

Prepared for the City Commission, May 5-18, 2016

City Manager

- ✓ The **swearing-in ceremony for Mayor-Elect Lauren Poe and Commissioner-Elect Adrian Hayes-Santos is Thursday, May 5 at 12 p.m.** at the Thelma Boltin Center. This event is open to the public.
- ✓ The **Gainesville Leadership Forum is Monday, May 9** from 8-10:30 a.m. at Ironwood Golf Course.
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
 - Monday, May 9 at 5 p.m.: Spring budget workshop at Ironwood Golf Course

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Fire Station 1:** Station 1 is in the site preparation and 30 percent design phase. It is expected to go before the City Commission at the June 2 meeting.
- ✓ **Depot Avenue Segment 2:** The contractor is working on the final phase of the project from Southwest Third Street to west of the South Main Street roundabout. The entire Depot Avenue corridor will open by the end of June 2016. The contractor's (O'Steen Brothers Inc.) contact person for this project is Don Shackelford, and he can be reached at 352-459-1031. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager, at 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Depot Park Pump Station:** Construction of the valve vaults and associated piping is complete. Additional construction, such as paving, electrical work and site work, will continue in May. This project is expected to be complete in June. For more information, please contact Andrew Roberts, project manager, at 352-393-8408.
- ✓ **NW 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. Accumulated sediment within Hogtown Creek north and south of Eighth Avenue has been removed and flow has been restored. Rehabilitation of the Possum Creek culverts has begun and will be completed by the end of May. A full road closure of Northwest Eighth Avenue continues the weekends of April 30 and May 7 for the installation of cross culverts, which will better distribute stormwater flow between the environmental areas north and south of Northwest Eighth Avenue. Until project completion later this summer, 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.
- ✓ **NW 34th Boulevard/NW 23rd Terrace:** Continuing in May 2016 is the construction of sidewalk along the south side of Northwest 23rd Terrace from Northwest 62nd Avenue to Northwest 34th Boulevard, and along the west side of Northwest 34th Boulevard from Northwest 23rd Terrace to the existing sidewalk. The bus stops along the project will be modified to meet current ADA standards. Construction is expected to finish in mid-June. The contractor's (Parish-McCall) contact person for this project is Brian Sheehan, and he can be reached at 352-258-1692. For more information, please contact Joe Montalto, project manager, at 352-494-6225.
- ✓ **SW Second Avenue:** On the north side of Southwest Second Avenue near Infinity Hall, construction of an ADA bus stop is substantially complete. For more information, please contact Shawn Webber, project manager, at webberSD@cityofgainesville.org.

- ✓ **SE Fourth Street Reconstruction:** The Southeast Fourth Street reconstruction project is currently undergoing permitting review through the St. Johns River Water Management District. 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. Future treatment facilities will also include amenities appropriate for the adjacent rails-to-trails bike path and residential area. Construction of the stormwater ponds will begin in fall 2016. Construction of the stormwater ponds will begin in summer 2016. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager, at 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Tumblin Creek Wetland and Trash Trap:** In March, the City Commission approved a guaranteed maximum price; construction is expected to begin in May and completed by November. For more information, please contact Andrew Roberts, project manager, at 352-393-8408.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Broadcast staff is working on adding a new functionality – audio streaming during live meetings.** This will allow users to listen to live meetings online, or on the iPhone or Google play app, using less bandwidth than it takes to watch streaming videos. There will be more information when the service becomes available.
- ✓ Broadcast staff **released the following, newly produced videos:**
 - [City Snapshot – Depot Park Construction Update](#): Construction at Gainesville's Depot Park is almost complete; here's a sneak peek of what's to come! The park is scheduled to open this summer.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

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

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Save the date! GFR 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.
- ✓ GFR is **accepting applications for the Junior Fire Academy and the ABCs of Safety Summer Camp**. Please visit the [events tab on GFR's website](#) for more information.

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.

Public Works

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

✓ **Join your friends, your co-workers and your community for these fun Bike Month events!**

- **Friday, May 6 at 5 p.m. at Bo Diddley Plaza: Bike Month Kick-off** includes bike ride to Bo Diddley Plaza, ribbon-cutting for the new bike share program, vendor booths, bike valet and much more. Visit www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped for more information.
- **Saturday, May 7 at 8:30 a.m. at Bo Diddley Plaza: Ride with the Mayor and Commish** Join the mayor, commissioners and other city leaders as they host a bike ride through downtown Gainesville, to the UF campus, and to the Butler Plaza expansion area, where the Archer Braid Trail will connect into the city's trail system.
- **Tuesday, May 10 at Gainesville High School:** The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program teams up with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to visit Gainesville High School and present **Teen Driver Safety presentations**.

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.

✓ **RTS has reduced bus service May 2–8** during the collegiate break. Some routes will not be running and others will run on a reduced frequency.

- There will be no service on routes 38, 46 and UF campus routes.
- Reduced frequency will occur on routes 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 34, 35 and 43. Route running times are marked with an “R” in the printed and online versions of the RTS schedule.
- Routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 26, 43, 75 and 711 will run as normal.
- Paratransit will run as normal.

Normal summer service will resume Monday, May 9.

✓ **Summer bus service began Monday, May 2 with reduced service.** Changes to the summer schedule include.

- Routes on vacation (No service May 2–Aug. 14): 19, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 39, 40, 62, 76, 77, 118, 121, 126, 129, Later Gator D and Later Gator F
- Later Gator Routes will be suspended until Wednesday, June 29
- Decreased frequency: Routes 20, 23, 34, 38, 46, 117, 125 and 127
 - On weekdays only: Routes 5, 9, 12, 13, 35 and 126
 - On weekends only: Route 1
- Decreased hours of operation: Routes 17, 34, 38, 43, 46, 117, 119, 120 and 127
 - On weekdays: Routes 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 35 and 126
 - On Saturdays: Routes 5, 12 and 20
- Decreased hours of operation: Routes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 23, 26, 122, 125, 711, Later Gator A, B and C
 - On weekdays only: Routes 10 and 13
 - On weekends: Routes 8, 12 (Sun.), 15 (Sat.), 16, 25 and 75

- Running time adjustments: Routes 2, 6, 7, 11, 17, 26, 43, 75, 119, 120, 122, 711, Later Gator B and Later Gator C
- No changes: Routes 3, 15, 24, 25, 35 and 128

Visit the RTS website at www.go-rts.com or call 352-334-2600 for general schedule information.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **Summer vacation camp registration is now open. PRCA is happy to offer several summer camp options for elementary and middle school students.** For children in 1st–5th grade, three exciting sessions are available. Each session is action-packed, filled with exciting experiences and focuses on The Six Pillars of Character® program: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Free swimming lessons are included in all sessions. Students in 6th–8th grade, three middle school camp sessions will focus on arts, music, video, photography, computers, personal finance, life skills and mentoring. For information on fees, times and scholarships, please visit PRCA's [camps webpage](#).
- ✓ **Register for Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading May 2– July 21**, or until teams are filled. The mission of Pop Warner Little Scholars is to enable young people to benefit from participation in team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment. Through this active participation, Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives. The programs are for boys 5–11 years-old and girls 5–13 years-old. Pop Warner seeks to provide fun athletic learning opportunities for children, while emphasizing the importance of academic success, and seeks to familiarize players and spirit participants with the fundamentals of football, cheerleading and dance. For more information, please visit the [Pop Warner webpage](#).
- ✓ **Romeo and Juliet Pop-Up Teen Theater Summer Camp is July 25-Aug. 5** for kids age nine-19. We The People Theater brings Shakespeare's tale of love and passion to life at this free camp. Applicants will be interviewed and selected for enthusiasm and ability to fully participate throughout the camp program. The camp is limited to 25 participants. The camp is in partnership with We The People Theater and the University of Florida Arts in Medicine programs. To register, or for more information, please visit www.WeThePeopleTheater.org or call 352-363-1294.

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

- ✓ **The 2016 biathlon race series continues May 14.** It's time to be challenged! Come participate in six races alternating between [H. Spurgeon Cherry \(Westside\) Pool](#) and [Dwight H. Hunter \(Northeast\) Pool](#). Each race consists of a 5K run and an 800-meter swim. Don't wait–sprint to enter! Save **money on the registration fees** by signing up at **least two days** before the race. To find out more, please visit PRCA's [biathlon webpage](#).
- ✓ On your mark, get set, go! Make a splash at one of the city's pools this summer learning or practicing your swimming skills! There are **convenient group and private lessons that are available beginning May through September**. The first three-week session starts May 9 at the Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool. For a full schedule, please visit the [swimming lessons webpage](#).
- ✓ The purpose of the **Junior Lifeguard Summer Camp** is to increase self-confidence and promote safe behavior in the aquatic environment. Throughout the course, campers will learn a wide range of skills including first-aid, CPR and rescue techniques. The program, which is developed by the American Red Cross, will encourage campers to take on leadership roles, as well as challenge them

mentally and physically. Besides learning the primary responsibilities of a lifeguard, this course is action packed with fun activities, games and free swimming! The cost is \$82.75 for city residents and \$124.25 for non-city residents. [Registration](#) is open now!

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

- ✓ **Last month of free, environmental education programs at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center end in May, but will return in September!
 - 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 date is 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 date is 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

- ✓ Shortly before the annual meeting in April, the **Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville, Inc. received a generous donation for the remaining amount to fund the Babyland Initiative.** The association is grateful for the support of the donors that made the success of the initiative possible. More renovations are being planned for Babyland in the future. Donations are still being accepted to help continue to make Evergreen Cemetery an even more wondrous place. For more information, please visit www.thiswondrousplace.org or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thiswondrousplace>.
- ✓ PRCA, in cooperation with Shakerag Culture Center, Inc., is pleased to announce upcoming **Jewel Box Concerts at the Historic Thomas Center.**
 - **Walter Parks presents “Swamp Chandelier”:** Thursday, May 26 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) Tickets are \$20 at the door (cash or check only, please) or can be purchased online, in advance with a credit card for \$18 at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2505437>. Guitarist and singer Walter Parks, the longtime sideman for Woodstock legend Richie Havens, has created Swamp By Chandelier, a new solo tour that's both a concert and a historical experience.

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 or 352-373-5514.

- ✓ The **“Free Fridays” Concert Series kicks off Friday, May 6**. Downtown Gainesville comes alive every Friday night (from May 6 to Oct. 21) from 8–10 p.m. as local and regional bands are showcased under the stars. Each year, thousands come out to enjoy the free, live concerts and shows in a family-friendly environment. This year, “Free Fridays” is returning to its home at the newly renovated Bo Diddley Plaza, which is located at 111 E. University Ave. For more information, please call 352-393-8746, or view the [2016 schedule online](#). Upcoming “Free Fridays” concerts include:
 - **May 6: Tapestry Rewoven A Carole King Tribute**
 - **May 13: The Music of Creedence Clearwater Revival**
 - **May 20: [Hot Club DeVille](#)** (Gypsy jazz)
- ✓ **Artist applications are now available for the 35th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show**. With its blend of art, food and music, the Downtown Festival & Art Show has consistently been recognized as one of the top 200 shows in the nation since 1996. The Downtown Festival & Art Show is currently ranked No. 14 on Sunshine Artist magazine’s “200 Best” list of top fine arts festivals in the nation. On Saturday, Nov. 5 and Sunday Nov. 6, 2016, more than 240 artists will display original oils and acrylics, vibrant watercolors, captivating sculptures, dazzling jewelry, decorative ceramics and vivid photography in historic downtown Gainesville. They will compete for \$22,000 in cash prizes and purchase awards. The festival attracts more than 100,000 visitors, who travel the historic streets of Gainesville to purchase one-of-a-kind art work. Visitors can savor local and international cuisine, enjoy live music from four stages, and explore the Community Information Area, featuring 50 nonprofit organizations showcasing their services. Children can enjoy free, hands-on art activities at the Children’s Imagination Station. Artist applications for the Downtown Festival & Art Show are available upon request at 352-393-8536 or online at www.gainesvilledowntownartfest.org. The **application deadline is Thursday, May 5, 2016**.
- ✓ **[Thomas Center Galleries](#): 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 *ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Visual Arts Program Showcase (Elementary)*** is in the Thomas Center’s Mezzanine Gallery Saturday, April 9 – Saturday, May 7. Coming soon is ***CONFLUENCE: LENNIE & JESSE*** in the Thomas Center's Mezzanine and Main Galleries Friday, May 27-Tuesday, Sept. 20. The opening is May 27 from 7-10 p.m.

Ironwood Golf Course contact – Jeff Cardozo – 352-393-8500

- ✓ **Swing into summer with Youth Golf Camp at Ironwood Golf Course**. Registration opened Sunday, May 1. This coed camp is for kids age six–17 years old (children who are six-years-old are required to take a free golf skills evaluation by appointment). There are limited spots per session. Kids will have a fun-filled day learning about the golf! The cost is \$135 per person; golf equipment is provided by Ironwood. For more information, please visit www.ironwoodgolfcourse.org.

Gainesville Arts & Parks Foundation contact – Michelle Park – 352-393-8364

- ✓ **The 2016 Golf Scramble to benefit the Gainesville Arts & Parks Foundation is Friday, May 13** starting at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start. Registration ends Friday, May 6. For more information, including registration forms, sponsorship packets, player forms and more, visit www.gapgainesville.org.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, May 5, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend two First-Step meetings (retail) and a review a planning matter** with staff in Planning and Development Services.

- ✓ On Monday, May 9, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend two First-Step meetings (residential and commercial), the Gainesville Leadership Forum and the Spring Budget Workshop.**
- ✓ On Tuesday, May 10, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a First-Step meeting regarding a proposed assisted living facility.**
- ✓ On Thursday, May 12, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend an Air Services Development meeting** hosted by airport staff and its consultant.
- ✓ On Tuesday, May 17, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a First-Step meeting regarding an east Gainesville business.**

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 May 19-June 1, 2016. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, May 12. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.