

*Prepared for the City Commission, March 19-April 1, 2015*

## City Manager

- ✓ The **City of Gainesville elections** for district one and one at-large commission seat were held Tuesday, March 17. Because no candidate had a 50 percent majority, **both races will go to a runoff, which will be held Tuesday, April 14.** Yvonne Hinson-Rawls and Charles Goston will be on the ballot in the district one race, and Harvey Budd and Jay Curtis will be on the ballot in the at-large race. For additional information on the March 17 election or the upcoming April 14 runoff, please visit <http://VoteAlachua.com>.
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
  - Tuesday, March 24 at 1 p.m.: City Commission Special Meeting (General Manager for Utilities interviews) in the City Hall Auditorium
  - Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m.: City Commission Special Meeting (land development code) in the City Hall Auditorium
- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ **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

- ✓ **Loblolly Boardwalk, which has been closed for repairs since May 2014, is reopened for public use.** The boardwalk now has new decking, side rails and handrails. The boardwalk is within Loblolly Nature Park, and extends from Northwest Eighth Avenue to Northwest 16th Avenue at approximately Northwest 27th Terrace. The approximately 1,500 linear foot boardwalk is a favorite with people who enjoy a walk or jog in a natural setting. The City of Gainesville is pleased to once again offer this

amenity for the public to enjoy. Special thanks to Don Musen, project coordinator, for working so hard on the project, and to the contractor, Cabot Construction Inc., for working so diligently to rebuild and reopen the boardwalk as quickly as possible. Please contact Linda Demetroupolos at 352-393-8445 for more information.

- ✓ Work on the **sandhill restoration project at the Boulware Springs Nature Park** began Feb. 16, and is expected to be complete by mid-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>. Please contact Linda Demetroupolos at 352-393-8445 for more information.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the Spring 2015 Citizens' Academy** began Wednesday, March 11 and continues for seven consecutive weeks. During this reporting period, attendees will meet with the Gainesville Police Department and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department.
- ✓ Communications staff is taking part in the **See, Click Fix implementation plan meeting** Monday, March 30.
- ✓ 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 **coordinate 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**

- ✓ **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**

- ✓ **Solid Waste Division employees will be out by 6 a.m. March 21** 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 **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 contact: Ben Dilliard – 352-393-8192**

- ✓ **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.)

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.

**Athletics 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 22, March 29 and April 12.
- ✓ **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!
- ✓ **Spring operating hours for municipal pools are as follows (began 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**

- ✓ **Go native at the 2015 Spring Native Plant Sale April 3 and 4!** Take advantage of the largest offering of native plants in north Florida during the Spring Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E. University Ave. The **sale begins Friday, April 3 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for members only** (members of Friends of Nature Parks and the Florida Native Plant Society). You can join online (<http://www.friendsofnatureparks.org> and <http://www.fnps.org>) or at the gate the day of the sale. The **plant sale continues and is open to the public Saturday, April 4 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** The sale features free, expert plant advice, free Park-a-Plant service that allows you to shop hands-free while staff tag, store and help you load your plants. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.
- ✓ 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 [gngreenwaychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gngreenwaychallenge@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**

- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ Save the date for **Sunday, April 19 for the next Jewelbox Concert Series** performance. **HuDost returns to Gainesville** for their 2015 10th Anniversary Tour with a return to Gainesville for an intimate duo evening at the Thomas Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door.
- ✓ **[Thomas Center Galleries](#): *TIGHTROPE: Betwixt the Magical & the Macabre*** is in the Main Gallery March 26-May 30. The opening reception will be held Thursday, March 26 from 5:30-8 p.m. featuring magician and mind-reader Amaral, The Magic Man. **ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Visual Arts Program Showcase – Secondary** is in the Mezzanine Gallery Feb. 21-March 28.

**Development and Partnerships Contact: Alicia Antone – 352-393-8425**

- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) **announces the Garrity family as the winner of the newly created Michelle Park Family Recreation Scholarship.** The purpose of the scholarship is to support a local family for one year who may have difficulty participating in the many nature, recreation and cultural activities available in the City of Gainesville. The scholarship was made possible through a generous gift by an anonymous donor in 2014 that provides for a Gainesville family to take advantage of a year’s worth of events, programs, tours and more at no cost to them! One scholarship is valued at \$1,500 including a \$200 gas gift card. For more information, please [click here](#).

## Housing & Community Development

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

- ✓ **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 Thursday, March 19, the Economic Development and Innovation Director **will attend a meeting at the airport with representatives from Space Florida regarding economic development opportunities** at an existing hangar located on airport property.
- ✓ On Tuesday, March 24, a regular meeting of **staff reviewing the vehicle for hire ordinance** will occur.
- ✓ On Thursday, March 26, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will attend a **meeting of the City Manager’s Economic Development Team**.
- ✓ On Thursday, March 26, the Economic Development and Innovation Director is **scheduled to attend a meeting of GACRAA**.
- ✓ On Wednesday, April 1, the Economic Development and Innovation Director will **participate in a call with the Florida Institute regarding progress on the existing grant and contract**.

## Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ A **First-Step meeting is scheduled for mid-March for a new Chick-fil-A** restaurant that is being proposed for the 3900 block of Southwest Archer Road.
- ✓ Due to an increase in construction projects throughout the city, the **Building Department is in the process of hiring two new inspectors to replace the two that retired** last year.
- ✓ The Building Department staff is **reviewing construction plans for a new Lowe’s store** at Butler Plaza **and a new Outback Steakhouse** in the 3700 block of Southwest Archer Road.
- ✓ 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 next report will cover April 2-15, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, March 26. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*