

Prepared for the City Commission, January 21-February 3, 2016

City Manager

- ✓ Please join us for the **State of the City Address, which has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 12 p.m.** The address will take place at the Hall of Heroes inside the GPD administration building. The grand prize winner from the 2015 photography contest will also be unveiled at the event. The address will not air live, 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission is **currently accepting applications for quasi-judicial and other advisory boards and committees.** [Applications](#) must be received by 12 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016. The following boards/committees currently have openings:

City Residency Required

- Utility Advisory Board: (1) a representative of a major business (25 or more employees) that is a utility commercial customer; (1) a person with utility management experience; (1) a person with investment banking, financial or certified public accounting experience; (1) a licensed attorney with business, contract or corporate law experience; (1) a person with engineering experience and (2) two persons with any qualifications the City Commission deems relevant or beneficial to service on the board

City Residency Not Required

- Utility Advisory Board (1)

- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
 - Monday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.: Special City Commission meeting about budget planning and the five year financial forecast in room 16 (basement) of City Hall.

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** Asphalt paving of Section C (between Northwest 23rd Street and Northwest Sixth Street) began, as scheduled, on Jan. 6, and is expected to be complete in February 2016. Until completion, lane closures and slower traffic may be expected in this portion of the work. Section B (between Northwest 34th Street and Northwest 23rd Street) is in the final design stages and is expected to be under construction between spring and summer of 2016. Section C (between Northwest 40th Drive and Northwest 34th Street) is complete. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.

- ✓ **Depot Avenue Segment 2:** The Southwest Sixth Street intersection has been closed by the roadway contractor, O'Steen Brothers, for construction. The intersection will remain closed for approximately two more months while the contractor is constructing a roundabout with underground utilities, stormwater, streetscaping and landscaping. Both two-way vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be accommodated between Southwest Sixth and Southwest 11th Streets, and two-way vehicular traffic will be maintained east of Southwest Sixth Street to Southwest Main Street. Construction of the multi-use trail between Southwest Sixth Street and Main Street is currently under construction and will remain closed until completion. The contractor's contact person for this project is Don Shackelford, and he can be reached at 352-459-1031. For more information, questions or comments, please contact John Veilleux, project manager, at veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8418.
- ✓ **Neighborhood Lighting Improvements:** The City of Gainesville has partnered with the University of Florida (UF) to partially fund the Neighborhood Lighting Project through a \$25,000 contribution from UF, adding to \$350,000 in city funds currently available to the Public Works Department to implement lighting enhancements near the UF campus and in the Duval area of Gainesville to improve safety in poorly lit areas. The university's current contribution is equivalent to the cost of replacing approximately 30 Northeast lights. To date, 13 lights have been upgraded on Northeast Eighth Avenue between Waldo Road and NE 19th Street. Five lights were upgraded on Northeast Eighth Avenue near the Duckpond, and 11 lights were upgraded and six new fixtures were installed in the Sorority Row area on Southwest Ninth Road and Southwest Ninth Avenue. The next scheduled task is to upgrade lighting on Northeast Third Avenue between Northwest 14th Street and Northwest 20th Terrace. This should be complete in early 2016. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **1125 SE Fourth Street:** Demolition and site cleanup began Jan. 7 for the nearly three-acre stormwater treatment pond that will be part of the future Southeast Fourth Street reconstruction project. The Southeast Fourth Street corridor is a residential road which serves existing local businesses and residents, and provides access from southeast Gainesville to the downtown area from Williston Road to Depot Avenue. Treatment facilities also include amenities appropriate for the adjacent rails-to-trails bike path and residential area. Demolition is slated to take place through February 2016; pond construction will commence in spring 2016. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](mailto:waiteed@cityofgainesville.org), project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ **The 2015 Citizen's Report** will be released at the State of the City Address Wednesday, Jan. 20 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 2015 contest will be unveiled Jan. 20** at the State of the City Address. The **2016 calendar (pdf) is also available for downloading**. Photographs in the calendar are finalists of the Seventh Annual Gainesville Photography Contest. The pages are 8.5"x14" and a lightweight cardstock is recommended. Please note that since this is a printable calendar, the file size is large. To download the pdf, please [click here](#).
- ✓ Broadcast staff **released a [video of GFR dedicating two new fire trucks](#)**. The trucks will be housed at Fire Station no. 2, and will provide primary service to southwest Gainesville and the University of Florida.

- ✓ **Registration is open for Gainesville 101: Citizens' Academy.** Learn how Gainesville became one of the top-ranked cities in the nation. *Gainesville 101: The 2016 Citizens' Academy* will give residents a behind-the-scenes look at city facilities and allow residents to meet their city's leaders. This series of free classes is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 9 and continue for seven weeks through April 20. Sessions are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Register now, as space is limited!** Please note, this will be the only time this is offered in 2016. For more information, the schedule of events or to register, please visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org>.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Risk Reduction Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Steve Hesson – 352-393-8449

- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue can now be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!**
- ✓ **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. The cost is \$30 per person. For information on **Safe Assembly Training classes**, please call 334-5065.

GFR Support Services Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Mike Cowart – 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

- ✓ **Wrapping paper and gift boxes can be recycled** in your curbside orange bin.
- ✓ **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. If curbside service is not available to you, Christmas trees can be taken to Wood Resource Recycling at 10606 N SR 121 at no charge.
- ✓ **Christmas tree and other ornamental lights can be recycled** 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.
- ✓ **Newly constructed roads Southwest 33rd Place and Southwest 30th Avenue are closed for ongoing construction.** For more information, please contact Rick Melzer, project manager, at melzerra@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8407.
- ✓ Currently, the **2016 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) meetings** are on the following Thursdays: Feb. 11, March 24, June 16, July 21, Sept. 22 and Nov. 17 (subject to change). The meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Alachua County Administration Building (12 SE

First St. in Gainesville) in the Grace Knight Conference Room. Stay updated on BPAB information at www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped.

✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program** is coordinating/participating in the following:

- Tuesday, Jan. 26: Bicycle Helmet Fitting Certification Training for Epilepsy Foundation of Florida staff at the City of Gainesville Public Works Office (405 NW 39th Ave.)
- Wednesday, Jan. 27: Information booth at the Santa Fe College Volunteer Fair Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the Oak Grove (3000 NW 83rd St.)

Consider the **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program** for your next meeting, community event or training. They provide bicycle and pedestrian-related presentations, demonstrations, videos and trainings for toddlers, youth, teens, young adults, adults and seniors. 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, or visit www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped.

✓ The **Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) Program** is a volunteer organization made up of community representation from citizens, agencies and groups such as public works, law enforcement, fire departments, school board, health department and many others. The CTSTs are sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation with the mission of helping to reduce crashes and improve safety on area roadways. Through events, information, ongoing programs and education, team members work together to develop solutions to local traffic safety problems. The **Alachua County CTST meets the third Thursday of every month** (excluding July and December). The CTST Program will coordinate the following meeting:

- **Thursday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.:** CTST meeting at Santa Fe College Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) (2153 SE Hawthorne Road)
- **Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.:** CTST meeting at Santa Fe College Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) (2153 SE Hawthorne Road)

For more information on the group or to submit a traffic safety concern, visit the group website at <http://trafficsafetyteam.com/>.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ Join us Friday, April 29 for a Golf Scramble to support parks, recreation and cultural programs through the GAP Foundation. There is a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$80 per golfer or \$300 per foursome. The event is at Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39th Ave. Stop by the Pro Shop to register or call 352-393-8500 with any questions.
- ✓ The newly formed Gainesville Arts & Parks (GAP) Foundation, Inc. had its community launch Friday, Jan. 8 at the Historic Thomas Center. More than 350 children/adults attended the Showcase of Arts & Parks community launch. View the photo gallery at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsksvsovH>. Many thanks to the PRCA staff, volunteers and partners for making it such a wonderful event.

Nature Operations contact: Linda Demetropoulos – 352-393-8445

- ✓ The City Beautification Board, the City of Gainesville Planning and Development Services and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Departments, together with the Four Seasons Garden Club and the Matheson History Museum, invite the Gainesville community to **celebrate Florida Arbor Day Thursday, Jan. 21 from 12-1:30 p.m.** The Florida Arbor Day celebration will be held at the Matheson Museum, which is located at 513 E. University Ave. Celebrate with us as the City of Gainesville celebrates its 32nd year as a Tree City USA. We will plant 64 trees to honor these 32

years. Music and a light lunch will be provided. For additional information, please contact Earline Luhrman at 352-393-8188. Please RSVP to Denese Wethy at 352-393-8530 or wethydr@cityofgainesville.org.

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

- ✓ **Gainesville Youth Baseball** offers a fun-filled season for youth 4–15 years of age, and **Gainesville Fastpitch Softball** is available for girls age 4–16. Gainesville Youth Baseball, Inc. and Gainesville Fastpitch Softball is a non-profit (501(c)(3), parent-run organization, in partnership with the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department. Registration sessions will be held Thursday, Jan. 14–Saturday, Jan. 23 at various locations. Complete spring registration information is posted on the [Youth Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ **Spring Adult Softball** registration is Monday, Jan. 4–Thursday, March 10, for adults age 18 and older. This is a great way to make friends, create comradery with coworkers and have fun! Register in person at PRCA’s Administrative Office at the Thomas Center, located on the third floor of Thomas Center B, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Fees, mandatory meeting dates and all other information is available on the [Adult Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ Starting **Saturday, Jan. 9, the Northeast Pool will be closed for approximately six weeks** to repair the vinyl liner. Updates on the status of this repair/replacement project will be posted on the city’s website. For additional information, or for any questions or comments, please contact Recreation Supervisor Jeff Moffitt at 352-393-8732 or moffittjc@cityofgainesville.org.

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

- ✓ **Be a part of this annual tradition to remove invasive plant species** from our natural areas! Individuals and groups are needed to volunteer this kick-off to the year-long Gainesville Greenway Challenge. Registration is now open, and you can sign up online on the [Nature & Heritage Events](#) page. The **Great Invader Raider Rally will take place Saturday, Jan. 30**. Under trained leadership, volunteers will work to restore preassigned natural areas from 9-11 a.m. and then are invited to head to Morningside Nature Center for a celebration which includes music, t-shirts, prizes, environmental booths and games and food (\$).
- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and continue through May!
 - 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. 6, March 5, April 2 and May 7. 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. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6.

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.

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

- ✓ The Alachua County Fairgrounds is transformed into a bustling medieval marketplace for the **30th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, held Saturday, Jan. 30, Sunday, Jan. 31 and Friday, Feb. 5-Sunday, Feb. 7**. Step back in time and cheer on jousting knights, wander through the medieval marketplace where hundreds of artisans sell their wares, witness a battle on the living chess board, partake in old world games and rides and feast on food fit for a king. Enjoy nine stages of entertainment where the forgotten skills of full-flight falconry, gripping aerial acrobatics and old-world magic come to life. Jugglers, knife throwers and gypsy dancers add to the excitement as they fill the streets of Hoggetowne. For more information call 393-8536 or visit www.hoggetownefaire.com.
- ✓ Toss aside your textbooks and become immersed in history during the 30th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire on Friday, Feb. 5. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department invites all **schools and home-school groups to enjoy a field trip filled with magic, history and adventure at the Alachua County Fairgrounds Friday, Feb. 5**. 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 27 counties attended the faire on School Day as part of their medieval curriculum studies. The deadline for advanced registration is Tuesday, Jan. 5. For more information call 393-8536 or visit www.hoggetownefaire.com.
- ✓ Downtown Gainesville is in the midst of a colorful transformation and entering a new phase of its cultural renaissance. [352walls/The Gainesville Urban Art Initiative](#) features the work of **13 renowned international muralists and 13 of the region's best artists**. The first phase of the initiative was completed in November. Photographs of the progress can be viewed on social media at:
 - Facebook www.facebook.com/352walls
 - Twitter [@352walls](https://twitter.com/352walls)
 - Instagram [@352walls](https://www.instagram.com/352walls)

352walls is excited to welcome the Ukrainian duo Interesni Kazki. This amazing duo began painting the biggest mural of 352walls at Market Street Gainesville in mid-January. For more information please visit www.352walls.org.

- ✓ [Thomas Center Galleries](#): **ANIMA UNVEILED *The Self*** by Emanuel Torres Pérez will be held in the Thomas Center's Main Gallery Friday, Jan. 15 – Tuesday, March 15. This is a solo exhibit of introspective and conceptual self-portraiture by an award-winning, young Puerto Rican artist, which features contemporary works of multimedia drawings, paintings and prints. The event is free and open to the public. **The ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Visual Arts Program Showcase (K-12)** will be held in the Thomas Center's Mezzanine Gallery Saturday, Jan. 16 – Saturday, Feb. 20.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, Jan. 21, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the regular monthly meeting of GACRAA**.

- ✓ On Monday, Jan. 25, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a First-Step meeting to review an eight-story, mixed-use apartment building** proposed for 1245 W. University Ave.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a quarterly meeting of the I2 group** at the GRU administration building.
- ✓ On Wednesday, Jan. 27, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of Regional Partners** at the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ On Wednesday, Feb. 3, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of the community Entrepreneurial Roundtable** at Santa Fe's CIED center.

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.
- ✓ **Chief Tony Jones and the Gainesville Police Department are holding a Town Hall meeting, Wednesday, Jan 27 at 6 p.m.** It will be held at GPD's headquarters, which is located at 545 NW Eighth Ave. Chief Jones and GPD staff will present information on current crime rates, community programs and department goals. Additionally, Chief Jones will announce the reorganization of the Gainesville Police Department. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting.

The next report will cover February 4-17, 2016. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, January 28. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.