

Prepared for the City Commission, August 6-19, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ In late July, **the City of Gainesville launched 311GNV, a new mobile and online reporting system for non-emergency issues in Gainesville.** 311GNV is available to submit service requests for issues such as potholes, sidewalk maintenance, graffiti, overgrown lots, and damaged or missing street signs. The City Manager's Office, Public Works and Code Enforcement are the initial departments implementing the 311GNV system. Staff will continue to add additional service request types based upon the "general issues requests" submitted. With the online and mobile reporting platform, residents can report quality-of-life concerns through service request categories via the City of Gainesville website; iPhone and Android mobile applications and SeeClickFix.com. When submitting issues, residents can provide location, descriptive and photographic information as they see the issue in real time. Once the resident submits an issue, designated city staff will route it to the proper department and update the request - and residents following the issue - once it's been resolved. 311GNV is available at:
 - [Mobile app for Apple devices](#)
 - [Mobile app for Android devices](#)
 - [On the City of Gainesville's website](#)
- ✓ **On Thursday, Aug. 13 at 9:30 a.m., there will be a ribbon-cutting at the Eastside Recreation Center to celebrate the launch of free Wi-Fi access in several city centers.** This is the result of a recent joint city/county project to increase internet accessibility in Gainesville. The Thelma Boltin Center, the Martin Luther King Recreation Center and the Eastside Recreation Center will have free public Wi-Fi access for city and county residents. Committed to closing the digital divide and expanding learning and educational opportunities, the project will be announced and promoted beginning with the ceremony at the Eastside Recreation Center. Additionally, 10 computers will be added to Eastside Recreation Center thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation.
- ✓ With the recent rains, don't forget to reduce and remove all sources of standing water around your home, as these can be breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To read more ways you can do to **prevent breeding mosquitoes at your home**, please [click here](#).
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
 - Monday, Aug. 10 at 3:30 p.m.: Special joint City and County Commission meeting in the Jack Durrance auditorium
 - Fire services/transport, parks and Grace Marketplace/Dignity Village
 - Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 1 p.m.: Special joint meeting with the School Board of Alachua County in the Kirby Smith Center Boardroom
 - Parent Academy, School Resource Officers, Alachua County Education Compact and Reichert House
- ✓ **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

- ✓ **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 October 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.
- ✓ **Kiwanis Challenge Park Restroom Restoration:** The restrooms at Kiwanis Challenge Park, located at 2101 NW 39th Ave., are undergoing a restoration project. The restoration has started. Portable restrooms are on site, as the existing ones will be closed due to construction. The park will remain open and accessible for those wanting to use it. For more information, please contact Park Operations Manager John Weber at 352-393-8186.
- ✓ **Sidewalk, Crosswalk Construction at Westside Park:** PRCA is working with a private contractor to place a new sidewalk and crosswalk to the parking lot at Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, located at 1001 NW 34th St. The work began Monday, Aug. 3, and is expected to last about two weeks. The hours of work are 10 p.m.-8 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. The contractor is working at night to minimize the impact to the parks vehicle and pedestrian traffic; some noise can be expected. This new sidewalk will complete pedestrian and wheelchair access from the playground to the parking lot and the basketball courts, on the side of the park that faces Northwest 34th Street. For more information, please contact Park Operations Manager John Weber at 352-393-8186.
- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue Station No. 1:** Gainesville Fire Rescue managers continue to work with Facilities staff and architects to develop the design for Station no. 1 to present to the City Commission.
- ✓ **Depot Avenue Reconstruction Project:** The Depot Avenue roadway between Southwest Sixth and Southwest 11th Street remains closed to vehicle traffic; however, the multi-use trail on the south side of the roadway is open for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Due to utility and contractor conflicts, the opening has been tentatively rescheduled to Sept. 30, 2015. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact John Veilleux, project manager, at veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8418.
- ✓ **NE Eighth Avenue Crosswalks:** Two handicapped signalized pedestrian crosswalks are being constructed across Northeast Eighth Avenue at the intersections of Northeast First Street and Northeast Boulevard. Construction began July 27, 2015. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Traffic Signal Mast Arm Painting:** Public Works hired Viktor Construction Corp. to complete a maintenance project starting July 22, 2015. The project consists of repainting five traffic signal mast arms located on West University Avenue and Southwest 34th Street. It will take approximately four weeks to finish. During this time, drivers will experience single lane closures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Access to businesses along this corridor will not be affected by any of the lane closures. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.

- ✓ **Southwest Sixth Street Reconstruction:** The design of the reconstruction of Southwest Sixth Street, from West University Avenue to Southwest Fifth Avenue, includes a roundabout at Southwest Fourth Avenue, sidewalk widening, stormwater pipe upsizing and improvements to the rail-trail. The design is currently 90 percent complete, and completion of the plans is anticipated in September. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Old Airport Landfill Remediation:** Remediation of the old airport landfill began in April, and it is anticipated that construction will be complete in September 2015. Restoration activities include regrading slopes, removing trash from the wetlands and Little Hatchet Creek, and capping the landfill with two feet of clean soil cover. Regrading waste in the landfill is nearly complete, and the contractor, EnviroTek, is currently working on the protective cover. The project will improve the water quality in Little Hatchet Creek and enhance adjacent wetlands. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Southwest Second Street Connection:** Approximately 250 feet of Southwest Second Street between Depot and Southwest Sixth Avenues is unpaved, resulting in two dead end streets. This project proposes to connect the streets with a shared-use path. Construction is scheduled to start in early August. For more information, please 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 [video on Florida public records law](#)** and how citizens can request access to those records. The City of Gainesville is committed to transparency, accountability and open government. This video is a complementary piece to the recently added [public records Web pages](#).
- ✓ Staff are encouraged to participate in the **Seventh Annual Gainesville Photography Contest, which runs from through Sept. 7, 2015**. Finalists' work will be on display at a photo exhibition in 2016, and the grand prize winner will be unveiled at the State of the City Address and featured in the *2015 Citizen's Report*. Complete contest rules are available online at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CommunicationsOffice/CommunicationsOffice/PhotoContest.aspx>.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

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

- ✓ The City of Gainesville is **accepting applications for firefighter positions through Aug. 31**. Interested candidates should view the [recruitment flyer](#) and [National Testing Network \(NTN\)](#), website which is used to facilitate the application process. Information on how to become a [firefighter](#) can also be found on the GFR website at www.gfr.org.
- ✓ 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. **GFR's [2014 Annual Report](#) is now available** online.

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

- ✓ **Butler Plaza Traffic Pattern Changes:** Currently, Southwest 62nd Boulevard from Archer Road to Windmeadows Boulevard/Southwest 33rd Place is open to traffic. Expect lane closures and periodic work to take place in this area. The eastbound turn lane has been added to Southwest 37th Boulevard on to Archer Road, and is open to traffic. In the next one-two weeks, Southwest 43rd Street will open, allowing traffic to flow from the intersection of Southwest 42nd Street and Southwest 24th Avenue to Archer Road. Plaza Boulevard will then close to allow for building and infrastructure construction. To view a map of the area, please [click here](#).
- ✓ The Gainesville Clean Water Partnership (GCWP) is a partnership funded by the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and the Florida Department of Transportation. GCWP is tasked with reporting, maintaining and involving the public in keeping our Gainesville creeks clean. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science Alachua County Agriculture Extension **is offering the following class to all citizens**.
 - **Green Industries Best Management Practices** - Thursday, Aug. 27, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office (2800 NE 39th Ave.): This workshop is designed to provide training in Best Management Practices for anyone working in the lawn, landscape, pest control or municipal grounds areas. This is a required training class for all commercial and institutional fertilizer applicators in Alachua County according to the Alachua County Fertilizer Standards and Management Practices Code. This program is offered by Aparna Gazula, commercial horticulture agent. [Click here](#) for more information. The cost is \$25, which includes materials and lunch.
- ✓ The [Bicycle/Pedestrian Program](#) is coordinating/participating in the following:
 - Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 10:30 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Woodland Park Boys & Girls Club at GFR’s Rescue Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)

- Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 2:00 p.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Sun Country Sports Summer Program (333 SW 140th Ter.)
- Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 9:00 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation and On-Bicycle Rodeo Safety Training Course for Kindergartener Camp at GFR's Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)

Please contact us for participation at summer camps, conferences and other programs. We 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 will offer reduced service Saturday, Aug. 8 – Sunday, Aug. 16.** 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, 46 and Later Gator. 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. Fall service will start Monday, August 17. Please visit the RTS website at www.go-rt.com for additional information.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **Save some green with the Sizzling Summer punch card** when you hit the links this summer! Purchase a Sizzling Summer punch card at Ironwood Golf Course for \$10 and you get the chance to play nine, 18-hole rounds of golf (with a cart) for \$25 plus tax, and you'll receive your 10th round free! Tee times are available at this price all day Monday–Thursday and after 11 a.m. Friday–Sunday. Book your tee time now at www.ironwoodgolfcourse.org.

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

- ✓ **Registration is open for adult coed softball.** Joining a softball league is a great opportunity for office workers, church groups and other organizations to network, have fun and meet new friends! A mandatory team manager meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 9 at Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center's Meeting Room, located at 1028 NE 14th St. Games start Monday, Sept. 14. For more information, visit the [adult athletics](#) Web page.
- ✓ Andrew R. Mickle Sr. Pool, which is located at 1717 SE 14th St., offers **extended hours for family swim time on Thursday and Friday nights. From 5-7 p.m., admission to the Mickle Pool is free** to encourage families to come out and enjoy time together at the pool.
- ✓ **Summer Heatwave is heating up** - 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:
 - 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, Aug. 8 at Northeast Pool**. For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.
- ✓ **Operating hours for municipal pools are as follows:**

<u>Northeast Pool</u> 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	<u>Westside Pool</u> 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
---	---

<u>Mickle Pool</u>	
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.

Recreation Contact: Ben Dillard- 352-393-8192

- ✓ **PRCA has had a successful summer camp season** operating in six locations and serving more than 275 kids for each camp session. For all three summer camp sessions, more than 750 children were enrolled at Eastside Community Center, Albert “Ray” Massey (Westside) Recreation Center, Porters Community Center, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center, T.B. McPherson Recreation Center and Morningside Nature Center. For the first time ever, PRCA offered middle school programming for teens at T.B. McPherson Recreation Center, which was at full capacity throughout the summer. The middle school program also hosted a week of computer programming from the University of Florida. All camps enjoyed field trips to places like the Tampa Zoo, Science Center, Disney and various nature parks. All campers took part in free swim lessons during the summer as well.
- ✓ **PRCA has partnered with the University of Florida College of Engineering to host a week-long computer camp at the T.B. McPherson Center called Gen-Cyber**. Open to select middle and high school students, the week-long camp is meant to teach cyber security and computer coding to students. Participants will be engaged all day learning about use of technology, cyber security issues and computer programming skills. Christina Gardner-McCune, Assistant Professor of Computer Science with the University of Florida Department of Engineering, along with assistance from the National Security Agency is leading the curriculum.
- ✓ **At 9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 15**, PRCA, GPD and Innovative Dads are hosting a **block party on Eighth Avenue**. The main focus is a **job fair and back-to-school giveaway** at the Clarence R Kelly Center. The event will have more than 30 employers on hand to discuss job opportunities and the opening of the computer lab at the center will facilitate job applications. Innovative Dads is hosting a backpack giveaway and basketball tournament. For job fair information, please contact Corporal Jen Reedy at 352-393-7757. For basketball tournament and backpacks information, please contact Gerard

Duncan at 352-283-2185. For center program information, please contact Ben Dillard at 352-393-8192.

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

- ✓ The City of Gainesville plans to **demolish a building located in Cofrin Nature Park, which is located at 4810 NW Eighth Ave., within the next month.** Cofrin Nature Park was acquired in 2003 from the Cofrin family, who owned the property for more than 40 years. The family wanted to see the site protected, and open to the public as a park. When the property was acquired, it contained a 4,440 square foot, two-story house formerly used as the Cofrin residence. At the time, the city pursued using the facility for restroom access and potential indoor nature classes. Evaluation of the structure has revealed that its use for these purposes is not feasible. The engineering analysis stated that building renovations to bring it up to code would need to be taken before renovation could be considered. Additionally, the structure was deemed to have no significant architectural or historical value, and thus is proposed for demolition. Building demolition will enable the removal of hazardous materials, eliminate a septic tank that is located close to the creek thereby improving water quality, and allow for better future configuration of the park for public access and infrastructure. The City of Gainesville plans to construct a new public nature center on the site in the future. The existing public restrooms will remain, and will not be impacted by the demolition. Cofrin Nature Park is currently closed for creek restoration and stabilization work. The park is scheduled to reopen in October and is currently on schedule. Building demolition will take place while the park is closed to avoid additional future closure or inconvenience.

Grant Awards contact: Alicia Antone – 352-393-8524

- ✓ The **Plum Creek Foundation Grant provided computers for the lab at the Eastside Recreation Center.** PRCA has partnered with the Alachua County Library District to provide free Wi-Fi. The purpose is to allow area youth to have a safe place to do their homework. The computers provided by the Plum Creek Foundation will allow seniors to learn how to use a computer in general. The \$2,000 award will provide for 10 new computers for the lab.

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

- ✓ The **2016 Hoggetowne Medieval Faire** will return to Gainesville the last weekend in January and first weekend in February, and they are currently looking for actors, singers, tumblers and stage combatants to portray **King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and the characters for the Living Chessboard. Auditions will be held Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Thomas Center, which is located at Gainesville, 302 NE Sixth Ave. in downtown Gainesville. The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire will provide stage combat training for those interested. Please bring your driver's license or photo ID. Anyone under 18 will need to have their parent or guardian present to sign required paperwork. The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire will be held at the Alachua Fairgrounds Jan. 30-31 and Feb.5-7, 2016. For those interested in auditioning, please visit www.thievesgilde.org.
- ✓ The **34th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show is proud to present this year's poster artist, Harriet Huss. Inspired by the theme of "where nature and culture meet,"** the poster showcases this local artist's devotion to the preservation of north Florida's wild places. Entitled "Pristine Florida - Sourcespring of Creativity," the artwork depicts Gainesville historic Hippodrome Theatre placed in a natural environment. The setting is a fantasy composite of a large spring, palmettos, palms, and saltmarsh grasses, elements that would not be found together in nature, but are meant to be symbolic of the wealth of water and woodland natural assets in our Eden-like heartland. The poster and more information about the artwork can be found [here](#). T-shirts and posters with Huss's image will be available at the 2015 Downtown Festival & Art Show, which will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 and

Sunday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit www.gainesvilledowntownartfest.org, visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/DowntownFestivalandArtShow> or call at 352-334-ARTS.

- ✓ **From Aug. 7 to Oct. 23, downtown Gainesville comes alive every Friday night from 8-10 p.m. as local and regional bands and performing arts are showcased under the stars at the “Free Fridays” concert series.** Each year thousands come out to enjoy the free, live concerts in a family-friendly environment. This year’s “Free Fridays” opening was delayed due to the closure of the Bo Diddley Community Plaza for renovations. The City of Gainesville has purchased a mobile stage which will be delivered in late July. The mobile stage will be placed in parking lot no. 10 at the [corner of Southwest Second Avenue and Southwest Second Street](#) in downtown Gainesville. This is the same location that the Union Street Farmers Market occupies on Wednesdays. For more information, please call 352-393-8746. To view the complete 2015 concert series schedule, please [click here](#). Upcoming “Free Fridays” concerts include:
 - **Aug. 7: Little Jake & The Soul Searchers** (r&b, blues, soul)
 - **Aug. 14: The Hard Luck Society** (country, blues, jazz)
- ✓ **[Thomas Center Galleries](#):** The *BEAUTY & THE BEASTS* art exhibition is in the Historic Thomas Center’s Main and Mezzanine galleries through Saturday, Sept. 26. *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.

Housing & Community Development

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

Neighborhood Planning Program:

- ✓ The Pine Park Neighborhood Association, the City of Gainesville’s Neighborhood Planning Program (NPP) and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department have **coordinated to plant 21 flowering trees (19 Chickasaw plums and two magnolias) within public rights-of-way in the Pine Park Neighborhood.** In addition to their ornamental qualities, these trees were picked because they are hardy, low-maintenance and drought tolerant. Working with the NPP, the Pine Park Neighborhood Association expressed a desire for this project. The NPP then coordinated with the city’s arborist to identify appropriate types of trees, given the desire of the neighborhood residents and available locations. Funds for the purchase and installation of the trees came from the NPP. For more information, please contact Neighborhood Planning Coordinator John Wachtel, at 393-8565.

Block Grant Administration:

- ✓ The **Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development meetings for August and September 2015 have been cancelled.**
- ✓ The City Commission budget meeting held June 18, 2015 **allocated CDBG and HOME Programs funds to 21 outside agencies for programs** that will benefit the City of Gainesville’s low- and moderate-income residents in the categories of housing rehabilitation and public /human services.
- ✓ The city’s application (the **Annual Action Plan**) for **FY 2015-2016 CDBG and HOME Programs funding will be submitted to HUD** on or before Aug. 13, 2015.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Tuesday, Aug. 11, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will have a routine, semi-annual meeting with **Santa Fe College’s Center for Innovation and Economic Development management staff regarding the status of GTEC.**
- ✓ On Tuesday, Aug. 11, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the **quarterly IT Project Board Review Team meeting.**
- ✓ On Thursday, Aug. 13, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the **county Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) and City Manager’s Economic Development Team** meetings.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Aug. 18, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a **First Step meeting to review plans for a new airport fire rescue facility.**
- ✓ On Wednesday, Aug. 19, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will have a routine **monthly call with the CEO from the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research.**

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 **BOLD program will hold its third annual recognition ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m.** The program will recognize around 40 young men who have earned different certificates and awards. The event will be held in the GPD Hall of Heroes.
- ✓ **GPD is participating in a Back-to-School Bash and Job Fair Saturday, Aug. 15.** The event has GFR’s Kids Combat Challenge, a basketball tournament, food and drinks, music, etc. There will also be a job fair in the Blue Center that is being directed by Ofc. E. Graham. The event begins at 10 a.m. at the Gardenia Gardens apartment complex.
- ✓ **GPD will recognize its exemplary employees at the upcoming GPD Awards Ceremony.** The ceremony will be held **Wednesday, Aug. 19** at GPD’s Heroes Hall and will begin at 6 p.m.

The next report will cover August 20-September 2, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, August 13. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.