

*Prepared for the City Commission, December 3-16, 2015*

## City Manager

- ✓ The **inaugural Emerging Leaders Development Program Commencement Ceremony is Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.** The ceremony includes opening remarks by the City Manager, special recognitions and closing remarks by GRU's General Manager. Congratulations to the program graduates!
- ✓ 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. Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015. The following boards/committees currently have openings:

### City Residency Required

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board (1)
- City Plan Board (1)
- Development Review Board (1)
- SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (7)
- Student Community Relations Advisory Board: (1) Student Voting Member (1 year term) and (1) Voting Member (2 year term)
- Utility Advisory Board: (1) a representative of a major business (25 or more employees) that is a utility commercial customer; (1) a person with utility management experience; (1) a person with investment banking, financial or certified public accounting experience; (1) a licensed attorney with business, contract or corporate law experience; (1) a person with engineering experience and (2) two persons with any qualifications the City Commission deems relevant or beneficial to service on the board

### Student Seats City Residency Required

- Board of Adjustment (1)
- Student Community Relations Advisory Board (1)

### City Residency Not Required

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

### Student Seats City Residency Not Required

- Fire Safety Board of Adjustment (1)

## Capital Projects

- ✓ **Fire Station No. 1:** The design for Fire Station 1 should come before the City Commission Dec. 17 for approval. The plan is to begin construction in June 2016.
- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** Construction of Section A (between Northwest 40th Drive and Northwest 34th Street) is complete. Construction of Section C (between Northwest 23rd and Northwest Sixth Streets) started in early November and will be complete in February 2016. Some temporary lane closures will be necessary to repair the road. Section B (between Northwest 34th and Northwest 23rd Streets) is in the final design stages, and is expected to be under construction between spring and summer of 2016. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at [broadusm@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:broadusm@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Neighborhood Lighting Improvements:** Lighting upgrades on Southwest Ninth Avenue between Southwest 13th and Southwest 11th Streets are scheduled for the week ending Nov. 27. On-street

parking will not be available during this time to allow for installation access. This will increase the overall lighting in the area, as well as the uniformity of the lighting by eliminating dark zones that currently exist. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at [broadusm@cityofgainesville.org](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:broadusm@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Depot Avenue Segment 2:** As of Oct. 15, the Southwest Sixth Street intersection has been closed by the roadway contractor, O'Steen Brothers, for construction. The intersection will remain closed for approximately three months while the contractor is constructing a roundabout with underground utilities, stormwater, streetscaping and landscaping. Both two-way vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be accommodated between Southwest Sixth and Southwest 11th Streets, and two-way vehicular traffic will be maintained east of Southwest Sixth Street to Southwest Main Street. Construction of the multi-use trail between Southwest Sixth Street and Main Street is currently under construction and will remain closed until completion. The contractor's contact person for this project is Don Shackelford, and he can be reached at 352-459-1031. For more information, questions or comments, please contact John Veilleux, project manager, at [veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8418.
- ✓ **1125 SE Fourth Street:** Demolition and site cleanup will begin in January 2016 for the nearly three-acre stormwater treatment pond that will be part of the future SE Fourth Street reconstruction project. The Southeast Fourth Street corridor is a residential road which serves existing local businesses and residents, and provides access from southeast Gainesville to the downtown area from Williston Road to Depot Avenue. Treatment facilities also include amenities appropriate for the adjacent rails-to-trails bike path and residential area. Demolition is slated to take place through February 2016; pond construction will commence in spring 2016. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager, at [waiteed@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:waiteed@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8405.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ The Communications and Marketing Manager is **attending the Emergency Management Coordination Team Meeting** at GFR's Training Bureau Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m.
- ✓ The Communications Office is working with IT and the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) to add a **new OEO section to the city's website.**
- ✓ **The State of the City Address will be held at GPD's Hall of Heroes Wednesday, Jan. 20** at 12 noon. Please save the date!

## 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](http://www.gfr.org). GFR's second comprehensive [Citizens' Survey](#) has been

published to the GFR website and shows the comparison between the 2011 and 2014 results for GFR's services. **GFR's [2014 Annual Report](#) is now available** online.

**GFR Risk Reduction Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Steve Hesson – 352-393-8449**

- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue can now be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!**
- ✓ **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](http://gfr.org/community_training).

## Public Works

**Public Works contact: Chantel Thomas – 352-334-5070**

- ✓ **Clark Butler Boulevard is currently open** from Archer Road to the south to the intersection of Southwest 43rd Street and Southwest 24th Avenue. **Construction still continues** and periodic lane shifts should be expected; however, no road closures are expected. Southwest 33rd Place and Windmeadows Boulevard are also open. For more information, please contact Rick Melzer, project manager, at [melzerra@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:melzerra@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8407.
- ✓ **Construction of a sidewalk in Pine Ridge** along the south side of Northwest 23rd Terrace from Northwest 62nd Avenue to Northwest 34th Boulevard, and along the west side of Northwest 34th Boulevard from Northwest 23rd Terrace to the existing sidewalk. Bus stops along the extent of project will be modified to meet current ADA standards. Project construction will be performed by Parrish McCall. Construction started Oct. 27, and it is anticipated that this project will take between four and six months to complete. For more information, questions, or comments, please contact Joe Montalto, project manager, at [montaltoj@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:montaltoj@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-494-6225.
- ✓ **Wrapping paper and gift boxes can be recycled** in your curbside orange bin.
- ✓ **Christmas trees can be placed at curbside** for pick up on your regular trash day. The trees need to be stripped of all decorations, including ornaments, bows, tinsel and lights. If curbside service is not available to you, Christmas trees can be taken to Wood Resource Recycling at 10606 N SR 121 at no charge.
- ✓ **Christmas tree and other ornamental lights can be recycled** at the Public Works Center, which is located at 405 NW 39th Ave. There is a green cart by the front door of the main lobby that is available 24 hours a day for your convenience.

- ✓ In 2015, **41 pink trash cans have been delivered as part of the 5th Annual American Cancer Society Pink Cart Fundraiser** so far. When the remaining carts are gone, a waiting list will be established. Waste Corp. of America, together with the City Of Gainesville and the “Roll Breast Cancer to the Curb” team, raised \$2,055 in pink cart donations so far this year with more donations to come! WCA absorbs all costs of the pink cart fundraiser with the American Cancer Society receiving 100 percent of the donations. To participate, donate a minimum of \$50 to Breast Cancer Awareness and you can have your black garbage cart replaced with a pink one for a year. In order to keep the pink cart, you must donate at least \$50 yearly. The pink garbage carts are available in two sizes: 35- and 64-gallon. Donations to this program of any amount without receiving a pink cart are always welcome as well. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 334-2330 to get your pink cart or [click here for more information!](#)
- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is coordinating/participating in the following:**
  - Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) – Technical Advisory Committee staff meeting at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) (2009 NW 67 Pl.)
  - Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.: Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Bicycle Safety Training Course “Bike Rodeo” and bicycle helmet fitting for Tiger Cub Scout badges at Town of Tioga (205 SW 131 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](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org), or visit [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).

- ✓ 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.**
  - **Build a Rain Barrel Workshop and Sale** – Friday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office (2800 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.): Following a short informative talk on Florida-friendly principles to conserve water in your landscape, a workshop will be held building rain barrels. Rain barrels are an inexpensive and effective way to collect rainwater for your garden. Watch a Master Gardener build one or build your own to take home. Quantity is limited. Please pre-register by calling 352-337-6209 (voicemail) at least three days prior to program. For more information about this program, call 352-955-2402. This program is offered by Dr. Denise DeBusk, environmental and community horticulture agent, and is presented by Alachua County Master Gardener Volunteers. There is no charge to attend; however, if you choose to build a rain barrel to take home or purchase one assembled, the cost is \$60.
- ✓ **RTS staff will present the proposed spring service changes** to the City Commission Thursday, Dec. 17 during the evening session. The public is invited to attend and comment on the changes. Spring service will begin Monday, Jan. 4, 2016.
- ✓ **RTS will provide reduced service beginning Saturday, Dec. 19.** Routes running during reduced service are marked with an “R” in the printed and online versions of the bus schedule. UF campus and Later Gator service will be suspended; however, paratransit service will not be affected. Reduced service will be in place through Sunday, Jan. 3, except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Spring

service will begin Monday, Jan. 4. Please check the RTS website for more information at [www.Go-RTS.com](http://www.Go-RTS.com).

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **Give your family members and friends the present of amazing birdwatching and spectacular views!** Sweetwater Wetlands Park is not only a place to connect with nature, it is also a way to protect our environment. 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. Registration ends Dec. 17. The Eastside High School coaching staff is holding a **free skills clinics Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m. at MLK**. For more information, please visit our [Youth Athletics Web page](#) or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ The **heated Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool** will remain open throughout the winter. The H. Spurgeon Cherry (Westside) and Andrew R. Mickle Sr. Pools are both closed for the season and will reopen in spring 2016. **Regular winter hours (Nov. 9-March 27) for the Northeast Pool are:**  
M-F: 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim  
SA: 12-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim  
SU: CLOSED

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

- ✓ The **2015 Urban Forestry Workshop is free and takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 3-6:30 p.m. at Ironwood Golf Course**, which is located at 2100 NE 39th Ave. in Gainesville. Participants will learn about native trees and landscaping for their yards. The workshop offers hands-on experience on trees and roots, pine beetles and other beetles that impact pine trees, application and effects of fire on natural areas, cultural and social issues that affect preferences for landscapers and more! Workshop materials will be provided online at [cbb.cityofgainesville.org](http://cbb.cityofgainesville.org). The workshop will have refreshments, and there will be a tree giveaway. Attendees of this workshop may receive up to four Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits, depending on certification. Seats are limited to this workshop, so be sure to reserve your place today! To RSVP, please contact [Ella Bernhardt-Brooks](#) at 352-393-8181. For information about the workshop, please contact Urban Forestry Inspector Earline Luhrman at 352-393-8188 or visit [cbb.cityofgainesville.org](http://cbb.cityofgainesville.org).
- ✓ **Be a part of this annual tradition to remove invasive plant species** from our natural areas! Individuals and groups are needed to volunteer this kick-off to the year-long Gainesville Greenway Challenge. Registration opens Dec. 7, and you can sign up online on the [Nature & Heritage Events](#) page. The **Great Invader Raider Rally will take place Saturday, Jan. 30**. Under trained leadership, volunteers will work to restore preassigned natural areas from 9-11 a.m. and then are invited to head to Morningside Nature Center for a celebration which includes music, t-shirts, prizes, environmental booths and games and food (\$).

- ✓ **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 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 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.

**Recreation Contact: Ben Dillard- 352-393-8192**

- ✓ A cheerful time awaits during the days kids are out of school – and it's a convenient option for busy parents! Let's work together to give your child a foundation for success! During camp, kids will enjoy games, activities and crafts that encourage achievement, a sense of community, good health and strong character! **Winter Break Camp is available 7 a.m.-6 p.m. on the following days:** Monday, Dec. 21 –Wednesday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 28–Thursday Dec. 31. Fees are \$53 for city residents and \$79 for non-city residents. Camps are located at Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.) and Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.). For information on our camps please call 352-334-5067 or visit the PRCA [website](#).
- ✓ The holidays are fast approaching, have you started your letter to Santa? The Jolly Old Elf himself wants to hear from you! **Operation Letters to Santa program is open for all children in kindergarten through third grade** (or any child that still “believes”). This is a free program and is open to **all** Gainesville residents. **Letters must be postmarked or received by Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.** Letters to Santa can be dropped off at the following locations: Eastside Community Center, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center, Porters Community Center, Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center and at the PRCA Administrative Office, which is located on the third floor of Building B of the Historic Thomas Center.  
 They can also be faxed to 352-334-3299 or mailed to:  
 PRCA Administrative Office  
 c/o Operation Letters to Santa  
 PO Box 490, Station 24  
 Gainesville, FL 32627  
 Each letter should be no more than one page in length and should contain the child's name, age, gender, mailing address (including ZIP code) and a statement about what good character means to him or her. Please note the department is not distributing gifts. Santa enjoys reading actual letters

written by children as he sips his hot cocoa by the fire at the North Pole. No emails, please, only hard copies of letters.

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

- ✓ Downtown Gainesville is in the midst of a colorful transformation and entering a new phase of its cultural renaissance. [352walls/The Gainesville Urban Art Initiative](#) features the work of **13 renowned international muralists and 13 of the region's best artists**. The 352walls experience began Oct. 30 through Nov. 25, and will resume again in January 2016. 352walls/The Gainesville Urban Art Initiative offers residents, students and visitors an opportunity to watch talented artists paint their outdoor murals while they are created. In early November, a group of regional artists created murals on the new Make.Work facility, housed in the iconic Discount Hi-Fi building adjacent to Depot Park. The list of regional artists included: Blake Harrison, Tiara Henderson, Jefreid Lotti, Carrie Wachter-Martinez, Jesus Martinez, Turbado Marabou, Rachel Sommer, Point108, Luis Justo Rodriguez, Evan Galbicka, Senta Achee, Clea Lauriault and Jenna Horner. In January 2016, 352walls will showcase the Ukranian duo known as Interesni Kaski, as they paint a mural at Market Street Pub. Later in February, the renowned Portuguese artist Add Fuel will create multiple public artworks. Images of previous projects by the muralists can be viewed on [Flickr](#). A map of the mural walls is available [online to print](#). An interactive map is also available on the 352walls website at [www.352walls.org](http://www.352walls.org).
- ✓ On **Saturday, Dec. 5**, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department hosts its **annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center**. Gainesville Mayor Ed Braddy will be on hand to welcome citizens and call for the giant tree to be lit. **The free program will run from 6-8 p.m.**, and will feature caroling by the Singers of the Reformation and the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus, as well as holiday music on the hammered dulcimer and autoharp by Jim and Joyce Lillquist of the Gypsy Guerrilla Band. The heart of the celebration is the holiday decorations on the giant tree and around the building, which are annually provided by the Thomas Center Associates. Santa will be on hand to visit with children. Light refreshments will be served.
- ✓ Every New Year's Eve, downtown Gainesville rocks as the New Year is rung in with live music provided by the area's most popular bands. A countdown to the New Year at midnight is celebrated with free noisemakers and merry making all-around. This year's headliner is Heavy Petty, a Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band, with The Duppies, a ska, rocksteady, reggae band, opening the show. [Downtown Countdown](#) is 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. This year's event is at Lot 10, on the corner of Southwest Second Avenue and Southwest Second Street. For more information please contact David Ballard at 352-393-8746 or [ballarddg@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:ballarddg@cityofgainesville.org).
- ✓ [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.

**Future companion events to AQUIFERious are:**

- 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

## 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.
- ✓ **GPD will participate in the annual “Heroes and Helpers” shopping event** with Target Friday, Dec.4 at 9:30 a.m. This wonderful event pairs local elementary students with officers for a \$100 shopping spree. It’s an event that touches both the children and the officers!
- ✓ **Chief Jones will walk the beat of the Oaks Mall** Saturday, Dec.5. If you’d like to join him, please meet at the information desk just inside the main entrance of the mall at 1 p.m.
- ✓ **GPD’s annual holiday social will be held Thursday, Dec. 10** beginning at 3 p.m. The social is a time for GPD employees and staff to pause for a moment and enjoy some wonderful holiday food and desserts.

*The next report will cover December 17, 2015-January 6, 2016. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, December 10. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*