



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2024-556

Agenda Date: February 5, 2026

Department: Office of Communications & Marketing

Title: 2024-556 Informational Item: Upcoming City Events List (NB)

Department: Office of Communications & Marketing

Description: An informational report to summarize upcoming events of interest to the City Commission.

Fiscal Note: There is no fiscal impact.

Explanation: The following provides a list of events coordinated or supported by the City of Gainesville from February 07, 2026 through April 4, 2026.

Florida Invitational Step Show: The Stroll

Bo Diddley Plaza

Saturday, Feb. 7

12 – 3 p.m.

Summary: Join us on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 12 to 3 p.m. at Bo Diddley Plaza for a free celebration featuring a step show/stroll by Black Greek organizations from Florida and the Southeast, local youth dance groups, and music. Enjoy food trucks and community tabling by Divine Nine organizations. Hosted in partnership with the University of Florida's Black Student Union and Florida Invitational Step Show Committee.

State of the City Address

Historic Thomas Center

Wednesday, Feb. 18

10 a.m.

Summary: During this annual keynote, Mayor Harvey L. Ward will highlight the City of Gainesville's progress toward its strategic goals and vision for Gainesville.

Gainesville Unplugged

Morningside Nature Center

Saturday, February 21

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Summary: Step away from the screens and reconnect with nature at Gainesville Unplugged! This community celebration brings together music, makers, food, and fun—

all in the beautiful setting of Morningside Nature Center. Explore local vendors offering wellness and nature-inspired products, enjoy live entertainment, and try your hand at creative projects in the makers area. Families can learn and play at interactive educational stations, while everyone can relax, build community, and rediscover the benefits of living unplugged.

Rosa Parks Day

Rosa Parks Transfer Station

Tuesday, February 24

11 a.m.

Summary: Local leaders, along with members of the Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Committee, invite all neighbors to celebrate the legacy of Rosa Parks at this ceremony to commemorate the civil rights activist who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. Her actions sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and helped fuel the Civil Rights Movement and the end of racial segregation.

Yes in God's Backyard (YIGBY) Informational Session

Alachua County Health Department

Wednesday, Feb. 25

1:30 – 4 p.m.

Summary: The Florida Housing Coalition, in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, invites houses of worship, nonprofit organizations, housing advocates, and local government housing and planning staff to attend this YIGBY (Yes In God's Backyard) session for unlocking affordable housing opportunities on faith-owned land. This will provide practical guidance on how recent Florida state legislation enables affordable housing development on religious-owned land, and how communities can effectively move projects from concept to completion.

Summer Camp Hiring Event

Location: TBD

Saturday, March 14

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Summary: Join PRCA on Saturday, March 14 for the annual Summer Camp Hiring Event. This will include onsite interviews, required employment paperwork, and on the spot selections. Successful applicants are hired as seasonal full-time employees for the city's eight-week Adventures in Play Summer Camp. For up-to-date location and information, visit the PRCA Facebook page.

Revolutionary America – Tea for Felicity

Historic Thomas Center Gardens

Sunday, March 29

2 p.m.

Summary: Felicity's story takes place in 1774, as she navigates the tensions of the American Revolution. Interactive Activities: Reading of the Declaration of Independence; Quill and ink writing demonstration; Live string orchestra music with the Wirebirds and dance lessons; Tea party etiquette; other key Revolutionary Era events.

Free Fridays Concert Series

Bo Diddley Plaza

Friday, April 3

7 p.m.

Summary: The region's longest-running and largest free outdoor concert series resumes for 2025. Free Fridays features local and regional musical talent at Bo Diddley Plaza. Our concerts under the stars showcase diverse musical acts sure to delight music lovers with classic rock, reggae, R & B, soul, ska, funk, blues and more. Each Friday night from 7-9 p.m. features a new band that brings their original and cover tunes to the plaza concert stage. Free Fridays—it's where to be on Friday nights!

Gainesville Asian Festival

Bo Diddley Plaza

Saturday, April 4

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Summary: Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage with the City of Gainesville at the 3rd Annual Gainesville Asian Festival! The event features a captivating schedule of performances, food trucks, craft vendors, and tabling organizations. As you journey through the festival, collect stamps from booths to redeem for exciting prizes.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: "Best in Class" Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission receive the informational list.