

*Prepared for the City Commission, March 3-16, 2016*

## City Manager

- ✓ **Ride with the Commish Saturday, March 5** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., starting at Civilization (1511 NW Second St.) and ending at Boulware Springs Park (3300 SE 15th St.). Pre-ride fueling at Civilization. The ride showcases the Sixth Street Trail and nearby projects; all levels of riders are welcome! A map of the route and points of interest is available at <https://goo.gl/k1NPVS>.
- ✓ **City of Gainesville elections will be held Tuesday, March 15.** Registered voters citywide will elect the at-large mayor, and registered voters in district four will elect a commissioner to represent its district. Early voting is available Friday, March 4-Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., except March 10, which will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Early voting will be held at the Supervisor of Elections Office, the Tower Road 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.
- ✓ **Daylight saving time (DST) officially begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 13, 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.
- ✓ 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. 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

- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** Section A (between Northwest 40th Drive and Northwest 34th Street) and Section C (between Northwest 23rd Street and Northwest Sixth Street) are substantially complete. Construction of Section B (between Northwest 34th Street and Northwest 23rd Street) started the week of February 22, and is expected to be complete later this summer. Until completion, lane closures and slower traffic may be expected in this segment. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact [Stefan Broadus](#), project manager, at 352-393-8406.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the 2016 Citizens' Academy** begins Wednesday, March 9 and continues for seven consecutive weeks. During this reporting period, attendees will meet with representatives from charter offices at City Hall, and with the Public Works Department.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Broadcast staff **released the following, newly produced videos:**
  - **352Walls/The Gainesville Urban Art Initiative**: Downtown Gainesville has been transformed by the 352walls Urban Art Initiative through the work of eleven renowned international muralists and 13 of the region's best artists. This initiative is part of an international urban art movement that will strengthen our cultural stature and change the nature of our community with creativity. For more information visit <http://www.352walls.org>.

## Gainesville Fire Rescue

### **GFR Administration and Operations contact: Chief Jeff Lane – 352-334-5078**

- ✓ The City of Gainesville offers **programs to adjust the assessments for fire services**. The **Application for Mobile Home or Recreational Vehicle Park Vacancy Adjustment** is available to each owner of mobile home or recreational vehicle parks. Park owners have the opportunity to demonstrate the vacancy rate in space occupancy within their property and receive a vacancy adjustment to the fire assessment. Additionally, applications for the **2016 Fire Flow Mitigation (sprinklers) Credit Program** are available. Gainesville offers a Fire Flow Mitigation Credit to eligible city property owners whose buildings are subject to the city fire services special assessment. **Applications must be returned to the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department no later than May 1, 2016.** Eligibility requirements and applications for these two programs are available on the Gainesville Fire Rescue website at [www.gfr.org](http://www.gfr.org).

### **GFR Risk Reduction Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Steve Hesson – 352-393-8377**

- ✓ **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. The **next class is Wednesday, April 6 from 2-5 p.m.** at the GRU Multipurpose Room 301 SE Fourth Ave. For information on **Safe Assembly Training classes**, please call 334-5065.
- ✓ Save the date! GPR is participating in the next **Fun 4 Gator Kids Touch-a-Truck Saturday, May 21 starting at 9 a.m.** at the Northeast Complex by Citizens' Field. Admission is free. More information can be found at [www.gatortouchatruck.com](http://www.gatortouchatruck.com).

### **GFR Support Services Bureau contact: District Chief Shawn 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 **Great American Cleanup** starts March 1 and continues through May 31 each year. **The main Alachua County event is Saturday, March 12 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 8 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 Solid Waste Division will help sponsor a **Level II Neighborhood Cleanup at North Lincoln Heights** Saturday, March 19. 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.
- ✓ Due to UF and SFC spring breaks, **RTS will run its reduced service between Feb. 27 and March 6**. An "R" shown on RTS route schedules (printed and online) indicates buses that run whenever RTS reduces service on a route. All other routes and paratransit will run as usual. Normal spring service will resume Monday, March 7. Visit the RTS website for more information and please plan accordingly.
  - No service will be available on Routes 19, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46, 62, 76, 77, Later Gator and UF campus routes.
  - Routes 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 34, 35 and 43 will run on a reduced frequency schedule.
- ✓ The **18th Annual Bus Rodeo is Saturday, March 5 starting at 11 a.m.** at the Corrine Brown Transit Facility, which is located at 34 SE 13th Road. The competition pits the best RTS operators against each other on an obstacle course, pre-trip inspection and uniform inspection. The public is welcome to attend, and admission is free.
- ✓ On Monday, March 28, **RTS Maintenance will hold a Recruitment Day** at the Corrine Brown Transit Facility, located at 34 SE 13th Road. The event allows those interested in diesel mechanic, vehicle service attendant and other maintenance opportunities to apply and ask questions.
- ✓ Currently, the **2016 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) meetings** are on the following Thursdays: 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](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).
- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is **conducting bicycle helmet certification training in conjunction with the Florida Pedestrian and Bicycling Safety Resource Center** at the University of Florida for the University Police Department Friday, March 4. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.pedbikesrc.ce.ufl.edu>.
- ✓ The Public Works Department is proud to announce...**March is Florida Bike Month!** Bicycle enthusiasts are invited to join City Commissioners and staff to kick off Florida Bike Month with

activities that highlight the health and economic benefits of cycling, local infrastructure and other plans. **Join us for a “Ride with the Commish” Saturday, March 5 at 9 a.m.**, starting at Civilization restaurant, located at 1511 NW Second St., and ending at Boulware Springs Nature Park, 3300 SE 15th St. The ride will showcase the Sixth Street Trail and nearby projects; all levels of riders are welcomed. Visit the City of Gainesville Bicycle/Pedestrian website for more information at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped>. For more Florida Bike Month activities, visit the area’s Florida Bike Month (March 2016) calendar at <https://tockify.com/activestreets/pinboard>.

- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is **conducting an alternative transportation presentation for clients of the Florida Department of Corrections Probation Program** Monday, March 7. This session will provide vital information and resources to program participants so they can have tools to better access our community in a more meaningful and safe manner.
- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is **teaming up with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to visit area high schools to present teen driver safety presentations**. Eastside High and Newberry High will be visited Tuesday, March 8.
- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is **conducting bicycle/pedestrian safety related presentations** for Norton Elementary Thursday, March 10 and for Expressions Learning Arts Academy Tuesday, March 29 at GFR’s Safety City facility, located at 1025 NE 13<sup>th</sup> St.
- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is **hosting an information and resource booth at the 2016 Family, Youth and Community Sciences Networking Fair** Tuesday, March 15 at the UF Florida Gym.
- ✓ **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](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org), or visit [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

**Education contact: Ben Dillard – 352-393-8192**

- ✓ Are you looking for a safe and exciting place for your kids (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) to spend their spring break? If so, look no further than our **Spring Break Camp**! Come explore art, culture, nature, nutrition and much more through a variety of hands-on activities your children will enjoy while learning. The week will culminate with a trip to Chestnut Park (located at 2315 SE 35<sup>th</sup> St.) and an egg extravaganza! The camp is Monday, March 21-Friday, March 25 and is available from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at two convenient locations: Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center and Eastside Community Center. Please note, meals are not provided. The cost is \$50 for city residents and \$74.75 for non-city residents. Proof of residency (GRU bill or voter ID card) is required at time of registration. Register in person at the PRCA Administrative Office (Thomas Center, Building B, third floor) or [register online](#) before March 17.

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

- ✓ **Repairs of the Northeast Pool continue.** Staff has removed the old liner, and is taking the opportunity perform maintenance on the exposed fiberglass shell. The repairs are progressing as scheduled for the vinyl liner to be installed over the month of March. The pool **reopening is tentatively projected for April**. 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 Manager Shannon Keleher at 352-393-8526 or [keleherse@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:keleherse@cityofgainesville.org).

- ✓ PRCA is pleased to offer two new sports for adult athletic leagues. **Adult Coed Basketball** features two divisions with 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 teams. The **Adult Coed Volleyball** has competitive and recreational leagues. Each sport is offered for those 18 years and older, with games starting in March. For fees, registration dates, required forms and more, please visit the [Adult Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ Don't strike out - make a home run by **signing a team up for Adult Coed Softball!** Two coed leagues and a men's league are offered. Registration closes March 10 and the season begins March 14. For fees, registration dates, required forms and more information, please visit the [Adult Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ **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 offered at Westside Park, Ball Field #3 (1001 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St.) the following Sundays from 2–4 p.m.: March 6, March 20, April 3, April 10 and April 17.

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

- ✓ Spring **Earth Academy Day Camp** awakens your child's innate curiosity while encouraging an environmental ethic and service appreciation! This **nature-based day camp is held at Morningside Nature Center's 416-acre nature sanctuary** and uses hands on fun to focus attention on natural and cultural history. Instructors are career educators and science professionals experienced in working with children. In addition to a variety of theme-based, multidisciplinary projects campers have fun with character development activities demonstrating trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The **spring break session, "The Forest Awakens," is Monday, March 21-Friday, March 25 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,** with early and late drop off available. Camp is open to kids in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade and is \$121.50 for city residents and \$182.50 for non-city residents. Proof of residency (GRU Bill or Voter ID card) is required at the time of registration. Fees are due at the time of registration. Camper is to provide their own lunch. Camp tends to fill quickly and space is limited so be sure to register early! Sign up for our [mailing list](#) to receive updates and reminders!
- ✓ **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 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 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**

- ✓ PRCA, in cooperation with Shakerag Culture Center, Inc., is pleased to announce upcoming **Jewel Box Concerts at the Historic Thomas Center.**

- **Hanneke Cassel & Mike Block (Saint Patrick's Day concert): Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.).** Tickets are \$18 at the door (cash or check only, please) or can be purchased online, in advance, with a credit card for only \$18 at <http://bpt.me/2497507>. Hanneke Cassel (fiddle) and Mike Block (cello/voice) have been playing music together since 2007. Together, these dynamic performers present a diverse and exciting show featuring traditional and original music drawing from their Celtic, Americana and classical backgrounds.

The Historic Thomas Center is located at 302 NE Sixth Ave. in Gainesville. For additional information, please contact Russell Etling, cultural affairs manager, at 352-393-8532, or contact Joseph Saccocci, Shakerag Culture Center, Inc. vice president, at [jsaccocci@cox.net](mailto:jsaccocci@cox.net) or 352-373-5514.

- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *ANIMA UNVEILED The Self* by Emanuel Torres Pérez is 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. *A STROKE OF BRILLIANCE* is in the Thomas Center's Main Gallery Thursday, March 24–Saturday, May 14. A curatorial treasure hunt yields exquisite gems of painting, poetry and literature from the work and collections of artists and authors. The opening reception is Thursday, March 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. **The ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Visual Arts Program Showcase (Secondary)** is in the Thomas Center's Mezzanine Gallery Saturday, Feb. 27 – Saturday, April 2.

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

- ✓ **Sweetwater Wetlands Nature Park Tours: Introduction to Sweetwater Wetlands are available Saturdays at 9 a.m. and the second Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.** Tours start from the Welcome Classroom Pavilion, and are free with park admission. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Please call 352-393-8437 with any questions please call.
- ✓ **Take the challenge to protect Gainesville's natural areas!** The Gainesville Greenway Challenge is a year-round effort whose aim is to restore natural habitat in Gainesville by removing invasive non-native plant species that threaten an ecosystem's health. Join the challenge and help us to eradicate the region's most aggressive invasive plants in Gainesville's nature parks! Groups or individuals can sign up for the Gainesville Greenway Challenge by registering on its [website](#). For more information, contact [gnygreenwaychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gnygreenwaychallenge@gmail.com) or call 352-393-8428.

## Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, March 3, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **continue participation on the First-Step Redesign Committee.**

- ✓ On Tuesday, March 8, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the UF Celebration of Innovation Showcase**.
- ✓ On Wednesday, March 9, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a meeting to **discuss a GRU Property Utilization Permit**.

## 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 next report will cover March 17-April 6, 2016. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, March 10. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*