed. For more information, please contact 352-393-8864.

## Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Tuesday, March 10, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will **attend UF's A Celebration of Innovation** at the UF Hilton Conference Center.
- ✓ On Wednesday, March 11, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will **attend a Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce Regional Partners meeting.**
- ✓ On Wednesday, March 11, a **regular meeting of the EDUCC** is scheduled at 5 p.m. in room 16 (basement) of City Hall.
- ✓ On Thursday, March 12, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will **attend a regular meeting of the City Manager's Economic Development Team.**
- ✓ On Tuesday, March 17, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will meet **with Retail Strategies, a retailing consultant.**

## Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ The **final development order for the Shands Medical Center Complex on Southwest 13<sup>th</sup> Street was issued**, allowing the development to apply for building permits and start construction.
- ✓ **Landmark Properties has submitted a development plan to replace Sun Key and Park 16<sup>th</sup> developments**, located in the 1000 to 1100 block of Southwest 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with an 188-unit, student-oriented development with 787 bedrooms.
- ✓ Butler Development has submitted **development plans for the relocation of the Archer Road Walmart and Lowes and the siting of a new RTS transfer station**.
- ✓ The **development plan for the Bo Diddley Community Plaza has been approved**.
- ✓ Landmark Urban Construction has notified PDS that in the near future they will be **mobilizing equipment, materials and labor to start geotechnical site exploration by driving/drilling three auger-cast test piles on the Standard** (formerly University Corners) development site.
- ✓ The first public hearing for **the land development code update is Monday, March 30 at 5 p.m.** at a Special City Commission Meeting.

## 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 monthly Black-on-Black Crime Task Force Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.** at GPD's Hall of Heroes.

*The next report will cover March 19-April 1, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, March 12. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*