

*Prepared for the City Commission, May 7-20, 2015*

## City Manager

- ✓ **Thank you, Commissioners Hinson-Rawls and Poe, for serving the City of Gainesville as commissioner.** We appreciate the hard work and dedication you gave the city and its residents over the years and wish you the best in your future endeavors! **The last meeting for the outgoing commissioners, known as sine die, will be held at the regular scheduled City Commission meeting Thursday, May 7.**
- ✓ **The swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner-elect Harvey Budd and Commissioner-elect Charles Goston will be held Thursday, May 21 at 12 p.m.** at the Thelma Boltin Center.
- ✓ **The Office of Equal Opportunity is hosting a Small Business Workshop Wednesday, May 27 from 4-7 p.m. at GRU admin building,** which is located at 301 SE Fourth Ave. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about doing business with the city and GRU, learn about the types of items and services purchased by the city, how to prepare a bid package and much more! For more information, please contact Sylvia Warren at 352-334-5051 or [warrensd@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:warrensd@cityofgainesville.org).
- ✓ **At the time of this publication, the following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
  - **Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m.:** Special City Commission meeting about the Land Development Code Update in the GRU Multi-Purpose Room

## Capital Projects

- ✓ **Plans for Fire station no. 1 on South Main Street continue to move forward.** It is anticipated that demolition of existing structures on the construction site will begin in late spring or early summer. Contact Assistant Chief JoAnne Rice at 352-393-8377 for information.
- ✓ **Cofrin Nature Park, which is located at 4810 NW Eighth Ave., remains closed** for major structural repairs to stabilize the shoreline of Beville Creek, a stream that bisects the park. It is anticipated that the **park will reopen in August 2015.** Historic attempts by previous land owners to stabilize the shoreline from severe erosion included installation of wooden retaining walls. Over time, these walls have crumbled, and the walls and shoreline are now crumbling and falling into the creek. Park structures that are situated close to the creek are in jeopardy, and the loose dirt poses safety risks for park patrons standing too close to the shoreline. Additionally, the water quality of the creek is compromised downstream due to the addition of silt to the water stemming from the crumbling shoreline. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department has hired a contractor to begin shoreline stabilization efforts. For public safety reasons, the entire park must be shut down while the contractor is working. Please contact Linda Demetroupolos at 352-393-8445 for more information.
- ✓ **Phase 2 of the Main Street streetscape** project started in December, with anticipated completion around mid-May 2015. The scope of the project includes brick paver installation between South First and Second Avenues on Main Street, public art, low-impact development stormwater treatment landscaping areas, street trees, benches and bike racks. Paver install south of University Avenue is complete, while paver install north of University Avenue is about 60 percent complete. Additionally, three low-impact development stormwater basins have been excavated and planted. 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.

- ✓ Construction of the **rail-trail landscaping project** began in late February and is about 75 percent complete, with anticipated completion around mid-May 2015. The purpose of the project is to clear existing overgrowth along the rail-trail and install landscaping and hardscaping to increase the use and appearance of the rail-trail in this area between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This project is consistent with the city’s Comprehensive Plan, which states the city will “provide a safe, convenient, accessible, comfortable, continuous, and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that promotes walking...” and “is conducive to bicycling.” 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.
- ✓ **Construction of the Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Place sidewalks, Phase 2, began, as scheduled, on April 13 with anticipated completion in mid-June 2015.** The project’s scope includes drainage upgrades and the construction of a sidewalk on the north side of Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Place between Southwest 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Southwest 32<sup>nd</sup> Terrace. The north shoulder of Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Place, between Southwest 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Southwest 32<sup>nd</sup> Terrace, will be closed during construction. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager at 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **A new, shorter pedestrian and ADA-compliant walkway has opened on the Depot Avenue reconstruction project.** The walkway is paved and marked by orange construction fencing. Pedestrians should stay inside the fencing for their safety as construction work continues. The temporary path will allow residents of Royal Village and surrounding areas to access the RTS bus service and the UF campus. The path will remain in place until the permanent trail is completed later this summer. Additional information can be found on the [project website](#) or by contacting Chip Skinner, public information officer, at [SkinnerC@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:SkinnerC@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-7842.

## Communications Office

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

- ✓ The Communications Office is **offering website training for staff responsible for updating and maintaining departmental Web pages.** Mark your calendars now for one of four sessions: Wednesday, May 13 and Thursday, May 14 (8-11:30 a.m. or 1-4:30 p.m. each day). Please note, each session is limited to 13 attendees, and attendees must have preapproval from the supervisor or department head to edit the city’s website. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Rawson at [rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org).

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

- ✓ GFR is accepting applications for its **new summer camp that is available to incoming kindergartners. The [ABCs of Safety camp](#) is offered Aug. 17-20** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Kiwanis Safety City. Please contact GFR at 393-8461 or GPD at 393-7753 for more information.

- ✓ **Project Get Alarmed helps those who cannot afford smoke detectors.** Applications are [available online](#) or by calling Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. For information on **Safe Assembly Training classes**, please call 334-5065.

**GFR Support Services Bureau contact: Asst. Chief Rusty Barrett – 352-393-8459**

- ✓ Gainesville Fire Rescue continues to provide **CPR and related course offerings to the community through its Operation C.A.R.E** or Citizens Aiding in Response to Emergencies. The program is being provided on a fee basis by the City Of Gainesville to increase the number of persons who can perform CPR, first aid and other skills during an emergency until help can arrive. For more information, please visit [gfr.org/community\\_training](http://gfr.org/community_training).

## Public Works

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

- ✓ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is hosting a **National Bike Month event Wednesday, May 27 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the courtyard of City Hall**, which is located at 200 E. University Ave. This event continues Gainesville's celebration of May as National Bike Month (established in 1956) and recognizes bicycle related efforts, outreach and accomplishments of area businesses, programs, groups and individuals. Several local groups will have an opportunity to address the public about bicycle-related innovations and projects, as well as provide an overview of recent events held in our area. To have your group participate or for more information, please contact Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Coordinator Dekova Batey at 352-334-5070 or [bikeped@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org). Visit their website at [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).
- ✓ **Summer bus service is scheduled to begin Monday, May 4 with reduced service.** There will also be a number of changes to routes and service for the summer months including new routes, route alignments and changes to frequencies of buses.
  - RTS will have four new routes operating this summer: Route 3 (formerly 2B); Route 24 (formerly 24B); Route 26 (formerly 24A) and Route 711 (formerly 11C). Route 41 has been permanently discontinued.
  - Routes 21, 27, 28, 36, 39, 62, 76 and 77 will be suspended throughout the summer, but will return to service for the fall. Later Gator service will be suspended until Wednesday, July 1.
  - Alignment changes have been made to Routes 2, 6 and 46. Frequencies of buses have also changed on many routes. These changes may be viewed online or in the printed RTS schedule.
  - Reduced service will run Monday, May 4 – Sunday, May 10. There are no changes to routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 26, 43, 75 and 711. Routes 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 34 and 35 will run less frequently. There will be no service on the UF campus, nor on routes 38 and 46. Routes running during reduced service are marked by an "R" in the printed and online versions of the schedule. There will be no changes to paratransit service. These impacts are relative to the summer schedule only. Normal summer service will start Monday, May 11.

Visit the RTS website at [www.go-rt.com](http://www.go-rt.com) or call 352-334-2600 for general schedule information.

- ✓ Once again, **RTS will participate in the Sweet Dreams Touch-A-Truck event Saturday, May 16** at the MLK Center located off of Waldo Road. The event is free of charge and open to the public. This is a great opportunity for the family to find out more about RTS buses and other equipment the city uses on a regular basis.
- ✓ May is always a busy month for **RTS for public school outreach events**. RTS staff will present to C.W. Norton and Duval Elementary Schools in May. Staff explains the bus system, and allows children to see how the bus operates and ask questions about working at RTS.
- ✓ **RTS offices will be closed and bus service suspended Monday, May 25 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday**. Paratransit service will also be suspended.
- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is coordinating/participating in the following:**
  - Wednesday, May 13 at 5 p.m.: Rawlings Elementary 21st Century Afterschool Program Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Presentation (3500 NE 35th St.)
  - Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m.: National Bike Month Presentation at Tower Road Library (3020 SW 75th St.)
  - Friday, May 15 at 1 p.m.: Headstart 50th Birthday Celebration at Fearnside Family Service Center (3600 NE 15th St.)
  - Tuesday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.: Florida Virtual Elementary School Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Presentation at Gainesville Fire Rescue (1025 NE 13th St.)
  - Wednesday, May 20 at 2 p.m.: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) staff meeting at GRU Administration Building, General Purpose Meeting Room (301 SE Fourth Ave.)

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). Visit [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

**Recreation contact: Ben Dilliard – 352-393-8192**

- ✓ Through a partnership with Community Code, Santa Fe College and Legacy of Hope-Partnership for Porters, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is hosting **SciGirls events once per month at the Porters Community Center**, which is located at 512 SW Second Terrace. The purpose is to get young girls interested in STEM subjects and show them what the future can hold in these fields. The **next free event is Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** The featured speaker is Manisha Ranade, who will help participants explore holographic projects. Lunch is provided. The program is open to all girls in the Porters Community in grades 3–8.
- ✓ The **Foundations After-School Program aims to foster ethical values and teach academic and life skills for youth**. The **program is offered through June 4, 2015**. Participants will be involved in structured activities, such as tutoring, homework help, arts/crafts, recreation and sporting activities. All children are welcome, but pre-registration is required. Space is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Please note, transportation is not provided for this program. The program is for kids in first-eighth grade with convenient locations at four recreation and community centers (Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation, Eastside Community, Clarence R. Kelly Community and Porters Community Centers). For full details, visit our [After-School Programs](#) page or call 352-334-5067.
- ✓ **Need a place for your kids to go on teacher work days or school holidays? Out-of-School Days is a convenient option for busy parents. Let's work together to give your child a foundation for success!**

During camp, kids enjoy games, activities and crafts that encourage achievement, a sense of community, good health and strong character! The **remaining dates for 2014–15 are:**

- Friday, June 5, 2015 (teacher workday)

Camps are located at Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center, 1001 NW 34th St., and Eastside Community Center, 2841 E. University Ave. Hours of operation are 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and the camp is offered for children in first through eighth grades. Cost per day is \$5.50 for city residents and \$8.40 for non-city residents. Proof of residency, such as a GRU bill or voter ID card, is required at the time of registration.

- ✓ **Sign up for [Summer Camp](#):** With five great options, planning for a fun-filled summer is easy!
  - [Earth Academy Day Camp](#) (grades 1–6): Nature and science-based camp offered at Morningside Nature Center
  - [Golf Camp at Ironwood](#) (ages 6–17): Children learn golfing skills
  - [Summer Vacation Camps](#) (grades 1–5): Great fun, field trips, sports and more
  - [Middle-School Summer Camp](#) (grades 6–8): Focus on art, music, video and photography, computers, personal finance, life skills and mentoring
  - [Junior Lifeguard Camp](#) (ages 11–15): All campers will learn the primary responsibilities of a lifeguard and complete a American Red Cross First Aid/AED/First Aid certification

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

- ✓ **Swim lessons are offered for children ages 6 months to adults.** The focus is on fun, safety and basic swimming skills. Swim lessons are available **this spring at the Dwight H. Hunter (Northeast) Pool**, which is located at 1100 NE 14th St., offering convenient evening sessions. Class times depend on which level the child is in. For more information, and a full schedule, please visit the [Swimming Lessons Web page](#). The fee is \$44.50 for city residents and \$67.75 for non-city residents. **Registration is now available.**
- ✓ **Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading registration is open!** There are no tryouts and everyone participates. Youth compete and practice with others of similar age and size. Register early and save \$10! These programs are open to boys and girls age five through 15, and divisions are determined by age and weight. The regular season is August-October. New this year: A free physical will be offered Saturday, June 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the UF Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Institute, located at 3450 Hull Road. Please bring a printed copy of the Pop Warner Fitness and Medical History Form provided in the registration packet for your child to receive the physical. For more information, please visit the [youth 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. If you participate in four or more biathlons (before the final race), you will receive a free t-shirt and a free entry to the last race on Sept. 12. The **series continues Saturday, May 16 at Westside Pool**. For more information, or to register, please contact the PRCA Department at 334-5067.
- ✓ For more information about the specific **American Red Cross certification courses**, schedules and prerequisites, visit the [lifeguarding and safety courses Web page](#). [Lifeguarding Certification and Re-Certification](#) (age 15 and older) - Get certified to qualify for great summer jobs! Several sessions are available starting in April. The certification fee is \$175, and

includes books and materials. The re-certification is \$90, with materials available for class use and purchase.

Lifeguarding Instructor Certification (age 17 and older) - Do you want to get your lifeguard instructor certification so that you can teach lifeguarding courses this summer? American Red Cross Lifeguarding (ARC) Instructor Course certifies successful graduates to teach all ARC lifeguarding courses, including first aid and CPR/AED skills. The fee is \$275, and participants must register by May 6 (begins May 13). Nightly coursework will be given.

American Red Cross Adult/Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Certification Course (age 11 and older) - Join the ranks of those who can spring into action when trouble strikes - sign up today to get certified in CPR, first aid and AED. The fee is \$60, and includes books and materials.

- ✓ **Aqua-Fit water aerobics** is a low/medium-intensity class offers more aerobic cardio and core training which also focuses on flexibility and total body toning. Aqua-Fit **classes are held at the Dwight H. Hunter "Northeast" Pool (1100 NE 14th St.)**. All instructors are certified.  
**Times:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
**Ages:** 13 and older  
**Fee:** \$2.55 a class or buy 8 classes (\$20.40) and get 2 classes free!

- ✓ **Spring operating hours for municipal pools are as follows (began March 16):**

Northeast Pool

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

Westside Pool (opened May 1)

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

Mickle Pool (reopens May 22)

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

- ✓ Be a part of helping to keep our natural areas well-maintained and free of trash and invasive plants. Individuals and organizations can be part of the **Gainesville Greenway Challenge, offering year-round volunteer opportunities for invasive plant removal**. Please contact [gnavgreenwaychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gnavgreenwaychallenge@gmail.com) to learn more!

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

- ✓ **The Jewel Box Concert Series** at the historic Thomas Center continues with the following performances.
  - **George Tortorelli and Lisa Lynne Franco perform Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.** George Tortorelli is a master bamboo flute designer and player. He has been a multi-instrumentalist since the age of 12. Lisa Lynne is a Celtic harpist, a composer and new age recording artist. She is a self-proclaimed multi-instrumentalist who has spent the last 18 years pursuing her passion for the Celtic harp.
  - **Terry Barber** performs Sunday, May 17. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the music begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 at the door – cash or checks only, please. Internationally renowned countertenor Terry Barber has performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages, including New York City's Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Moscow's Svetlanov Hall and London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. With more than 100 international solo tour dates, and past member of a multiple-Grammy winning group, Barber has been selected by the Department of Culture to represent the State of Florida, as one of ten new tours to receive a state touring grant.

- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *TIGHTROPE: Betwixt the Magical & the Macabre* is in the Main Gallery March 26-May 30. *ROOM WITH A VIEW* showcases paintings inspired by time spent beneath the open Florida sky. The open view across the Mezzanine Gallery, the constantly changing natural light and the luminous and large works of art combine to create a dazzling display for the viewer. *ROOM FOR REFLECTION* Photographs by Jan Zamojski is a body of single-exposure photographs capturing the reflected play of light on glass through both the camera lens and the sensitive eye of the artist. This [dual exhibit](#) is in the Mezzanine Gallery and the Mary F. Prosen Room Friday, May 8 through Saturday, June 20. The opening reception is Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m., with a concert at 7 p.m.

## Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Wednesday, May 13 the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a meeting at GRU **regarding infrastructure availability in the vicinity of Southwest Archer Road and I-75, and prospects for area redevelopment.**
- ✓ On Thursday, May 14, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend the **monthly meeting of the Alachua County’s Economic Development Committee.**

## 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 May 21-June 3, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, May 14. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*