



A Word from Council Member Danny Dunagan

Like most governments, businesses, and family budgets we are looking for ways to keep spending to a minimum in these times of financial uncertainty. At the direction of City Manager [Bryan Shuler](#), the City Council is supporting the following five recommendations: hiring freeze for all general fund positions, suspension of all general fund capital spending (except for what is necessary for the public safety complex), departmental budget reductions of at least five percent, grant applications requiring matching funds must be approved by both the City Manager and City Council prior to consideration, and all non-essential travel/training curtailed.



It is our hope these measures will see us through our immediate concerns. We will continue to evaluate the City's financial position and take all necessary steps to keep our City financially sound. As always, we appreciate the support and the input from the community. If you have any questions or comments about your City, e-mail citycouncil@gainesville.org or call 770-535-6865.



Gainesville Police Department

Public Safety Facility

The design process is continuing on the new Gainesville Public Safety facility. The Gainesville Police Department and Fire Station Number One will be located on the same parcel of land, but in different buildings. The police and municipal court facility will be approximately 52,000 square feet. The Municipal Court could also serve as Council Chambers for the City.

The fire station will be approximately 25,000 square feet and will also contain fire administration.

The estimated completion date for both projects is June 2010.



Tax Bills

More than 12,000 tax bills have been mailed to Gainesville property owners. The bills are due December 22. Each year, the City's tax office answers questions like the ones below.



- 1. I sold the property in the middle of the year, why did I get a City tax bill?** The City gets a file from Hall County in the fall of each year. By State law we bill who owns the property as of January 1st of that tax year. If you receive a tax bill on property you have sold, you will need to forward it to the new owner. By state law if you owned it on January 1st you are held responsible for making sure the tax bill is paid. If a tax lien is filed on the property (for unpaid taxes) it would be filed on that property but under your name.
- 2. Why didn't I get the exemption I signed up for?** Exemptions are applied for through the Hall County Assessor's Office. If you did not receive the exemption you applied for please contact them at (770) 531-6720. If they make a correction, they will send the City Tax Office a correction for the City tax bill.
- 3. Why didn't you send the bill to the mortgage company?** The City bills the taxpayer and it is their responsibility to forward to their mortgage company. We have no way of knowing if a mortgage company changes. It also saves the City money by not having to print and mail duplicate bills, which in the long run saves the taxpayer money.
- 4. What if I don't have the money to pay my taxes?** All taxes are due by the due date. A 1% interest is charged beginning the day after the due date. If you are unable to pay all your taxes at once, please contact our office and we will be happy to work with you on the situation, however we still have to charge the 1% interest monthly until the tax is paid in full.

You can pay your taxes by mail or in person on the first floor of the Joint Administration Building located at 300 Henry Ward Way. If you have questions about your bill please call the [City Tax Office](tel:770-535-5639) at 770-535-5639.



Monument Conservation Workshop

The City of Gainesville is teaming up with the [Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division](#) and the [Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association](#) to host a monument conservation workshop at Alta Vista Cemetery Friday, October 31, 2008. There is a \$60 fee for the class. Registration begins at 8:30am followed by the class at 9:00am. Attendees will learn about types of monuments, why different types fail, the proper way to clean and reset monuments, and how to best repair

fractured monuments. The cemetery office is located at 521 Jones Street.

For more information, or to register in advance, call Cemetery Superintendent [Vince Evans](#) at 770-535-6883.

12th Annual Trick or Treat on the Square

If you're looking for a fun and safe way to trick-or-treat bring the whole family downtown for the 12th Annual Trick or Treat on the Square Friday, October 31 from 3:00pm-5:00pm. The event is sponsored by [Main Street Gainesville](#) and more than 40 downtown merchants. In addition to candy from the merchants, the event will also include face painting by Cherry-O the Clown, a moonwalk and a kiddie train.



Eye on Gainesville

The November edition of *Eye on Gainesville* features the dedication ceremony of the Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community Center. Host [Catiel Felts](#) is joined by Gainesville Parks and Recreation Marketing-Communications Coordinator, Julie Butler, for information on all the recreational opportunities available during the cooler months with the Annual Passport. There's never a joining fee at the Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community Center. *Eye on Gainesville* can be seen every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 12:30pm, 7:00pm and 11:30pm on TV18. And don't miss *Good Morning Gainesville* when TV18 broadcasts from Alter Ego Hair Salon on the square November 19-24.



Calendar of Events

Trick or Treat on the Square 10.31.08

3:00pm-5:00pm Gainesville Square

City Council Meeting 11.04.08

5:30pm Georgia Mountains Center

Friends of Gainesville Parks 11.06.08

5:30pm Civic Center

Second Saturday Meeting 11.08.08

10:00am Community Service Center

Gainesville Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 11.10.08

5:30pm Civic Center Board Room

Planning and Appeals Board Meeting 11.11.08

5:30pm Georgia Mountains Center

Gainesville Non-Profit Development Foundation Inc. 11.12.08

4:30pm Carol Lunday Center

City Council Work Session 11.13.08

9:00am 300 Henry Ward Way, Suite 303

City Council Meeting 11.18.08

9:00am Georgia Mountains Center

Historic Preservation Commission 11.18.08

5:30pm Georgia Mountains Center

Upstairs Downtown Holiday Open House 11.20.08

Main Street Gainesville 5:30pm

City Schools Early Release 11.25.08

City Offices Closed 11.27.08 and 11.28.08

Thanksgiving Holiday

Happy Birthday Gainesville 11.30.08

187 Years



City of Gainesville Newsletter

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Gainesville City Council: Mayor Myrtle W. Figueras, Mayor Pro-Tem Ruth Bruner, Council Member George Wangemann, Council Member Danny Dunagan, Council Member Robert L. Hamrick

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