

Prepared for the City Commission, September 3-16, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ In observance of Labor Day, **city offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7.** All RTS offices will be closed and there will be no RTS bus service. No ADA paratransit service will be provided. Curbside collection service for solid waste, recycling and yard trash will **not** be affected by the holiday.
- ✓ **Tickets to the 6th Annual City's Got Talent Show are now available!** Admission only is \$2, or admission, plus lunch, is \$5. Food concessions will be available, so bring some money to spend! Advance sales to the talent show are available from any TEAM member or from [Cheryl Brothers](#) at ext. 8770.
When: Thursday, Sept. 10 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Thelma Boltin Center
Cost: \$2 without lunch, \$5 with lunch
- ✓ It is that time of year again to **recognize our best employees during the 2015 annual employee recognition process.** Department/division managers will select the Individual Employee of the Year Award (nominations due Sept. 16). For more information, [click here](#).
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
 - Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m.: Special Gainesville City Commission meeting in the City Hall Auditorium - Equal Opportunity Director Selection
 - Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.: Special Gainesville City Commission meeting in the City Hall Auditorium - Final budget, fire assessment adoption, set millage
 - Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.: Special Gainesville City Commission meeting in the GPD Hall of Heroes - Form-Based Code

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Cofrin Nature Park Repairs:** In late August, the new, prefabricated bridge was successfully installed at Cofrin Nature Park, which completed the Beville Creek Restoration project. Other construction at the park continues. The reopening is still projected for October. 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 continues to progress. Portable restrooms are on site, as the existing ones will be closed due to construction. The electrical and plumbing have been roughed in, and the framing is complete. The park remains open and accessible for those wanting to use it. For more information, please contact Park Operations Manager John Weber at 352-393-8186.
- ✓ **Depot Avenue Segment 2:** The Depot Avenue roadway section between Southwest Ninth Street and Southwest 11th Street opened to traffic Monday, Aug. 24 for the start of the 2015-16 school year. The section between Southwest Ninth St and Main Street remains closed for another couple of months as the contractor completes roadway paving. The multi-use trail on the south side of the roadway continues to be open for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. For more information, please view the [project webpage](#) or contact John Veilleux, project manager, at veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8418.

- ✓ **Traffic Signal Mast Arm Painting:** The Public Works Department hired Viktor Construction Corp to complete a maintenance project starting July 22. The project consists of repainting five traffic signal mast arms located on West University Avenue and Southwest 34th Street. Work is underway on Southwest 34th Street. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** The City Commission approved proposed creek sedimentation measures, construction cost proposals and sidewalk options from the presentation given Aug. 20. Final designs are in progress, with construction scheduled to start this October. 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:** 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 underway and should be completed in mid-September. Clearing is complete, limerock is being installed and paving is on schedule. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **West Sixth Street Rail Trail – Seventh Avenue Curb Ramps:** This small project will construct curb ramps in alignment with the rail-trail at the crossing of Northwest Seventh Avenue, just south of the GPD campus. The construction proposal was submitted and final design is underway. Construction is expected to begin in September 2015. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **West Sixth Street Trail Landscaping – Phase 2:** This project proposes to extend the recently completed landscaping along the Sixth Street Rail-Trail between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16th Avenue. The limits for this phase of the project are between University Avenue and Northwest Seventh Avenue. Bid documents have been prepared and routed for processing. Request for City Commission approval and construction are expected this fall. 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 [City Snapshot previewing the upcoming Downtown Festival & Art Show](#). Join us at the 34th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show Nov. 14 and 15 in Gainesville, Florida. For more information visit <http://www.gainesvilledowntownartfest.org/>.
- ✓ Communications staff has **started coordinating and recruiting attendees for the fall session of Gainesville 101: Citizens' Academy**. Interested parties should visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org> for more information or to register.
- ✓ 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>.
- ✓ **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. GFR's **2014 Annual Report** is now available online.

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

- ✓ **The Family Fire Safety Expo Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fire Station no. 3** (900 NE Waldo Rd.). Demonstrations include fire suppression and hazardous materials mitigation; home fire sprinkler effectiveness; technical rescue and EMS. Activities for children will include face painting, spraying a fire hose, rescue drills and more. This event is free and open to the public.
- ✓ **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

- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program** is coordinating/participating in the following:
 - Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.: Community Pedestrian Road Safety Audit evaluation along US 441 (Southwest 13th Street and Northwest Eighth Avenue/SR 20)

Please contact us for participation at 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.

- ✓ **Residential curbside collection for garbage, recycling and yard trash will not be affected for the Labor Day holiday.** Collection will be according to the regular schedule since Labor Day is not considered a holiday for the contracted hauler, Waste Corporation of America. To see a list of holidays that will affect residential curbside collection, go to www.gainesvillerecycles.com and click on Residential Curbside Program and then Holiday Schedule.

- ✓ **RTS is offering its annual UF football gameday shuttle service, Gator Aider.** Tickets are available at any of the five park-n-ride locations: Town of Tioga, Haile Plantation, Oaks Mall, UF Hilton (SW 34th Street) and the City of Gainesville Downtown Parking Garage. Service starts three hours before kickoff, with returns starting at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The cost is \$10 for a single roundtrip ticket or \$50 for the season. Transactions are cash only. Home games for September are Sept. 5 (New Mexico State), Sept 12 (East Carolina) and Sept 26 (Tennessee).
- ✓ **RTS staff will be in attendance at the City of Gainesville Job Fair** on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The Job Fair will be held at the MLK Center between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. **RTS currently has openings** for bus operators, mechanics, a clerk and a grants specialist.
- ✓ In observation of the **Labor Day holiday, all RTS offices will be closed and bus service will be suspended on Monday, Sept. 7.** Paratransit service will also be suspended. Normal bus and paratransit service will resume Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

- ✓ **Several PRCA staff members presented at the Florida Recreation and Parks Association's Annual Conference, which is the largest parks and recreation conference in the southeast United States.** Recreation Manager Shannon Keleher presented three workshops, the first entitled "Who Needs Statistics? I Work in Parks and Recreation," that focused on data collection, measurement and analysis to improve work outcomes; the second on employee engagement, "Unengaged Employees? The Power of Play at Work," and the third on communication strategy, "Where's My Cheese? Conquering Change Using Effective Communication." Program Coordinator for Administration Jen Gelfand presented with Recreation Supervisor Ben Dillard, MPA, CPRP, and focused on recognized Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies(CAPRA) national standards for parks, recreation and cultural affairs organizations in a session called "Striving for Excellence: Standard 8-Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security." Development and Partnership Program Coordinator Alicia Antone, MLIS, MPA, CFRM, and Marketing Technician Katharine Forbes detailed a case study in crowdfunding and tips on success called "Join the Crowd! Development and Marketing for Crowdfunding."

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.
- ✓ 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. The **series concludes Saturday, Sept. 12 at Westside Pool.** For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.
- ✓ [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. The class is held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (Aug. 3-Nov. 20). **Aqua-Fit classes are held at the Dwight H. Hunter "Northeast" Pool (1100 NE 14th St.).** All instructors are certified.

- ✓ **Fall operating hours for municipal pools are as follows (beginning Aug. 24):**

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| <p><u>Northeast Pool</u> (Aug. 24-Nov. 8) M-F: 6-9 a.m., Lap Swim M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SA: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SU: 12-5 p.m. Open/Lap Swim</p> <p><u>Mickle Pool</u> (Aug. 24-Oct. 4) M-F: 3-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SA: 12-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SU: CLOSED</p> | <p><u>Westside Pool</u> (Aug. 24-Oct. 24) M-F: 6-8 a.m., Open/Lap Swim M-F: 3-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SA: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim SU: 12-5 p.m. Open/Lap Swim</p> |
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Environmental Education contact: Sally Wazny – 352-334-3326

- ✓ **Morningside Nature Center is looking for a few good volunteers!** PRCA is reaching out to our community, seeking long-term volunteers **to help support programs at Morningside Nature Center.**
 - Volunteers are needed to interpret life on a Florida farm as if you were living in the year 1870 during the monthly Living History Days program.
 - Volunteers are also needed to play the modern-day role of greeters both at Living History Days and for weekday visitors at Morningside Nature Center.

The Living History Days program takes place on the first Saturday of each month September through May, when Morningside Nature Center’s Living History Farm comes to life! Living History Days staff and volunteers don traditional clothing and assume the role of the farm family as they interpret day-to-day north central Florida life during the year 1870. Greeters help make visitors feel welcome on the farm, and share information to enrich their experiences. Greeters may wear modern clothing, and act as a bridge to understanding Living History Days by answering questions that the first-person interpreters cannot answer without stepping out of their 1870 role. Any amount of volunteer time is appreciated. Interests in local history, traditional crafts and skills, traditional gardening and farming methods and/or experience in first-person interpretation are all great assets, but all are welcome to help out! Training and period garb is provided. For more information and the opportunity to volunteer, please contact the volunteer services coordinator at 352-316-5364 or PRCAvolunteer@cityofgainesville.org.

- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and continue through May!
 - C’mon home to the Living History Farm and experience a time when the rooster’s crow and the rising sun, not an alarm clock, welcomed a new day! During **Living History Days**, interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm. Living History Days take place the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all year long. The Living History Days dates are Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 5, April 2 and May 7. Step back in time, enjoy nature, and experience Florida as it was!
 - Morningside Nature Center has a farm, ee—i—ee—i—oh! On this farm, youngsters (with an adult) can meet and greet farm animals by helping staff with afternoon feeding on the Living History Farm. This program is free, but the animals love donations of carrots, squash, apples, sweet potatoes, and melons (please give these items to a staff member and not directly to the animals). With a sheep here—and a cow there—learning about heritage breeds is fun! The **Barnyard Buddies Program** takes place Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the Living History Farm.
 - At the **Frogs and Friends Friday** program, children (with an adult) can join a Morningside Nature Center animal caretaker for an exciting and educational program featuring live

amphibians and reptiles. Join the fun, get the facts! This free program begins at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. Frogs and Friends Friday dates are Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6.

Morningside Nature Center is located at 3540 E. University Ave., approximately three miles east of downtown Gainesville. For more information, please call 352-334-3326.

- ✓ **Save the date for the Fall Native Plant Sale, Saturday Oct. 10** from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Morningside Nature Center. An exclusive member's sale is Friday, Oct. 9 from 4:30-6:30 pm, and is open to members of the Friends of Nature Parks and to members of the Florida Native Plant Society. Memberships are available at the gate. Cash, checks and debit/credit cards are accepted.

Recreation Contact: Ben Dillard- 352-393-8192

- ✓ At **Foundations Academy**, staff strives to lay the groundwork for success by creating an atmosphere where students, parents, staff and community members work together to create an inspirational and safe place for students to learn and grow. All children are welcome, but pre-registration is required. Space is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Transportation is not provided for this program. For full details, visit the [When School is in Web page](#) or call 352-334-5067.

Foundations Academy for **1st–5th grade** is offered at the following locations:

- Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center - 1001 NW 34th St.
- Eastside Community Center - 2841 E. University Ave.
- Porters Community Center - 512 SW Second Ter.

Foundations Academy for **6th–8th grade** is offered at the following location:

- T.B. McPherson Center - 1717 SE 15th St.

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

- ✓ **PRCA invites you to apply as a merchant for the 30th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire!** The faire, which will be held Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 5-7, transforms the Alachua County Fairgrounds into a medieval market place. In keeping with the faire's authentic atmosphere, all crafts and wares should be consistent with the medieval theme. Participants must follow the faire's guidelines by wearing medieval attire, speaking with a medieval accent and booths must be decorated in the appropriate medieval style. Artist applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, Nov. 2. For more information and application guidelines, visit www.hoggetownefaire.com or call 393-8536.
- ✓ At a gathering of professionals from around the state, the Florida Festivals and Events Association (FFEA) presented its annual SUNsational Awards in early August. The honors were presented at the association's 21st Annual Convention and Trade Show, held at the Hyatt Grand Regency in Orlando. The City of Gainesville **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department was honored to accept three awards** during the annual award ceremony. PRCA is proud to accept one award for the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire and two awards for Jest Fest! The 2015 Hoggetowne Medieval Faire promotional poster won third place in the Best Event Poster category and Jest Fest! won first place for Best Radio Commercial and third place for Best T-shirt. FFEA is a not for profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting more than 750 festivals and events throughout the state of Florida and recognizes its member's innovation, individuality and creative collaboration. The conference annually brings together more than 250 festival and fair planners that entered their programs in more than 400 entries for all categories to be considered for nomination.
- ✓ **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:

- **Sept. 4: Ricky Kendall** (Americana, blues, folk)
- **Sept. 11: Flat Land** (rock, funk, blues)

- ✓ **[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.

Planning and Development Services

Planning & Development Services: contact Anthony Lyons – 352-393-8690

- ✓ Two **notable First-Step meetings** are scheduled for late August and early September. Two **affordable housing projects** will be proposed for the southwest quadrant of the city. One is for several four-unit quad buildings and the other is for senior housing apartments. The second First-Step meeting **proposes a new subdivision consisting of 17 new single-family homes** in the Northwest 15th Street and Northwest 39th Avenue area.
- ✓ Building Department staff held **two pre-construction meetings** in late August. Staff met and with Landmark Properties and Causseaux Hewett & Walpole Inc. staff **in preparation of the start of the construction of The Standard project**. Staff also met with Butler Plaza North and Causseaux Hewett & Walpole Inc. staff **in preparation of the new Super-Walmart project**, which is also beginning construction.
- ✓ Building Department staff is **reviewing construction plans for a new CVS Pharmacy**, which is going into the retail portion of the Courtyards project (on Southwest 13th Street), the **conversion of the Old Pete’s Chevron into a convenience store** (1510 S. Main St.) and the commercial **remodel of an existing building to a new Safelite AutoGlass store** (2525 N. Main St.).
- ✓ The **Building Official will attend the Builder Association of North Central Florida monthly meeting** Monday, Sept. 21.

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 September 17-30, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, September 10. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.