

Prepared for the City Commission, June 18-July 1, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ The City of Gainesville hired a vendor to **conduct a study to determine whether or not a certain area of northwest Gainesville meets state-mandated criteria to become a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) area**. The vendor has completed their study of the area, and the City of Gainesville will hold **an informational public meeting to discuss the CRA process and the draft report of the results**. All citizens are invited to attend and participate. A map of the area and the draft report can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/1N23V6K>. The meeting will be held Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m., in the training room at the City of Gainesville's Public Works Complex, which is located at 405 NW 39th Ave., building D. For more information, please contact John Wachtel, city project manager, at 352-393-8565 or wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org.
- ✓ The **City of Gainesville website will be undergoing quarterly maintenance** and will be unavailable Saturday, June 27 at 6 a.m. through Sunday, June 28 at 9 p.m.
- ✓ **Gainesville's Independence Day celebration, Fanfares and Fireworks, will be held Friday, July 3** at the bandshell at UF's Flavet Field beginning at 7 p.m. The fireworks will begin at approximately 9:40 p.m. Visit www.wuft.org/fireworks for more information.
- ✓ The City Commission is holding a **series of workshops for the upcoming FY16 budget** in the City Hall auditorium during the month of July currently scheduled on the following dates:
 - July 13 at 10 a.m.
 - July 14 at 10 a.m.
 - July 21 at 10 a.m. (set tentative fire assessment rate)
 - July 22 at 5 p.m.
 - July 27 at 5 p.m. (set tentative millage)
- ✓ The **Alachua County Food Services Program is providing free meals to any child between 0-18 years of age**. Participating sites are providing free, nutritious breakfast and lunch while school is not in session. For a list of locations and to register, please visit <http://www.summerfoodflorida.org/>.
- ✓ **Follow @GRUStormCentral on Twitter for outage information during severe weather.**

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Fire Station No. 1:** Plans for Fire station no. 1 on South Main Street continue to move forward. City staff are working with the architect on station design options. Contact Assistant Chief JoAnne Rice at 352-393-8377 for information.
- ✓ **Fire Station No. 5 Repairs:** The Capital Improvement Plan update for FY15 has provided funding to complete some long-needed repairs and modifications to Fire Station 5, located at 1244 NW 30th Ave. Staff are developing a plan to complete the work.
- ✓ **Cofrin Nature Park Repairs:** Cofrin Nature Park, which is located at 4810 NW Eighth Ave., remains closed for major structural repairs to stabilize the shoreline of Beville Creek, a stream that bisects the park. It is anticipated that the park will reopen in August 2015. Historic attempts by previous land owners to stabilize the shoreline from severe erosion included installation of wooden retaining walls. Over time, these walls have crumbled, and the walls and shoreline are now crumbling and falling into the creek. Park structures that are situated close to the creek are in

jeopardy, and the loose dirt poses safety risks for park patrons standing too close to the shoreline. Additionally, the water quality of the creek is compromised downstream due to the addition of silt to the water stemming from the crumbling shoreline. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department has hired a contractor to begin shoreline stabilization efforts. For public safety reasons, the entire park must be shut down while the contractor is working. Please contact Linda Demetroupolos at 352-393-8445 for more information.

- ✓ **Depot Avenue Reconstruction Project:** The roadway section between Southwest Third Street and Main Street has re-opened for traffic for the summer, while the contractor focuses on completing the roadway construction between Southwest Sixth Street and Southwest 11th Street. At the same time, the roadway section between Southwest Sixth and Southwest 11th Streets will remain closed to help expedite the work in this section and facilitate completion by the start of public school year in August. Before school resumes, the entire roadway should be paved and the roadway and trail will be open for public use, including all necessary signage and lighting. Currently, O’Steen Brothers is finishing work on the multi-use trail on the south side of Depot Avenue between Southwest Sixth Street and Southwest 11th Street. Once the multi-use trail is completed, the Southwest Ninth Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic. The RTS bus stop at Depot Avenue and Southwest Ninth Street will be relocated to Southwest Eighth Avenue and Southwest Ninth Street. Please feel free to contact the contractor, Don Shackelford, at dons@osteenbrothers.com or at 352-376-1634. For more information, please visit the [project website](#).
- ✓ **Depot Park Stormwater Improvements:** The stormwater improvements at Depot Park are complete. The Public Works Department is working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to obtain concurrence of the recent soils remediation work on the site. Once FDEP concurs, the Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) will begin work on the Phase II park amenities project. This project includes trails, childrens’ play areas, a picnic pavilion and a parking area. Work is anticipated to begin in the next 30 to 60 days. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or call 352-334-2205.
- ✓ **Northwest Second Avenue Bike Boulevard:** The Northwest Second Avenue bike boulevard project was designed in-house by Public Works staff, and will be constructed under the annual city-wide sidewalk construction/replacement contract. The plan is to implement a bike boulevard on Northwest Second Avenue between Northwest Sixth Street and Main Street, including traffic safety, pedestrian, bicycle and parking improvements. Construction will begin June 22. For more information, please contact Shawn Webber, project manager, at webbersd@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8419.
- ✓ **Old Airport Landfill Remediation:** Remediation of the old airport landfill started April 27, with anticipated completion in fall 2015. Restoration activities include regrading slopes, removing surface trash material from wetlands and Little Hatchet Creek, adding drainage structures and capping the landfill with two feet of clean soil cover. Clearing and grubbing of the old airport landfill is now 80 percent complete and cutting and placing waste has begun. The project improves water quality in Little Hatchet Creek, and enhances adjacent wetlands. There are no projected traffic interruptions. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Southwest 35th Place Sidewalks, Phase 2:** Phase 2 construction of the Southwest 35th Place sidewalks began, as scheduled, in April. The sidewalk (on the north side of Southwest 35th Place between Southwest 34th Street and Southwest 32nd Terrace) is complete and officially open to the public. The project’s scope included stormwater upgrades, and the installation of an ADA compliant sidewalk. For more information, please contact Project Manager Betsy Waite at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Main Street Streetscape, Phase 2:** Phase 2 of the Main Street streetscape project started in December, and is substantially complete. The scope of the project includes brick paver installation

between South First and Second Avenues on Main Street, public art, low-impact development stormwater treatment landscaping areas, street trees, benches and bike racks. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.

- ✓ **Rail-Trail Landscaping:** Construction of the rail-trail landscaping project began in late February and is substantially complete. The purpose of the project is to clear existing overgrowth along the rail-trail and install landscaping and hardscaping to increase the use and appearance of the rail-trail in this area between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16th Avenue. This project is consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan, which states the city will "provide a safe, convenient, accessible, comfortable, continuous, and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that promotes walking..." and "is conducive to bicycling." For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Southwest Second Street Connection Project:** The Southwest Second Street connection project has received bids within budget, and very close to estimated costs. These have been forwarded to Housing for concurrence. Construction is anticipated to start in late June. For more information, please visit contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ Broadcast staff released a new [City Snapshot](#) on the recent National Bike Month ceremony. The event recognized bicycle related efforts, outreach and accomplishments of area businesses, programs, groups and individuals; and introduced a future pilot bike-share program.
- ✓ **Hurricane season officially began June 1** and lasts until November 30. The city's website has [updated information](#) about planning for a hurricane, shelter information, weather advisories and emergency contact information.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Administration and Operations contact: 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.
- ✓ 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 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. Additional topics will be added by administrative Services staff in the coming months.

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

- ✓ GFR is accepting applications for its new summer camp that is available to incoming kindergartners. The [ABCs of Safety camp](#) is offered Aug. 17-20 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Kiwanis Safety City. Please contact GFR at 393-8461 or GPD at 393-7753 for more information.
- ✓ **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: Asst. Chief Rusty Barrett – 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

- ✓ RTS will offer reduced service Saturday, June 20 – June 28. There are no changes to routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 26, 43, 75 and 711. Routes 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 34 and 35 will run less frequently. There will be no service on the UF campus, nor on routes 38 and 46. Routes running during reduced service are marked by an ‘R’ in the printed and online versions of the schedule. There will be no changes to paratransit service. These impacts are relative to the summer schedule only. Normal summer service will start Monday, June 28. Later Gator service will continue to be suspended until July.
- ✓ The [Bicycle/Pedestrian Program](#) is coordinating/participating in the following:
 - Thursday, June 18 at 10 a.m.: Florida Community Traffic Safety Team Statewide Coalition Meeting at FDOT Jacksonville Urban Office Training Facility (2198 Edison Ave.)
 - Saturday, June 20 at 11 a.m.: Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety, Juneteenth Celebration at Cone Park Library (2801 E. University Ave.)
 - Saturday, June 27 at 10 a.m.: Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety, Community Health Fair at Mount Olive A.M.E. Church (721 SE Eighth Ave.)

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.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Recreation contact: Ben Dilliard – 352-393-8192

- ✓ **Sign up for Summer Camp:** With five great options, planning for a fun-filled summer is easy!
 - [Earth Academy Day Camp](#) (grades 1–6): Nature and science-based camp offered at Morningside Nature Center
 - [Golf Camp at Ironwood](#) (ages 6–17): Children learn golfing skills
 - [Summer Vacation Camps](#) (grades 1–5): Great fun, field trips, sports and more
 - [Middle-School Summer Camp](#) (grades 6–8): Focus on art, music, video and photography, computers, personal finance, life skills and mentoring

- Junior Lifeguard Camp (ages 11–15): All campers will learn the primary responsibilities of a lifeguard and complete a American Red Cross First Aid/AED/First Aid certification

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

- ✓ PCRA is joining forces with **Team World’s Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL)** to once again break a world record and send the message that swimming lessons save lives. The event is **Thursday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at all three city pools** (Northeast, Westside and Mickle Pools). Admission for the event is free, with registration at the door. Be sure to arrive before 9:45 a.m. at any pool to be part of history! Participants are also able to play at the pool for the rest of the day free of charge. Team WLSL holds the current Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous swimming lesson, which stands at 36,564 participants representing 22 different countries. To learn more about this event, visit www.WLSL.org, www.CityofGainesvilleParks.org or contact Michelle Weydert, program coordinator, at 352-393-8751. Photographs from last year’s event can be viewed at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjZ8Ez9b>.
- ✓ **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 **at the Northeast, Westside and Mickle Pools**. 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.**
- ✓ **Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading registration is open!** There are no tryouts and everyone participates. Youth compete and practice with others of similar age and size. Register early and save \$10! These programs are open to boys and girls age five through 15, and divisions are determined by age and weight. The regular season is August-October. **New this year:** A free physical will be offered Saturday, June 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the UF Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Institute, located at 3450 Hull Road. Please bring a printed copy of the Pop Warner Fitness and Medical History Form provided in the registration packet for your child to receive the physical. For more information, please visit the [youth athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ **Summer Heatwave is heating up** - the June 4th Operation Respect Yourself Pool Party at Mickle Pool set record attendance of 282 participants! What a great way to kick off Summer Heatwave! The [Summer Heatwave Program](#) began June 15, and offers a free basketball league to teens. Participating age groups are 11–12, 13-15 and 16-18. Games will be played during the week at the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Multipurpose Center between 4-9 p.m., Monday through Thursday. MLK will also host a teen lounge from 6-9 p.m. on weeknights. Friday nights features many special events, such as movie nights, video game tournaments, fitness/weightlifting classes, swimming and more! Life skills will also be taught at each game by the coaches and special classes from guest speakers. The Summer Heatwave Program also has three free pool parties, part of “Operation Respect Yourself” pool parties. Although the pool parties are aimed toward teens, the pool is open and free to all who attend during the event. Food and drinks will be provided by GPD, along with music, games and fun activities. The dates and times for each pool party are as follows:
 - Saturday, July 18 from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Northeast Pool
 - Friday, Aug. 14 from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Westside Pool
- ✓ The [annual biathlon series](#), which consists of six races that alternate between Northeast and Westside Pools, began in April. The biathlon consists of a 5k run and an 800-meter swim. Early registration fees (register more than two days before each race) are \$17.25 per race for city residents and \$23 for non-city residents for each race, or \$23 for city residents and \$34.50 for non-city residents for regular or on-site registration. On-site registration and check-in begins at 7 a.m. and the race begins at 8 a.m. If you participate in four or more biathlons (before the final race), you will receive a free t-shirt and a free entry to the last race on Sept. 12. The **series continues Saturday, July**

16 at Westside Pool. For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.

✓ **Operating hours for municipal pools are as follows:**

Northeast Pool

M-F: 6-9 a.m., Lap Swim

M-F: 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

SA: 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

SU: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Open/Lap Swim

Westside Pool (opened May 1)

M-F: 6-8 a.m., Open/Lap Swim

M-F: 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

SA: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

SU: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Open/Lap Swim

Mickle Pool (opened May 22)

M-W: 12-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

TH-F: 12-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim (free after 5 p.m.)

SA: 12-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim

SU: 1-5 p.m. Open/Lap Swim (in June and July)

✓ **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 are held 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!

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

- ✓ 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 gnavgreenwaychallenge@gmail.com to learn more!

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

- ✓ The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) is pleased to announce that **seasonal passes to the Sweetwater Wetlands Park are now available**. The seasonal pass costs \$25, and is valid from May through September 2015. The pass can be affixed to a car windshield, and may be transferred to another vehicle. Bicyclists or pedestrians that purchase a seasonal pass will need to carry it on them for admission. Passes are available for purchase in person at the PRCA Administrative Office, Thomas Center, Building B, 3rd Floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave., Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-6 pm. Sweetwater Wetlands Park, also known as the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration, is now open to the public on holidays, Saturday and Sundays from 7 a.m. to sunset. The entry fee (without the season pass) is \$5 per vehicle or \$2 for pedestrians and bicyclists. The park is located at 325 SW Williston Road. For directions, a map can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/maps/bK9YN>.

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

- ✓ **The Jewel Box Concert Series** at the historic Thomas Center continues with the following performances.
- **Tony Trischka and Brittany Haas perform Friday, June 19.** The doors open 6:30 p.m., and the music begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 at the door - cash or check only, please. Tony Trischka (United States Artists Friends Fellow-2012) is considered to be the consummate banjo artist, and perhaps the most influential banjo player in the roots music world. California-born Brittany Haas is widely regarded as one of the most influential fiddlers of her generation.

- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *ROOM WITH A VIEW* showcases paintings inspired by time spent beneath the open Florida sky. The open view across the Mezzanine Gallery, the constantly changing natural light and the luminous and large works of art combine to create a dazzling display for the viewer. *ROOM FOR REFLECTION* Photographs by Jan Zamojski is a body of single-exposure photographs capturing the reflected play of light on glass through both the camera lens and the sensitive eye of the artist. This [dual exhibit](#) is in the Mezzanine Gallery and the Mary F. Prosen Room through Saturday, June 20. The *BEAUTY & THE BEASTS* art exhibition is in the Historic Thomas Center's Main and Mezzanine galleries from Friday, June 26 to Saturday, Sept. 26. The opening reception for the exhibition is Friday, June 26 from 7-10 p.m., in conjunction with ArtWalk Gainesville, sponsored by Leonardo's 706. *BEAUTY & THE BEASTS* invites the viewer to explore a menagerie of images inspired by curiosity and connection with the creatures of land, sea and air. From beastly creatures to man's best friend, the images of over 30 artists who find their muse in the animal kingdom are showcased in this expansive exhibition of drawings, paintings, and sculpture is curated by Anne E. Gilroy.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, June 18, there is a meeting with the Economic Development Team regarding prospects for **redevelopment of 238 W. University Ave. and the city/CRA contribution** to that effort.
- ✓ On Thursday, June 18, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a meeting of the **Blue Ribbon Committee on Economic Competitiveness (BRAEC)**.
- ✓ On Monday, June 22, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a **meeting of the City Manager's Economic Development Team**.
- ✓ On Tuesday, June 23, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a first-step meeting regarding a **proposed Publix on Northwest 13th Street**, and an internal staff meeting regarding the city's master parcel system.
- ✓ On Wednesday, June 24, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend two GRU **project meetings regarding the proposed Indigo Hotel in Celebration Pointe and the Cade Museum**.
- ✓ On Thursday, June 25, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the monthly Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority (GACRAA) meeting**.
- ✓ The Economic Development & Innovation Director is **tentatively scheduled to travel to Boston June 28–30 for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce community marketing trip**.

Planning and Development Services

Planning and Development Services contact: Anthony Lyons – 352-334-5022

- ✓ **Building Official John Freeland and Plans Examiner II Linda Patrick will attend the Building Official Association of Florida Annual Educational Conference and Trade Expo** in Orlando, Florida in June.
- ✓ A notable First-Step Meeting is scheduled for mid-June. Although it is in the early stages of the proposed project, the Gainesville Housing Authority and Gainesville Florida Housing Corporation will team with the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency to create a **mixed-use, mixed-**

income community containing affordable and market rate housing, small retail, office and community amenities along the Northwest Fifth Avenue corridor.

- ✓ Building Department staff is busy **reviewing construction plans for a new assisted-living building addition for Oak Hammock at the University of Florida, fourth floor interior renovations for North Florida Regional Medical Center**, as well as a **new three-story medical office building** at North Florida Regional Medical Center.
- ✓ Building Department staff is busy **conducting inspections at Infinity Hall, Tuscana Lux Apartments, Shands Tower and the Courtyards** in the southwest quadrant of the city.
- ✓ The **Building Official will attend the Builders Association of North Central Florida monthly meeting** on June 22 at Thomas Center A.

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 July 2-15, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, June 25. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.