

Prepared for the City Commission, September 19-October 2, 2013

City Manager

- ✓ The City of Gainesville Office of Equal Opportunity and Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office are co-sponsoring the **Fourth Annual Employment Law Seminar Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Topics to be covered include: labor and employment law, fair labor standards, FMLA and creating an inclusive workplace. For more information, please view the attached file or contact Candasy Tolbert for registration information at 352-374-5275 or tolbertc@cityofgainesville.org.
- ✓ On **Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m., a Charter Review Community Forum** is being held in the City Hall auditorium.
- ✓ **Diversity/Affirmative Action work plan training** is being held for **all General Government supervisors, managers and directors Wednesday, Sept. 25** at 2 p.m. in the GRU Multi-Purpose Room.
- ✓ The **United Way campaign for General Government officially kicked off Wednesday, Sept. 4!** The City of Gainesville supports this campaign year after year because United Way's work in our community is extremely important. [Team captains](#) will distribute pledge forms by the end of the month, so if you have not received it yet, you will be receiving your pledge form soon. In a [memo to General Government employees](#), City Manager Russ Blackburn discusses the importance of our workplace charitable giving campaign and this year's theme, "The Power of One." Additionally, 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.
- ✓ In order to provide better service to our employees, the City Of Gainesville is implementing a new process where a **copy of your current direct deposit pay slip can be emailed to you each pay period.** In order to receive your pay slip electronically, you must have a valid external email address. You cannot have your pay stub emailed to your General Government or GRU email address. If you would like to participate, please [click here](#) to access the Request to Receive Electronic Copy of Pay Slip form. Return your completed form to Human Resources at Box #A135. You may sign up at any time; however, it may take several pay cycles before you begin receiving your pay stub via email. If you have additional questions, please contact HR at 352-334-5077.
- ✓ Follow [@GRUStormCentral](#) on Twitter for outage information during severe weather.

Capital Projects

- ✓ The **irrigation project on the Southeast Second Avenue medians at Southeast Third Street** is being installed this week with planting of crepe myrtles and ground cover beginning next week.
- ✓ The **Southwest 16th Avenue project** (from 13th Street to Archer Road) construction bid award is scheduled for the Thursday, Oct. 3 City Commission meeting.
- ✓ Construction for Phase 1 of the **Main Street Streetscape** project is underway and is expected to be completed near the end of the year. This project includes the replacement, relocation and new installation of more than 130 roadway and pedestrian scale lights on Main Street between Depot and Northwest Eighth Avenues. For more information on this project, contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.

- ✓ Bids for the construction of the **West Sixth Street Rail-Trail Section 3** project were received Aug. 6 and the bid award was approved by the City Commission Sept. 5. Construction should begin in early October and be completed near the end of the year. This project consists of the construction of the Sixth Street Rail-Trail multi-use path, connecting the two existing sections at Southwest Second Avenue and Northwest 10th Avenue. For more information, contact Stefan Broadus at 393-8406.
- ✓ Crews at the **new RTS facility** continue to work on drainage structures and areas. Maintenance bays are being poured and testing of wall panels continues. The service and fueling buildings are ready for roof installation. Exterior metal studs have begun on the administration/operations building and the overhead area of the first floor is being roughed out. Work also continues on utility upgrades under Veitch Street. The project remains on schedule for completion in late 2014.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ Communications staff has contacted website content editors about last steps needed before content migration to the new website. The current website is frozen, with very limited updates from Sept. 16-Sept. 27. **Required training for website content editors and approvers will be held Sept. 24-26** by Ingen Systems, inc., the city's vendor for the website redesign project. The redesigned website will go live in October 2013.
- ✓ Communications staff has **started coordinating and recruiting attendees for the fall session of Gainesville 101: Citizens' Academy**. Interested parties should visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org> for more information or to register.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Administration and Operations contact: Chief Gene Prince – 352-334-5078

- ✓ The **Gainesville Fire Rescue Strategic Plan and Standards of Cover** may be viewed on the **GFR page** of the city's website at www.gfr.org.

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

- ✓ A **group of home-school children is visiting the Airport Fire Station** Thursday, Sept. 19.
- ✓ **Engine 3 is participating in a Family Fire Safety Day at Village Green Apartments** Thursday, Sept. 26.
- ✓ A **group of children from MomMe is visiting Station 5** Saturday, Sept. 28.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. The next class is Wednesday, Nov. 6. For information on **Operation Safe Club** classes, please call 334-5065.

GFR support services Bureau contact: Asst. Chief Jeff Lane – 352-393-8459

- ✓ Gainesville Fire Rescue is announcing its **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

- ✓ Public Works has launched a **new construction website for informational purposes and to allow citizens an opportunity to comment** about ongoing and future construction projects. The website, www.gainesvillepublicworks.org, currently has information about the Northwest Eighth Avenue reconstruction project and the test pattern in place. Other projects will be added as they begin the design and construction process.
- ✓ In an effort **to reduce home football game litter** by providing more trash capacity, the Solid Waste Division has purchased **four additional solar trash compactor/recycling units**. The units are identical to units already in use downtown near Harry's Seafood Restaurant and Mochi's. For the fall semester, the units will be placed along West University Avenue between the Swamp Restaurant and the Stadium Club, and will provide five times the trash capacity as the containers that are currently there. Each container has wireless capability that sends a message to the Solid Waste Division and the garbage company when it needs to be emptied. Staff hopes to have the units installed prior to the second home football game.
- ✓ **Gator Aider service is back for another year.** Don't let parking hassles sack your gameday weekend – ride Gator Aider! The football gameday shuttle can be picked up at Town of Tioga, Haile Plantation Village Center, the Oaks Mall, University Hilton (34th Street) and the city's Downtown Parking Garage. Shuttles begin leaving three hours prior to kickoff and return trips begin at the beginning of the fourth quarter through a hour after the game ends. Season tickets are \$40 and include Gator Growl. Single game roundtrip tickets are \$10. Tickets can only be purchased with cash.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Administrative Office – 352-334-5067

- ✓ **PRCA and Noah's Endeavor offer soccer for all!** This free program takes place at the Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, ball field #3. This 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. Please call Noah's Endeavor at [352-275-9639](tel:352-275-9639), visit www.noahsendeavor.org or email them at info@noahsendeavor.org. Additional information is also available at <http://www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org>. The remaining 2013 fall hours are 5-7 p.m. and the program dates are as follows:
 - September: 22 and 29
 - October: 6, 13, 20 and 27
 - November: 2
- ✓ Paint your yard with the beautiful colors of native plants; they are adapted to drought and are easy to maintain. Take advantage of the largest offering of native plants in north Florida during **the 2013 Fall Native Plant Sale, at Morningside Nature Center, Saturday, Sept. 28**. It is open to the general public from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. An exclusive "members-only" preview sale is held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27 for members of the [Friends of Nature Parks](#) and the [Florida Native Plant Society](#). The Native Plant Sale features thousands of beautiful native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, ferns,

grasses and vines grown at area nurseries. Vendors are members of the Florida Native Plant Society and certify that plants are nursery propagated and grown. This biannual sale is hosted cooperatively by the City of Gainesville Nature Operations Division, the Paynes Prairie chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) and Friends of Nature Parks (FNP). Cash, credit cards and checks are accepted.

- ✓ To have a strong, sound structure you have to begin with a solid foundation! **Plan ahead for Foundations After-School Program, which continues through Thursday, June 5, 2014.** The program is for kids in first-eighth grade and there are convenient locations at four of our recreation and community centers: Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center, Eastside Community Center and Porters Community Center. Participants will be involved in structured activities, such as tutoring, homework help, arts/crafts, recreation and sporting activities. All children are welcome, pre-registration is required. Space is limited and is available on a first come first serve basis. Transportation is not provided for this program. For more information, please visit www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and end the last week of May! History comes to life at the little farm in the Piney Woods during **Living History Days**. Interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all year long. **Barnyard Buddies Program** takes place every Wednesday at 3 p.m. 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 you may bring donations of animal favorites like carrots, squash, apples and sweet potatoes and give it to staff. 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. The program takes place the first Friday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. Morningside Nature Center is located at 3540 E. University Ave., approximately three miles east of downtown Gainesville. For more information, please call 352-334-3326.
- ✓ The **"Get to Know" Youth Art Contest invites all youth (19 and younger) to get outdoors and “get to know” their natural world.** Submit art, writing, photography, video or music inspired by outdoor experiences for a chance at wild prizes! The contest, now in its 14th year, encourages young people to develop a deeper appreciation for nature and biodiversity by getting outdoors and creating art, writing, digital photography, video and music. The goal of the contest is to engage the power of art to help youth feel more connected with nature. Students from across these countries will submit their original works of art, writing, photography, video or music inspired by the natural world. Winners will be featured in a calendar and on a website. Gainesville’s involvement is the first time this program has been in Florida, and submissions from our region will be displayed at an event in the Historic Thomas Center on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 6-8 pm. The Get to Know Contest is available nationally across the U.S., in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Federation, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Wildlife Habitat Council, National Recreation and Park Association, Wildlife Forever and more than 50 other partners coast-to-coast. The **contest runs until Friday, Nov. 1, 2013.** For more info and to submit work, visit www.gettoknow.ca or <https://www.facebook.com/events/577954245560015/>.

Aquatics contact: Jeff Moffitt – 352-393-8732

- ✓ **Fall swim lessons** are here! The second three-week session is available at both Westside and Northeast Pools. Classes are held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (Wednesday and Friday are reserved for make-up days) from Sept. 16-Oct. 3. Class times are as follows:
 - 5-5:30 p.m.: Pre-School Levels 1 and 2

- 5:45-6:15 p.m.: Pre-School Level 3 and Learn-to-Swim Levels 1 and 2
- 6:30-7 p.m.: Learn-to-Swim Levels 3, 4 and 5 and Adult Beginner

Please call the PRCA Department at 334-5067 for more information.

- ✓ **Aqua-Fit water aerobics** classes are available at the Northeast Pool, Mondays and Wednesdays (through Oct. 30) from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. The class fee is \$2 a class or 10 classes for \$16! Please call the PRCA Department at 334-5067 for more information.
- ✓ All local high school swim and dive teams are conducting their team practices at city pools. During the afternoons from 3:30-7 p.m., limited lap lanes will be available. At least two lanes will be made available to the public at Westside Pool, while anywhere from 3-5 lanes will be made available for public lap swim at the Northeast Pool. High school swim meets are held at Westside Pool. Please check the PRCA website or call 334-5067 for meet dates and times.
- ✓ Become **certified in lifeguarding through an American Red Cross course!** The class will be offered from Thursday, Sept. 19-Sunday, Sept. 22 at the following times:
 - Thursday, Sept. 19: 5-8 p.m.
 - Friday, Sept. 20: 5-9 p.m.
 - Saturday, Sept. 21: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 - Sunday, Sept. 22: 12-5 p.m.

The course will be held at Northeast Pool, and the fee is \$175, which includes coursework, training, books and materials. Class is limited to 10 participants, and a prerequisite swim test required. Please call 334-5067 for more information or to register.

- ✓ Two, four-week sessions of **advanced stroke clinic will be offered at the Northeast Pool on Saturdays.** This clinic is for those interested in racing a biathlon, triathlon or joining a club team, and is for swimmers ages 14 and up. Instruction is customized to meet your individual needs and improve skills. The sessions are as follows:
 - Session 1: Sept. 7-28, 10-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m.
 - Session 2: Oct. 5-26, 10-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m.

Fees are \$38.50 for city residents and \$58.50 for non-residents. For more information, or to register, please call PRCA at 334-5067.

- ✓ **Effective Monday, Aug. 19, fall pool hours are in effect. Fall hours are as follows:**

Northeast Pool

M-F: 6-9 a.m., Morning 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: noon-5 p.m., Open Swim

Westside Pool (Westside Pool will close for the season Friday, Oct. 25)

M-F: 6-8 a.m., Morning Lap Swim
 M-F: 3-7 p.m., Open Swim
 SA: 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Open Swim
 SU: noon-5 p.m., Open Swim

Mickle Pool (Mickle Pool closed for the season after Labor Day)

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

- ✓ Both the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire** and the **City of Gainesville Downtown Cultural Series**, which includes all of the city’s downtown events, **were awarded \$22,820.47** for a total of \$45,640.94 **from the Alachua County’s Tourist Product Development grant.** This funding for the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire will primarily be used to market outside the community. The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire is a nationally-known event which brings tourism into Alachua County.

Survey results show that visitors traveled not only from the state of Florida, but from out of state including Louisiana and Alabama. Visitors also traveled from as far as Pennsylvania and New York. According to the 2013 faire research, more than 57 percent of faire attendees are from outside Alachua County. With this funding, PRCA is able to reach a wider range of people and attract more visitors. The funding for the Downtown Cultural Series will be used for a combination of out of county marketing and production needs. The Downtown Cultural Series includes the “Free Fridays” Concert Series, the Downtown Festival & Art Show, Jest Fest and the Downtown Countdown New Year’s Eve Celebration at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza, as well as the Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center. Surveys for these events show a substantial number of attendees from out of the county, as well as serving our local population with 40 downtown event days per year.

- ✓ You are invited to **apply as a merchant for the 28th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire!** The faire, which will be held Jan. 25-26 and Jan. 31- Feb 2 transforms the Alachua County Fairgrounds into a medieval market place. In keeping with the faire’s authentic atmosphere, all crafts and wares should be consistent with the medieval theme. Participants must follow the faire’s guidelines by wearing medieval attire, speaking with a medieval accent, and booths must be decorated in the appropriate medieval style. Artist applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, Nov. 4. For more information and application guidelines, visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org or call 352-393-8536.
- ✓ The **32nd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show poster image was selected for the cover of the 2013/2014 Gainesville YP, The Real Yellow Pages.** The poster artist this year is nature photographer John Moran. The featured artwork, titled "Look Into the Eye," is a breathtaking underwater photograph Moran made in 2012 at Silver Glen Springs in the Ocala National Forest.
- ✓ Mingle with nationally acclaimed artists and lend a hand in Gainesville’s art community by **volunteering at the 32nd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show**, ranked #10 in the nation by *Sunshine Artist* magazine. You can become a part of this award-winning art festival; four-hour shifts are available Saturday, Nov. 16, or Sunday, Nov. 17 for volunteers of all ages. Volunteers can assist in the Information Booth, sell t-shirts and posters, booth sit for artists or help with the Children’s Imagination Station, a free, hands-on art activity area. If you would like to join our amazing team of volunteers please contact Linda Piper, festival coordinator, at 352-393-8536. Applications may be downloaded from our website at www.gvlculturalaffairs.org.
- ✓ Show your support for the arts in Alachua County by **becoming an art sponsor at the 32nd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show** Saturday, Nov. 16 and Sunday, Nov. 17. As an art sponsor, you can make your name stand out among the crowd by pledging a minimum of \$50 in advance toward the purchase of any piece of art. To request a pledge form, contact Festival Coordinator Linda Piper at 352-393-8536, or visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org.
- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *The Artist in All of Us: Alachua County Public Schools Staff Exhibition* runs through Saturday, Nov. 16, with an opening reception Friday, Oct. 4 from 5:30-8 a.m. *Artifacts Exquisite & Extraordinary* runs through Saturday, Sept. 28 in the Main Gallery.
- ✓ You are invited to **Free Fridays, the annual series of family friendly free concerts**, in the Bo Diddley Community Plaza. 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. The “Free Fridays” Concert Series runs from 8 to 10 p.m. on Friday nights from Friday, April 5 through Friday, Nov. 8. Upcoming performers include:
 - **September 20:** Heavy Petty (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band)
 - **September 27:** Tropix (Latin fusion)

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.
- ✓ On Wednesday, **Sept. 25, Chief Jones is walking the Village Crossing neighborhood beat**. Persons interested in joining Chief Jones should meet at 6 p.m. at the complex courtyard, which is located at 501 SE 18th St.
- ✓ On **Friday, Sept. 27, Chief Jones** is doing a different beat walk, and **is walking the downtown area**. He will meet area officers and citizens at 11 p.m. at City Lot #10 downtown, which is off of Southwest First Avenue.

The next report will cover October 3-16, 2013. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, September 26. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.