

Prepared for the City Commission, October 1-14, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ **Register to participate in the City of Gainesville's Telephone Town Hall!** The Gainesville City Commission will host its second Telephone Town Hall, talkGNV, to discuss the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department's (PRCA) master plan, PRCA Vision 2020. City officials will answer caller questions about the master plan, including future enhancements to Gainesville's park facilities and recreation opportunities, as well as discuss potential funding methods. The telephone town hall is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 29 from 6-7 p.m. A database of approximately 23,000 home telephone numbers (landlines) will be dialed prior to the 6 p.m. call. Residents who are interested in participating should register their telephone number (including cellular numbers) at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/openGNV/talkGNV.aspx>, or call 352-334-5032 and leave a message with their name and telephone number. For more information, please visit <http://cityofgainesville.org/Newsroom/tabid/805/PostID/551/Default.aspx>.

- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission is **currently accepting applications for quasi-judicial and other advisory boards and committees.** [Applications](#) must be received by 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015. The following boards/committees currently have openings:

City Residency Required

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board (2)
- Board of Adjustment (2)
- City Plan Board (1)
- Development Review Board (1)
- Gainesville Human Rights Board (1)
- SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (8)
- Student Community Relations Advisory Board (1) Student Voting Member (1 year term) and (1) Non-voting post-secondary administrator (2 year term)

Student Seats City Residency Required

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board (1)
- Board of Adjustment (1)
- Development Review Board (1)
- Gainesville Human Rights Board (1)
- Historic Preservation Board (1)
- Student Community Relations Advisory Board (1)

City Residency Not Required

- Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development (7)
- City Beautification Board (6)
- Fire Safety Board of Adjustment (4)
- Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (1)
- Nature Centers Commission (3)
- Public Recreation and Parks Board (2)
- Regional Transit System Advisory Board (2)

Student Seats City Residency Not Required

- Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (1)
- Fire Safety Board of Adjustment (1)
- Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board (1)
- Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (1)
- Nature Centers Commission (1)
- Public Recreation & Parks Board (1)
- Regional Transit System Advisory Board (1)
- Tree Advisory Board (1)

- ✓ **The United Way campaign for General Government officially kicked off Thursday, Sept. 10!** The City of Gainesville supports this campaign year after year because United Way's work in our community is extremely important. Team captains will distribute pledge forms by the end of the month, so if you have not received it yet, you will receive your pledge form soon. To keep up to date with the campaign's many upcoming events, visit the [United Way campaign page](#) on the city's intranet.

Upcoming United Way fundraising events:

- Thursday, Oct. 22 (11 a.m.) – The Amazing Race at GRU’s Eastside Operations Center
 - Monday, Nov. 2 – [Gas card \(\\$50 value\) raffle](#) – do not need to be present to win
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.: Special Gainesville City Commission meeting in GPD’s Hall of Heroes – Land Development Code Update
 - Monday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.: General Policy Committee meeting in room 16 of City Hall – GRU Governance

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Kiwanis Challenge Park Restroom Restoration:** The restroom restoration at Kiwanis Challenge Park, located at 2101 NW 39th Ave., continues. The ADA compliant sidewalk has been completed. 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.
- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** The City Commission approved proposed creek sedimentation measures, construction cost proposals and sidewalk options from the presentation given Aug. 20, 2015. Final designs are in progress, with construction scheduled to start in 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 complete in late September. Asphalt paving is complete, and landscaping and fence installation began last week. 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 late 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. Bidding is underway, with construction expected this fall. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Archer Road:** The goal of this project is road improvements that enhance the operation of Archer Road (from Southwest 13th Street to Southwest 16th Avenue) and create a safer multi-modal roadway. The project will improve street lighting, add in-street bike lanes, increase vehicle storage in turn lanes, replace span wire signalization with mast arms/poles and give the roadway a campus road feel with a 20 MPH posted speed limit. Kimley-Horn, the design firm for the project, is currently working on the resubmission of 90 percent plans. The project is anticipated to begin in summer 2016. 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 October 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 of waste material in the old Airport Landfill is complete and the contractor, EnviroTek Environmental & Construction Services, is currently working on seeding and sodding the two foot layer of clean soil that will act as a protective barrier. 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.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ **Community 12TV will be off the air Monday, Sept. 28-Wednesday, Sept. 30.** During that time, **digital upgrades** will be installed. Community 12TV will return Thursday, Oct. 1 with an enhanced signal. While the upgrades are being installed, the City of Gainesville’s [on demand videos](#) will still be available for viewing.
- ✓ Broadcast staff **released a [City Snapshot covering the ABCs of Safety summer camp](#)** that began this past summer. The ABCs of Safety was created by Gainesville Fire Rescue and the Gainesville Police Department and was offered to rising kindergartners. During the weeklong camp, kindergartners learned safety tips that will help keep them safe as they navigate new areas in their lives. Broadcast staff also released a video covering the [groundbreaking ceremony at Depot Park](#).
- ✓ Broadcast staff has been working **with Mayor Ed Braddy on a video that will play at this year’s Gator Growl**. Stay tuned – it’s going to be a fun one!
- ✓ Communications staff has been working with Administrative Services and PRCA staff to **help share information about the upcoming Telephone Town Hall**, which will cover the PRCA Vision 2020 master plan. Residents who are interested in participating in the town hall should register their phone number (including cell numbers) at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/openGNV/talkGNV.aspx>, or call 352-334-5032 and leave a message with their name and telephone number. For more information, please visit <http://cityofgainesville.org/Newsroom/tabid/805/PostID/551/Default.aspx>.
- ✓ The Communications Manager is presenting **at a “coaching webinar” Thursday, Oct. 1 at 2 p.m.** The webinar is hosted by the Florida City and County Management Association and is **titled “Managing the Media – How to Respond to a local crisis and Stay in Control!”**
- ✓ The Communications Manager is **attending the emergency management coordination team meeting** Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2:30 p.m. at GFR’s training bureau.
- ✓ **Gainesville 101: the Fall 2015 Citizens’ Academy** begins Wednesday, Oct. 7 and will be held for seven consecutive weeks. The first session includes overviews of the charter offices and the City Commission. Interested parties should visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org> for more information or to register.
- ✓ **The Communications Office has started initial preparations for the upcoming annual report.** Charter officers and department/division managers have been asked to compile their information for the report and **submit it no later than Wednesday, Oct. 7**. The 2015 Citizen’s Report (annual report) will be released at the annual State of the City Address in January 2016. Please contact Laura Rawson at ext. 8740 or rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org for more information.

- ✓ The submission period for the **Seventh Annual Gainesville Photography Contest** is over. The **judging panel continues to meet for evaluation sessions**. Finalists' work will be part of a permanent photo exhibition, and will be notified on or before Dec. 1, 2015.
- ✓ **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

- ✓ Upon adoption of the city's Financial and Operating Plan for FY16, Appendix A (Schedule of Fees) will include **changes for fire safety fees such as building inspections, special event inspections, after-hour inspections and temporary assembly occupancy fees**. Property owners whose buildings are in compliance on first inspection will no longer be charged an inspection fee. Owners of buildings not in compliance will be charged the standard inspection fee based on the building size. If all violations are corrected by the re-inspection, there will be no charge for the re-inspection; however, owners of buildings still not in compliance upon re-inspection will be charged twice the standard fee for the size of the building. Fire alarm application fees and false alarm fees will also be increased.
- ✓ 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: Interim Asst. Chief Steve Hesson – 352-393-8449

- ✓ The **9th Annual Screaming for Safety is Thursday, Oct. 8 from 4-7 p.m. at Safety City**, which is located at 1025 NE 13th St. At this free event, there will be plenty of safety information, trick- or-treating and children will have the opportunity to see emergency vehicles. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted for the Food 4 Kids backpack program.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue can now be found on Facebook!**
- ✓ **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. A fee of \$30 per person will be charged beginning with the next class Jan. 6, 2016. For information on **Safe Assembly Training classes**, please call 334-5065.

GFR Support Services Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Mike Cowart – 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:
 - Monday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m.: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) meeting at Alachua County Administrative Building (12 SE First St.)
 - Thursday, Oct.8 at 4 p.m.: Bike/Pedestrian Safety Booth at Screaming for Safety at GFR’s Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)
 - Saturday, Oct.10 at 2 p.m.: Bike/Pedestrian Safety Booth at Gainesville Annual Lake Road Reunion (location TBA)
 - Monday, Oct.12 at 11 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Wiles Elementary at GFR’s Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)
 - Tuesday, Oct.13 at 11 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Wiles Elementary at GFR’s Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)

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.

- ✓ **RTS is offering its annual UF football game day 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. Remaining home games for October are Oct. 3 (Ole Miss) and Oct. 31 (Georgia).

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

- ✓ The **newly-formed Gainesville Arts & Parks (GAP) Foundation, Inc. was established in June to support the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) as an ally in advocacy and fundraising.** The foundation is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to support the projects and programs identified in the PRCA master plan, Vision 2020, by helping fill funding gaps and helping bring the plan to life. The founding members of the GAP Foundation Board of Directors are Susan Bottcher, Thomas Hawkins (secretary), Agapitus “Augi” Lye (president), Albert White (treasurer) and Dr. Steven L. Yucht (vice president). For more information, or to get involved with the Gainesville Arts & Parks Foundation, please contact PRCA at 352-393-8364.

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

- ✓ **Sweetwater Wetlands Park will be open seven days a week, including federal and state holidays, starting Thursday, Oct. 1.** The park was constructed by the City of Gainesville Public Works Department and Gainesville Regional Utilities to improve water quality at Paynes Prairie. Now

managed by PRCA, the park contains three miles of trails and boardwalks, and offers spectacular wildlife watching opportunities. Sweetwater Wetlands Park is not only a place to connect with nature, it is also a way to protect our environment. Share your experiences on social media with #SweetwaterWetlandsPark. Ranger-led tours providing an introduction to the park are offered every Saturday at 9 a.m. The tours are free with park admission, and start at the Welcome Classroom Pavilion. Attendees should wear comfortable shoes and bring water. The park's entry fee is \$5 per vehicle and \$2 for pedestrian or bicycle entry. Annual passes to enjoy Sweetwater Wetlands Park are also available for purchase. The annual pass costs \$75, and is valid from Oct. 1, 2015-Sept. 30, 2016. Passes allow a vehicle to enter the park with any number of persons in the car. Passes are available for purchase in person at the PRCA Administrative Office, which is located on the third floor of the Thomas Center, Building B, (306 NE Sixth Ave.), and is open Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. The park is located at 325 SW Williston Road. For directions, a map can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/maps/bK9YN>.

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

- ✓ **Youth coed basketball** has no tryouts, all kids play and it's fun for everyone! For kids age 5–14, this coed basketball league develops skills on and off the court. Practices take place at the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (MLK). Games begin in January and take place in Alachua County and the surrounding areas. **Register by Oct. 16 to save \$10 on registration.** The Eastside High School coaching staff is holding free skills clinics Nov. 30 and Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m. at MLK. For more information, please visit our [Youth Athletics Web page](#) or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ **Lifeguards representing the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) competed in the statewide Annual Lifeguard Challenge** presented by the Florida Aquatics Council, in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The competition was held Sunday, Sept. 13 at the Oviedo Aquatics Complex in Oviedo, Florida, and lifeguard teams from aquatic facilities all over Florida attended the competition to compete for the title of best lifeguards in the state! The PRCA team medaled in four out of the six events, bringing home two second place medals and two third place medals. Overall, the PRCA team placed fourth in the state.
- ✓ **Soccer for All is a free, adaptive program** 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. Soccer for All is offered Sundays from 2-4 p.m. at Albert "Ray" Massey (Westside) Park, Ball Field #3, September through November. For additional information, please contact Noah's Endeavor at 352-275-9639 or info@noahsendeavor.org or visit their website at www.noahsendeavor.org.
- ✓ **Supporters and volunteers are needed for Drool & Ghou! O-Ween Costume Contest & Pool Party**, held Saturday, Oct. 24 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Help make tails wag at H. Spurgeon Cherry (Westside) Pool, and be a part of an event that benefits local animal organizations. Local pet businesses are encouraged to participate. If your business or organization makes tails wag, this is a great chance to feature your products and services at tables set up around the pool. Volunteers are also a vital part of making the event great. It's a perfect chance for any dog lover to help out. For more information, please contact Zachary Frando at 352-316-5590 or by email at frandozb@cityofgainesville.org.
- ✓ **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):**

<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, closed Sundays</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

- ✓ Take a walk on the wildflower side with us at the **Jean Dorney Memorial Wildflower Walks**. Participants will enjoy the spectacular fall wildflower bloom in the piney woods of Morningside Nature Center during a guided walk. The Jean Dorney Memorial Wildflower Walks are free and take place **every Saturday in October at Morningside Nature Center**. The walks begin at 9 a.m., and depart from the education building. On Oct. 10, the walk will begin at 11:30 a.m., and will depart from the pavilion as part of the Fall Native Plant Sale. Please be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water and any field guides you would like to use. These walks are courtesy of a grant from the Friends of Nature Parks in honor of charter member Jean Dorney. **New this year:** The walk on Oct. 24 features a kids only walk.
- ✓ **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 remaining Living History Days dates are 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. The remaining Frogs and Friends Friday dates are 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.

- ✓ **Go native at 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:

- Clarence R. Kelly Community Center – 1701 NE Eighth Ave. (NEW LOCATION ADDED)
- 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

- ✓ Show your support for the arts in Alachua County by **becoming an Art Sponsor at the 34th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15**. As an Art Sponsor, you can make your name stand out among the crowd by pledging a minimum of \$50 in advance toward the purchase of any piece of art. Art Sponsors have the opportunity to choose their favorite art work from a wide variety of original pieces. Once an Art Sponsor selects a favorite piece, the chosen artist proudly displays a ribbon and certificate personalized with their sponsor's name. Art Sponsors will be recognized throughout the festival during live announcements from the Plaza Stage. To request a pledge form, contact Festival Coordinator Linda Piper at 352-393-8536, or visit www.gainesvilledowntownartfest.org.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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:
 - **Oct. 2: The Impostors** (The Beatles tribute band)
 - **Oct. 9: Heavy Petty & Hedges** (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band, plus originals)
- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries: *AQUIFERious: Enter the Springs*** will be held in the Thomas Center's Mezzanine and Main Galleries Thursday, Oct. 1-Wednesday, Jan. 6. The exhibition is curated by Margaret Ross Tolbert, and is based on her award-winning book of the same title. A multi-media art

experience in the truest sense, the exhibition will juxtapose Tolbert's dramatic, large-scale springs paintings and eloquent poetry with contributing artists' and scientists' photographs, videos, cartography and writings. Featured will be the underwater photography by Jill Heinerth, Mark Long and Tom Morris, and springs maps by Eric Hutcheson, Georgia Shemitz and Jhwum-Ki-ak.

The opening reception of *AQUIFERious: Enter the Springs* is Thursday, Oct. 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., followed by a concert from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The concert is inspired by the land and waters of Florida and beyond, performed by Patchwork, an award-winning, five-piece female folk/bluegrass group that is a favorite of Florida festivals. The reception and concert are free and open to the public.

Companion events during this reporting period include:

Deeper into AQUIFERious: A Conversation with the Contributors held Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. (galleries open at 6 p.m.). The world-renowned artists, cave divers, scientists, mapmakers and writers who contributed to the "AQUIFERious" book and exhibition share their research and passion for the springs and the aquifer.

Future companion events are:

- Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. - Extreme Adventures: Cave Divers Tell Their Stories
- Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. - Immersed: An Evening of Springs Films
- Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. - Wet Talks: Springs Lovers' Show and Tell

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Thursday, Oct. 1, the Economic Development & Innovation Director along with other pertinent staff, will **meet with representatives of Horizon Hospitality Management, Inc. to discuss details associated with a license agreement for parking in the city's Downtown Parking Garage.**
- ✓ On Thursday, Oct. 8, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of the county's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).**
- ✓ On Wednesday, Oct. 14, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will have **a monthly routine call with the Florida Institute's CEO.**

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ **Two notable First-Step meetings** occurred in late September. One was for the conceptual plan for a new three-five **story hotel at the Gainesville Regional Airport.** The other was **for two new office buildings totaling 30,000 square feet** in the 4400 block of Northwest Eighth Avenue.
- ✓ Building Department staff held an onsite pre-construction meeting Monday, Sept. 14. **Staff met and with Landmark Properties staff in preparation of The Retreat at Gainesville** project beginning construction. The Retreat is a 186 unit, multi-family residential development located near the corner of Southwest 13th Street and Southwest 16th Avenue.
- ✓ Building Department staff is busy **reviewing construction plans for the fifth floor of the Stadium Club** (1800 W. University Ave.) creating five new residential units, and **Holy Faith Catholic Church's new Fellowship Hall** (747 NW 43rd St.). New single family homes permit applications continue to come in at a steady pace for subdivisions and standalone lots from all quadrants of the city.

- ✓ The Building Official will **attend the Builder Association of North Central Florida monthly meeting** Monday, Oct. 19 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 October 15-November 4, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, October 8. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.