

Prepared for the City Commission, September 17-30, 2015

City Manager

- ✓ 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, Sept. 24 (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)– [Second Annual Spud Bar](#) at Thomas Center B
 - Monday, Nov. 2 – [Gas card \(\\$50 value\) raffle](#) – do not need to be present to win
- ✓ 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)

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 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)

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)

- ✓ 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

Capital Projects

- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue Station No. 1:** Gainesville Fire Rescue managers continue to work with Facilities staff and architects to develop the design for Station 1 to present to the City Commission. A contract has been completed with Gilbane for the manager-at-risk. For more information, contact interim Deputy Chief JoAnne Rice at 352-393-8377.
- ✓ **Traffic Striping and Signage:** Installation of bicycle boulevard, pedestrian and traffic striping and signage on Northwest Second Avenue from North Main Street to the Sixth Street Rail-Trail was completed this past weekend. The project survey and design was completed by Public Works staff, and is being constructed in part by Public Works staff. For more information, please contact Shawn Webber, project manager, at webbersd@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8803.
- ✓ **Southwest Third Avenue Sidewalk:** At the intersection of Southwest Third Avenue and Southwest 10th Street, ending at Deco 39 Apartments, a sidewalk, disabled accessible ramps and a pedestrian crossing are in the process of construction. The project survey and design was completed by Public Works staff, and construction is being completed under the contract for annual citywide sidewalk construction/replacement. For more information, please contact Shawn Webber, project manager, at webbersd@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8803.
- ✓ **Northeast Eighth Avenue Crosswalks (200 – 500):** The Northeast Eighth Avenue crosswalk project is complete. Two crosswalks were installed along Northeast Eighth Avenue with rectangular rapid flashing beacons. The project began July 27 and was completed Sept. 8, after multiple rain delays. The project included the installation of handicap accessible ramps, brickwork, striping and signage and cost \$54,376. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or 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. Sod and seed is currently being installed to help stabilize the site. 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.
- ✓ **Traffic Signal Mast Arm Painting:** The Public Works Department hired Viktor Construction Corp to complete a maintenance project starting July 22, which was completed in early September. The project consisted of repainting five traffic signal mast arms located on West University Avenue and Southwest 34th Street. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at waiteed@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **West Sixth Street Rail Trail – Seventh Avenue Curb Ramps:** This small project will construct curb ramps in alignment with the rail-trail at the crossing of Northwest Seventh Avenue, just south of the GPD campus. The construction proposal was submitted and final design is underway. Construction is expected to begin in September 2015. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **West Sixth Street Trail Landscaping – Phase 2:** This project proposes to extend the recently completed landscaping along the Sixth Street Rail-Trail between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16th Avenue. The limits for this phase of the project are between University Avenue and Northwest Seventh Avenue. Bid documents have been prepared and routed for processing. Request for City Commission approval and construction are expected this fall. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at broadusm@cityofgainesville.org or 352-393-8406.

Communications Office

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

- ✓ Broadcast staff **released a video covering [the Freedom in Motion kickoff](#)**. Freedom in Motion is a public-private partnership between the City of Gainesville, ElderCare of Alachua County, the Chamber of Commerce and Uber, and is a pilot project for Uber app-based transportation to provide Gainesville’s seniors an additional option for safe, convenient and affordable transportation.
- ✓ On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Broadcast staff will install **upgrades to the audio system in the City Hall auditorium**.
- ✓ **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 begins meeting for evaluation sessions Sept. 21**. 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

- ✓ 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 Family Fire Safety Expo Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fire Station no. 3** (900 NE Waldo Rd.). Demonstrations include fire suppression and hazardous materials mitigation; home fire sprinkler effectiveness; technical rescue and EMS. Activities for children will include face painting, spraying a fire hose, rescue drills and more. This event is free and open to the public.
- ✓ **Project Get Alarmed helps those who cannot afford smoke detectors**. Applications are [available online](#) or by calling Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR’s Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. 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:
 - Thursday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m.: Alachua County Community Traffic Safety Team meeting at Santa Fe – Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) (2153 SE Hawthorne Rd.)
 - Saturday, Sept. 19 at 9:30 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Gainesville Twins Club at GFR’s Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)
 - Monday, Sept. 21 at 5 p.m.: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) - Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Workshop at Senior Recreation Center (5701 NW 34th St.)
 - Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for Fun 4 Gator Kids at GFR’s Safety City (1025 NE 13th St.)
 - Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m.: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO) – Technical Advisory Committee area staff meeting at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (2009 NW 67th Pl.)
 - Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) meeting at Alachua County Administrative Building (12 SE First St.)
 - Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 10 a.m.: Bike Safety Presentation for home school group 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 September are Sept 26 (Tennessee).

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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

- ✓ **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):**

<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	<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
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Mickle Pool (Aug. 24-Oct. 4)
M-F: 3-7 p.m., Open/Lap Swim
SA: 12-5 p.m., Open/Lap Swim
SU: CLOSED

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

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

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

- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and continue through May!
 - C'mon home to the Living History Farm and experience a time when the rooster's crow and the rising sun, not an alarm clock, welcomed a new day! During **Living History Days**, interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm. Living History Days take place the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all year long. The 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.

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

Recreation Contact: Ben Dillard- 352-393-8192

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ✓ **PRCA invites you to apply as a merchant for the 30th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire!** The faire, which will be held Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 5-7, transforms the Alachua County Fairgrounds into a medieval market place. In keeping with the faire’s authentic atmosphere, all crafts and wares should be consistent with the medieval theme. Participants must follow the faire’s guidelines by wearing medieval attire, speaking with a medieval accent and booths must be decorated in the appropriate medieval style. Artist applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, Nov. 2. For more information and application guidelines, visit www.hoggetownefaire.com or call 393-8536.
- ✓ **From Aug. 7 to Oct. 23, downtown Gainesville comes alive every Friday night from 8-10 p.m. as local and regional bands and performing arts are showcased under the stars at the “Free Fridays” concert series.** Each year thousands come out to enjoy the free, live concerts in a family-friendly environment. This year’s “Free Fridays” opening was delayed due to the closure of the Bo Diddley Community Plaza for renovations. The City of Gainesville has purchased a mobile stage which will be delivered in late July. The mobile stage will be placed in parking lot no. 10 at the [corner of Southwest Second Avenue and Southwest Second Street](#) in downtown Gainesville. This is the same location that the Union Street Farmers Market occupies on Wednesdays. For more

information, please call 352-393-8746. To view the complete 2015 concert series schedule, please [click here](#). Upcoming “Free Fridays” concerts include:

- **Sept. 18: De Lions of Jah** (reggae)
 - **Sept. 25: The Shambles** (classic rock)
- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** The *BEAUTY & THE BEASTS* art exhibition is in the Historic Thomas Center’s Main and Mezzanine galleries through Saturday, Sept. 26. *BEAUTY & THE BEASTS* invites the viewer to explore a menagerie of images inspired by curiosity and connection with the creatures of land, sea and air. From beastly creatures to man’s best friend, the images of over 30 artists who find their muse in the animal kingdom are showcased in this expansive exhibition of drawings, paintings, and sculpture is curated by Anne E. Gilroy.

Economic Development & Innovation

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

- ✓ On Friday, Sept. 18, a **meeting on jobs/life skills and workforce development training will be held at the GRACE Marketplace** at 12 p.m.
- ✓ On Thursday, Sept. 24, the Economic Development & Innovation Director **will attend the monthly GACRAA meeting** at the Gainesville Regional Airport.
- ✓ On Tuesday, Sept. 29, a **meeting will be held to discuss an RFP associated with the Army Reserve property** on Northeast Eighth Avenue.

Planning and Development Services

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

- ✓ **The following projects were submitted to Planning and Development Services for final review:**
 - Drury Hotel located at 4000 SW 40th Blvd.
 - Staybridge Suites/Holiday Inn Express located at 3405 SW 40th Blvd.
 - Aldi Food Store located on the 3700 block of Northwest 13th Street
 - McDonalds located at 6003 W. University Ave.
 - Autozone located at 3208 SW Archer Road
 - Cade Museum located on the 800 block of South Main Street
 - Gainesville Ridge Townhouses (178 units) located at 3718 SW 24th Ave.
- ✓ **The following new projects were submitted to Planning and Development Services for review:**
 - Butler Plaza Town Center located at 3207 SW 35th Blvd.
 - Northwest 13th Street Publix located at 203 NW 13th Street
 - University Commons (64 unit addition) located at 2601 SW Archer Road
 - North Florida Cataract Specialists located at 4311 NW 8th Ave.
 - Woodland Park Redevelopment (affordable housing redevelopment) Master Plan located at 1900 SE 4th Street

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 monthly **Police Advisory Council meeting will be held in GPD's Hall of Heroes Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.** The Police Advisory Committee meets every month to discuss current issues involving the police department and national issues. It is a committee that is comprised of leaders in the community who volunteer their time to this committee. The committee welcomes everyone to come to the meeting and discuss issues in their neighborhood with them and Chief Tony Jones.

The next report will cover October 1-14, 2015. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, September 24. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.