TEAM’s Third Annual Casino Night will be held Saturday, Feb. 23 at the City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Recreation Center, which is located at 5701 NW 34th St. Ticket sales are available now! For more information, please click here.

The City of Gainesville/Alachua County Local Intergovernmental Team wishes to inform the public that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has announced it will hold a public meeting at the Stephen Foster Elementary School, which is located at 3800 NW Sixth St. in Gainesville, Fla., Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 from 6-8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive feedback on the proposed Consent Decree in U.S. v. Beazer East, Inc., commonly referred to as the Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site. The proposed Consent Decree was filed and lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida Gainesville Division on Feb. 7, 2013, and was advertised in the Federal Register Notice on Feb. 13, 2013, which opens up the 30-day comment period for the proposed Consent Decree through March 15, 2013.

The Gainesville Leadership Forum will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6 at Ironwood Golf Course.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is a combined effort with the United Way of North Central Florida and the IRS to help low to moderate-income working people keep more of their refund and not pay for income tax services. Many lower-income households are owed a significant refund because of the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, a federal income tax credit for low to moderate-income working people. United Way officials are hoping to find more local residents who are eligible for the EITC by offering VITA, a free service. Residents can find out more about the free program, make an appointment and find out what to bring to the appointment by calling United Way’s 24-hour information line 2-1-1.

Construction of the Fleet Garage & Materials Management Facility began in Sept. 2012. The initial site work has progressed rapidly, now site grading and storm water system construction is approximately 75 percent complete. The Materials Management Facility site is 70 percent complete and the first bin wall structures are now under construction. The Fleet Garage has been redesigned to meet budget constraints and final plans are in the building permit review process. The final guaranteed maximum price has been approved and is within budget. The Fleet Garage portion of the project site is graded and the building pad has been prepared. The contractor is planning to begin construction on the garage building in February. The Northwest 16th Avenue roadway portion of the project is 80 percent graded and work is proceeding on the storm drainage. The date of substantial completion is planned for October 2013 with occupancy in late fall of this year.

The new Police Department Headquarters building design is 100 percent complete and currently in the building permit review process. A demolition permit has been issued for the old facility and preliminary stages of demolition and utilities relocation have begun; building removal will follow shortly. Once the demolition is complete, the site work will mobilize and commence work. Building construction is expected to begin by this spring upon receipt of all permits and final acceptance of the guaranteed maximum price. Currently, the completion date is slated for March of 2014 with occupancy to take place immediately thereafter.
✓ Work has been substantially completed on the solar roofing project at Northeast Pool. Once connected to the grid, it is estimated that the solar panels will generate up to seven percent of the electricity needed to run the bathhouse and heat the shower water. This project has been funded by the half-cent Wild Spaces-Public Places sales tax initiative that was passed by voters in 2008. To help educate our citizens about solar energy, informational signage will be mounted on the bathhouse wall on the pool deck explaining how solar energy works. For more information, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department at 334-5067.

Communications Office

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

✓ On Monday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 5, members of the Website Redesign Committee held a website kickoff with Ingen, the vendor that was selected during the RFP process to redesign the city’s website. During the kickoff, many things were discussed including, project overview, project structure and goals, development environments and review teams and roles. Since the week of Feb. 11, the vendor has started discussing web needs with general government’s various departments. Phase I of the project is expected to take six months.

✓ Communications staff is meeting with representatives from Granicus on Thursday, Feb. 28 to review video streaming performance and to discuss new product implementation.

✓ Staff continues with coordination efforts for Gainesville 101: the Spring 2013 Citizens’ Academy. This session will begin on Wednesday, March 13 and will be held for six consecutive weeks from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon. Interested parties should visit http://academy.cityofgainesville.org for more information or to register.

Gainesville Fire Rescue

GFR Administration and Operations contact: Deputy Chief Tim Hayes – 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 recently completed the agency’s self-assessment of its operations and programs and is planning to submit a request to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) to request candidate status for accreditation. If accepted, a site visit by peer assessors would be scheduled for May or June 2013.

✓ The application period for the 2013 fire special assessment senior and low-income hardship assistance program and the fire flow mitigation/sprinkler credit program begins in January and will remain open until Wednesday, May 1, 2013. Please call 334-5088 to leave a message if you need additional information. Application forms are available on the www.gfr.org website.

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

✓ Requests for car seat safety checks and installation should be directed to GFR’s Risk Reduction Specialist, Krista Gonzalez, at 393-8461.

✓ GFR engine companies will visit the Atrium on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

✓ Engine 3 will attend the Highland Court Manor meeting on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

✓ A group of about 25 children ages one to five will visit Fire Station 7 on Tuesday, March 5 at 10:30 a.m.
Applications for the June 2013 GFR Junior Fire Academy are being accepted until May 2, 2013. Please visit the GFR website for more information and JFA Application.

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

- Effective Jan. 1, 2013, gable top milk and juice cartons and aseptic (juice) cartons can be added to the blue bin. Additionally, on Jan. 1, pizza boxes can be added to the orange bin. As always, all recycled material should be clean, with no food remaining. Visit www.gainesvillerecycles.com for a complete list of recyclable items that can be placed in the residential curbside blue and orange bins.

- RTS staff is continuing to go through the Federal Transit Administration grant processes. Site prep work is expected to begin in late February. Staff continues to work with the Project Manager to review plans and revise the construction schedule as needed. John T. Davis was selected, by committee, to produce artwork for the new facility as part of the Art in Public Spaces at a cost of $100,000.

- The Go Enhance RTS Study was formerly the Bus Rapid Transit Alternative Analysis. With changes to federal funding and requirements, the study name was changed. RTS finished the first public input meetings and is compiling the information received. Another round of public meetings will be scheduled.

- RTS will hold a public meeting to receive comment on its proposed summer service changes. The meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the GRU Multipurpose Room, which is located at 301 SE Fourth Ave. Proposed changes are as follows:
  - Suspend Service: Routes 22, 27, 28, 29, 39, 46, 62 and 76
  - Decrease Frequency: Routes 1, 5, 9, 12, 20, 21, 23, 34, 35, 36 and 38
  - Decrease Hours of Service: 5, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 38 and 43
  - Modify Route: Route 25
  - Add Saturday Service: Route 2
  - Add Sunday Service: Route 25

- RTS recognizes staff that have exhibited superior performance, dedication and service each fiscal year. The recent award winners are:
  - Director’s Award: Doug Robinson
  - Operations Employee of the Year: Frederick Mayer
  - Transit Operator of the Year: McRobert Alphonse
  - Operations Rookie of the Year: George Reilly
  - Maintenance Employee of the Year: Paul Barron
  - Mechanic of the Year: James Stopa
  - Maintenance Rookie of the Year: Billy Apolonio

General Services contact: Milton Reid – 352-393-8261

- Facilities Management has recently completed the following energy conservation upgrades:
  - LED light fixtures installed in City Hall, Oscar Lewis and Rosa B. Williams facilities.
  - The roofing installation of Old Library building is complete.
Neighbors, friends and Gators are invited to join the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the Porters Community Neighborhood Organization for the unveiling ceremony of the “The Ballpark” historical marker at Porters Community Center, at 512 SW Second Ter., Saturday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. The ceremony commemorates the history of Porters as the original ballpark for the first University of Florida home football game played in 1906, and the many various Gainesville’s teams that played on “The Ballpark” from 1883 to 1910. After 1910, the ballpark was used for tent shows, community fairs and by traveling circuses, including Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and the King Brothers Circus. The unveiling of the historical marker is in recognition of Black History Month. For more information, please contact Steven R. Phillips, Director of the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, at 352-393-8755 or phillipssr@cityofgainesville.org.

Register now for Spring Break camps! For a fun, educational and lasting experience, sign your children up for one of our Spring Break options.

- **Spring Earth Academy Day Camp at Morningside Nature Center** is full, but spots are available at our other camps.
- **Spring Break Camps at Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center (Westside) and Eastside Community Center** are available for children age 6-13 (or 5 if they’ve completed kindergarten) from Monday, March 25–Friday, March 29 (7 a.m.–6 p.m.). The cost is $43 per child for city residents and $65 per child for non-city residents.

Foundations Afterschool Program runs through Tuesday, June 4, 2013. The program has six rotating weekly themes that focus on building character: Around the World in 80 Days, Super Heroes, Music Makers, Adventure Land, Best of the Best and Fun and Fitness. The cost for the program is $3.15/day for city residents and $4.75 for non-city residents. This program is for youth ages 6–13, or 5 years of age if kindergarten has been completed.

Need a place for your kids to go on teacher work days or school holidays? The Recreation Division offers full day camps at Eastside Recreation Center and Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center on the following dates:

- Monday, April 1
- Wednesday, June 5 through Friday, June 7

Camp hours are from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Fees are $5.25 per day/per child for city residents (proof of residency required) and $8 per day/per child for non-city residents. For week long day camps, the fees are $43 per child for city residents and $65 per child for non-city residents. Lunch is not provided. You may register online or in person at the PRCA Administrative Office, which is located in the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Please call 352-334-5067 with any questions.

Environmental Education contact: Sally Wazny – 352-393-8438

The Environmental Education staff is offering a new and exciting season of free, ongoing programs at Morningside Nature Center. The season is from September to the end of May. Take advantage of family-friendly programming and make visiting Morningside Nature Center part of your weekly routine!

- **Barnyard Buddies**: Wednesdays at 3 p.m., Sept.-May
  Morningside Nature Center has a farm, ee-i-ee-i-oh! On this farm youngsters, with an adult, can meet and greet farm animals Wednesday afternoons by helping staff with afternoon feeding. With a sheep here—and a cow there—learning about heritage breed farm animals is fun! This free program takes place Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the Living History Farm. Suggested
donations: carrots, squash, sweet potatoes, apples and melons for the farm animals! Be sure your donations are given to an animal care taker on the farm and not directly to the animals, as some of them are on very special diets.

- **Living History Days**: Saturdays 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sept.-May
  History comes to life at the little farm in the Pinney Woods of Morningside Nature Center. Join us for Living History Days as park staff interpret day-to-day life on an 1870s rural Florida farm. Come try a syrup-topped biscuit or cornbread baked in a wood cook stove. The Living History Days are free and take place every Saturday. The Living History Farm is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

- **Frogs and Friends Friday**: First Friday of the month at 2 p.m., Sept.-May
  Youngsters, with an adult, can join a Morningside Nature Center animal caretaker for a fun and education program where awesome amphibians and remarkable reptiles are the stars of the show. This free program begins at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. Frogs and Friends Friday dates are Jan.4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5 and May 3.

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

- **Thomas Center Galleries**: Gainesville's Historic Evergreen Cemetery: This Wondrous Place runs through Saturday, March 23 in the Main Gallery. Curated by Burton J. “Jimi” Brown, J.D. Ph.D. with Susan Stewart, this new history and art exhibition tells the story of the 53-acre Evergreen Cemetery from its founding in 1856 and shines light on the many important historical figures for which it is their final resting place. Showcasing Student Art (Secondary) runs through Friday, Feb. 22-Saturday, March 30 in the Mezzanine Gallery. This exhibit celebrates artworks by Alachua County Public Schools’ secondary school students.

- The 27th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire was a huge success with record-breaking attendance each day. Approximately 52,000 people attended the faire throughout both weekends, and 57 percent of attendees came from outside the county. The second Saturday broke the faire’s single-day record with more than 15,000 visitors. Friday, School Day, showed a huge increase in half-price ticket sales compared to previous years. A total of 5,000 guests from 26 counties throughout Florida pre-registered to attend Friday’s school day for an educational field trip that complemented their studies of the Middle Ages. Five days of beautiful weather made this one of the best faires yet. The event coordinators would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Gainesville community, sponsors, city staff, volunteers and city services for their continued support.

**Aquatics contact**: Jeff Moffitt – 352-393-8732

- **Don’t forget that the Northeast Pool is open year-round!** This year marks the third year the pool has been heated and open year-round. Remember, city employees and their spouse/domestic partner get in free with their city ID! Winter hours after are:
  - M-F, lap swim from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and open swim from 3-7 p.m.
  - Sat., noon – 5 p.m.
  - Sun., closed

**Please note**: The pool blankets will not be removed from the pool when the ambient air temperature is at or below 60°F. If forecasts call for freezing conditions, the pool will not open to the general public or aquatic user groups. If the wind is over 15 mph, aquatic staff will not put the blankets on or remove them until such time as the wind velocity drops below 15 mph. This applies to steady wind velocity as well as wind gusts. Aquatic staff will make every attempt possible to accommodate our patrons, but safety and protection of equipment must be of primary concern. The Aquatic Supervisor or his/her designee will make the final decision regarding covering and uncovering the pool.
Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool will serve as a host site for the United States Water Fitness Association’s National Certification Course for water fitness instructors. This is one of only two sites in Florida to offer the certification. The class will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The fee is $247. The registration deadline is March 16, 2013. Anyone interested in becoming a certified water fitness or water aerobics instructor should plan to attend. For more information, or to register, please visit www.uswfa.com or call 561-732-9908.

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is offering American Red Cross Lifeguarding Classes over the next several months at the Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool. The fees are $175, which includes 30 hours of instruction, books and all materials. The class is open to anyone age 16 and up. Session 1 runs Feb. 22, 23, 25 and 26 and Session 2 runs March 4, 6, 8 and 9. Additional dates will be offered in late March, April and May. For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.

**Economic Development & Innovation**

Economic Development & Innovation contact: Erik Bredfeldt – 352-334-5012

- On March 5, staff will attend the 5th Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood Meeting to review economic development activities.

**Planning and Development Services**

Planning and Development Services contact: Erik Bredfeldt – 352-334-5012

- On Feb. 21, staff will wrap up interviews regarding the Building Official position. It is anticipated that a recommendation regarding a candidate will be made the week of Feb. 25.
- On Feb. 26, staff will attend the monthly meeting of the Innovation Square Team in the GRU Multipurpose Room at 2 p.m.

**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 demolition phase of the GPD Headquarters construction project is going as planned. The construction company is making progress and the demolition is expected to be complete by the next bi-weekly period. Please check GPD’s website for updates on the construction project.
- On Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m., the Gainesville Police Department will hold another Town Hall Meeting at Gainesville High School Ninth Grade Center. We are planning to discuss the 2012 accomplishments of GPD and Chief Jones will also discuss his goals for 2013. Chief Jones and members of the GPD Command Staff will be in attendance. We hope to see you all there!

The next report will cover March 7-20, 2013. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, February 28. For more information, please contact Laura Rawson at extension 8740.