



Gulfport Community Update

January 20 - 26, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City of Gulfport celebrated trees and their importance during the City's Arbor Day celebration Friday, January 18 at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex (photos below). Children enrolled in Gulfport Recreation School Year Child Care Program read poems, the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments, and Mayor Yakes & City Council Members helped plant a Live Oak sapling on Gulfport Beach. Free Pecan and Myrtle Leaf Holly seedlings were offered to guests.



Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made art and crafts, bath, body and wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. and special events on the first Tuesday of each month. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email dan@iqc.org.

Enjoy **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District February 1, 6- 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49th & 51st Streets. More than sixty awards will be presented in numerous categories ranging from best in show, best paint job, Mayor's Choice and more. Bring the whole family to enjoy the live music, shopping bazaar, costumed characters, and kiddy area! To register your classic car early, please contact the 49th Street South Business Association, email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 9 & 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information please visit www.pava-artists.org.

Dance the night away at the Gulfport Casino **Valentines Dance** on Thursday, February 14, 8 - 11 p.m. Enjoy live music by the 18 piece Lloyd Johns Gulf Bay Big Band. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Call 893-1070 for more information.

Join the City of Gulfport Recreation Division for **Family Fun Day** at Tomlinson Park on Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Enjoy inflatables, entertainment, free food, arts & crafts, and family competitions. For more information please call 727-893-1068.

Weekly Casino Ballroom Events

- Every Tuesday, 12 p.m.: Ballroom lessons, - \$7
- Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Argentine Tango Dance/ Lesson - \$7
- Every Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Swing Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2nd & 4th Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Offenses | 44 |
| Arrests | 6 |
| Traffic citations | 17 |

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to a residence in the 2600 block of 49th Street on the afternoon of January 15 after a caller reported his alarm company advised him the front door of his home was open. He discovered a pry mark on the door, and jewelry missing from the bedroom. There are no known suspects.

Officers were summoned to the Chase Dog Park on the afternoon of January 18 to serve a domestic violence injunction. Both the petitioner and respondent were at the park.

Officers responded to a 911 call regarding bricks being thrown at an occupied residence in the 1800 block of York street on the evening of January 18. Two chunks of concrete had been thrown through the home's windows, and the suspects were gone when police arrived.

Christopher Nickerson was arrested for grand theft on the afternoon of January 19 after he admitted he stole a television from his landlord and sold it for drugs.

Officers responded to an Attempted Burglary at Southwest Pinellas Storage on the afternoon of January 19 after a caller reported that someone had kicked the doors on two storage units, causing damage to both. The doors were buckled inward, but nothing appeared to have been stolen.

Officers assisted PCSO with a burglary investigation on January 20 after a woman stole numerous electronics from her cousin's home in the 5900 block of 102nd Avenue North, and brought them to her home in Gulfport. The items were found under her bed during a search of the property, and the woman admitted to stealing them so that her sister would "return her phone calls."

On the afternoon of January 20 an anonymous person notified GPD that Michal Teal who had an outstanding dealing in stolen property warrant from Hillsborough County was at a residence in the 5700 block of 19th Avenue. Teal was located and arrested.

Investigations:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| New Cases: | 9 |
| Cases Suspended - no leads | 3 |
| Cases Assigned: | 3 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 20 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 0 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 1 |
| Cases Referred Back to Patrol: | 0 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Supplements Received: | 31 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 3 |
| Previously cleared with Arrest: | 5 |
| Cases Closed-No Leads: | 3 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 0 |
| Exceptionally Cleared: | 0 |
| Cases Still Active: | 20 |

Sgt Woodman cleared 2 cases and arrested Nicholas Pastor on Burglary, Grand Theft, and Criminal Mischief charges. He also interviewed the alleged victim in a sexual battery case. She confessed that it was consensual (based on video and text evidence). Sgt. Woodman is working with PPPD detectives on another sexual battery case.

Detective Pham conducted a follow-up on an aggravated battery incident and spoke to the 13 year-old suspect who confessed to the alleged crime and was arrested. He and Sgt. Woodman also investigated a sexual battery case involving three high school students and determined the incident was unfounded. One of the juveniles was arrested for possession of child pornography because he recorded the activity with his cell phone.

Detective Embry has issued Probable Cause for the arrest of Ronald Nixon, a suspect involved in a burglary case he is investigating. He is also trying to locate Nicholas Reddick regarding another burglary case. Detective Embry has established a lead for Colleen Alicia and is attempting to locate her regarding in 3 separate cases under investigation.

This week School Resource Officer Motte mentored a student, mediated an altercation preventing a fight from occurring, assisted patrol with a burglary in progress, assisted Officer Beltran in arresting a combative student, and arrested a student for disorderly conduct. He also covered an after school Basketball game at Gibbs High School between Boca Ciega and Gibbs.

This week Analyst Palmisano continued tabulating the annual UCR report, conducted reviews of reports in ACISS with stolen property that has a known serial number for entry into FCIC, produced and distributed the open case list, and created and distributed a BOLO for Det. Pham regarding a Grand Theft case. She also worked in records for 10 hours.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand five hundred thirty seven (1,537) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred eight (1,408) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty seven (67) vessels.

Assisted in thirty one (31) pump-outs evacuating five hundred forty (540) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 41' sailboat, 41' motor boat and a 44' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

Staff Activities:

- Cleaned and rearranged storage area.
- Completed pump-maintenance.
- Replaced GFIC pier 6 slip 29.
- Replaced light over shrimp tank.
- Installed light at flagpole.
- Replaced pedestal lights on pier six.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Uploaded weekly programming schedule and events to City website and GTV615.
- Created questionnaire for City of Gulfport Website.
- Distributed February Events/Meetings calendar to all City facilities.
- Provided Control Room coverage for January 17 Council Workshop. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Photographed Arbor Day Celebration on Gulfport Beach.
- Attended Pinellas County Communications Department Public Information Officer meeting.
- Attended Pinellas County Fair meeting at City Hall.
- Addressed community inquiries about Citywide Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, March 16.

Parks

Built new home plates for Hoyt & Lum Fields.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Recreation Center grounds, picked up trash and emptied cans on Beach & Shore Boulevards, and raked around benches & pavilions.

Mowed Recreation Center field, City Complex, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, 28th Street signage area, Clymer, Veterans, Clam Bayou & Wood Ibis Parks, Marina area, Lions Club grounds, and York & 49th Street termini.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades and replaced filters on small equipment.

Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park & City complex.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for needed repairs.

Other Activities:

- All City park trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.
- Lowered and raised flags per Federal Order.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Want to go shopping? GEMS offers hourly trips to: South Pasadena on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays; the Tyrone shopping area on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, and; Walmart & Aldi every Tuesday afternoon. Call 893-2242 for more information on this door-to-door service.

Multipurpose Center

Multipurpose Center members who like to sing and love music are invited to sign up for a newly forming singing group. Stop by the Multipurpose Center or call Gail at 893-2237 for more information!

Come out and meet dance instructor Elaine Eastman and enjoy a **NEW Dance Fusion Exercise class** at Scout Hall on Monday, January 28 at 10:30 p.m.

Simone Healthcare will offer **free blood pressure screenings** in the Theater lobby on Thursday, January 31 beginning at 10 a.m.

The next **First Friday Mini Flea Market** is February 1, 9 a.m. - noon. Find great items at affordable prices while supporting Multipurpose Center special programs. Drop canned goods into the new "Love Bucket" for the Multipurpose Center pantry.

A beginner's **Sketching Art Class** will be offered at 1 p.m. every Friday beginning February 1. Learn the ropes with Richard. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to register.

February **Auto Driver Safety classes** have been rescheduled to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, February 5 & Saturday, February 9. To register call Gail at 893-2237 or Rachel at 893-1231.

Empower you mind, body, and soul at the **Gulfport Health and Wellness Expo** in the beautiful Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Wednesday, February 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for a day of healthy fun for all ages with free health screenings, presentations, speakers, interactive demonstrations and fresh, healthy food. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-2237.

Remember the days of live shows with jugglers, dancing girls, comics, singing and dance? Experience a bit of the past with a **Vaudeville Show** sponsored by our friends Jay & Lota Wygant at the Catherine Hickman Theater, at 7 p.m. Friday, February 8. Tickets are just \$10 and help support the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

The next **Snack Bar Movie Day** is Tuesday, February 12 at 11 a.m. Enjoy a special lunch for only \$2.50 and a free movie.

What Medicaid Programs are available to seniors? Who is eligible? How do I apply? Find the answers at the **Understanding Medicaid forum** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Multipurpose Center 9 a.m. - noon Friday, February 25 to assist seniors with filing 2013 Property Tax Exemption applications.

Join Escot Tours for a visit to Hard Rock Café. The bus leaves the Multipurpose Center at 7:45 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, and at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday & Tuesday. The \$20 fee includes \$30 in casino tokens. For information and reservations call 545-2088 or 888-571-7778, or visit www.escotbuslines.com.

A representative from the Community Law Program visits the Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. every third Friday offering **free legal help** for people over 60 who meet certain criteria. Call 582-7480 for more information.

Ready to get fit and meet new friends? If you're over 50 visit the **Foundation Fitness Center** Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Multipurpose Center and take a tour of our state-of-the-art fitness facility.

A **Beginners Line Dance class** is offered at Scout Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for registered members of the Multipurpose Center. Multipurpose Center membership is free.

A **Tai Chi for Arthritis Program** is offered on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 13 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 43) |
| Tuesday, January 15 | Noon - Ballroom Dance lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 73) |
| Wednesday, January 16 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 292) |
| Thursday, January 17 | 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 32) |
| Saturday, January 19 | 4:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 250) |

Casino (Upcoming Events):

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Every Sunday | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance |
| Every Tuesday | 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Wednesday | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Thursday | 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7 |

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, January 13 Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Sordid Lives* (Turnout 101)

Thursday, January 17 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Sordid Lives* (Turnout 66)

Friday, January 18 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Sordid Lives* (Turnout 166)

Saturday, January 19 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Sordid Lives* (Turnout 172)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, January 24 - 26, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 27, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players presents **Sordid Lives**, a black comedy about white trash. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar & the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, January 13 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 23)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 16)

Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Scout Hall (Last week's events):

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, January 15 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, January 16 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 17)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

LIBRARY

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

- Tuesday, January 15, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, January 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, January 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, January 16, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, January 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

- Thursday, January 17, 10:30 a.m. - CoffeeTalk discussion of the book *Other Voices, Other Rooms* by Truman Capote. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.
- Thursday, January 17, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Saturday, January 19 - Free Family Movie day: 10:30 a.m. - *ParaNorman*; 1:30 p.m. - *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Upcoming Events:

- Every Monday & Friday beginning February 1, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance. Taxpayers must bring social security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, a photo ID, and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits and a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.
- Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m. - Voter Registration Drive. Staff from the Supervisor of Elections office will be on hand to register & update registrations.
- Saturday, February 2, 1:30 p.m. - Crafts Club for all Ages. Join Pat for more recycling creativity.
- Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m. - Crafts for Kids. For more information call Cailey Klasson at 893-1134.
- Thursday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog*. Call 893-1073 to schedule an appointment.
- Saturday, February 16 - Free Family Movie Day: 10:30 a.m. - *Hotel Transylvania*; 1:30 p.m. - *Total Recall*. Enjoy free popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 368-1598.
- Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library* Annual meeting. Everyone is invited to hear featured speaker, world renowned City expert & author Peter Kageyama. The Circle of Friends Reading Garden project will also be unveiled
- Thursday, February 21, 10:30 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Please call 893-1073 for more information.
- Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *eSalon*. Learn to browse, place a hold, check out and download ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics, or discover new ways of using the e-Reader, tablet or mp3. For more information call 893-1073.
- Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*. Challenge your friends on the latest XBOX 360 games or just hang out and enjoy free refreshments.
- Every Thursday through February 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting. Sessions include a short meditation period, audio recording of a chapter of *Practicing the Power of Now*, group discussions and video recordings of Eckhart Tolle's teachings from Eckhart Tolle TV.
- Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - *Beginning Spanish*.

- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.
- Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous*.

Library Services/Statistics January 13 - 19, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 2,228 | 717 |
| Sun. 1/13 | 19 | 22 |
| Mon. 1/14 | 366 | 116 |
| Tue. 1/15 | 420 | 111 |
| Wed. 1/16 | 340 | 112 |
| Thu. 1/18 | 358 | 119 |
| Fri. 1/18 | 386 | 131 |
| Sat. 1/19 | 339 | 106 |

Recreation Center

The Art Room is reserved 3 - 8 p.m. Saturday, January 26 for a private event.

Programs, Classes & Activities

The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard every Thursday through March 29. The Club's adventures take them through many Gulfport and Pinellas County parks. Everyone walks at their own pace, so feel free to do a mile or five. Call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079 for more information.

Forty three (43) children are registered for the **School Year Child Care Program**, a quality program that provides a nurturing atmosphere where children in Kindergarten through age 14 have the opportunity to experience recreational, social, creative and enriching activities. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Thirteen (13) children are registered for the 2012/13 **Tot Time Program**, and seven (7) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Cooking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Walking Club, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty three (53) teens are registered the **2012/13 Teen Night program**, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with Gulfport Fire Inspector Frank Vento and a lessee to discuss set up for a Family Reunion scheduled for July.

Marivel Gutierrez and three (3) children from the School Year Child Care Program participated in the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration at the new Beach Playground on Friday morning. The children read excerpts on the tree that was planted and the seedlings that were handed out.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Bianca and Lauren from Stetson's Public Serve Fellows on Tuesday afternoon to discuss preplanning for the *Fun in the Sun Day* event scheduled for March 30.

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Lauran Harker served cookies and tea to attendees at the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 10 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 661 totaling \$70,645.05
- Online Water payments: 72 transactions totaling \$8,183.25
- Bright House payments: 18
- Utility Bills Mailed 01/23/13: 1,632
- Payroll 01/18/13: 162 total transactions totaling \$171,935.79
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 11 transactions totaling \$20,276.75

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, February 21. For more information visit www.gulfportcert.com or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

Staff Activities:

- The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program. Lt. Poirrier on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers (PALS) meeting at St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue on January 15. Discussions included new protocol changes and elimination of equipment, and Priority Dispatch Phase III being presented to the Board of County Commissioners.
- The Gulfport Fire Department completed monthly training hosted by Pinellas Park Fire Department and Joe's Towing. Training consisted of auto extrication and stabilization with jacks.
- Inspector Vento conducted a final Fire Alarm Test with the last four buildings at Town Shores. The entire complex is now up to date with new Fire Alarm Systems. There are several buildings still that have not upgraded their elevators with "elevator recall" The

State of Florida mandated deadline is July 2015. Three buildings at Kipps Colony Condos have yet to upgrade as well.

- Chief Marenkovic met with Community Development staff and the owner and contractor working on the property located at 1819 49th Street to review roof plans and perform a visual inspection of the work being done.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Installed emergency light and paper towel machine at Senior Center and set up rooms for daily events.
- Pressure cleaned and painted block wall surrounding Public Works yard.
- Repaired gate closer and reflector at Neighborhood Center.
- Installed a new paper towel machine in Casino restroom.
- Transported City vehicles to Tampa for repair.
- Replaced ballast and toilet paper dispenser at Library.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Delivered recycling bins and “City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines” information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patch work on multiple potholes throughout City per direction.
- Completed alley and easement grading throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout City per direction.
- Replaced/reset damaged traffic control signs throughout City.
- Repaired sidewalks at various City locations.
- Graded Gulfport Beach and removed seaweed & debris.
- Continued micro-surfacing project.
- Bimonthly street sweeping continues.
- Removed “Closed for Construction” signage at Osgood Point Kayak Ramp.
- Removed debris and graded Beach front area.
- Completed street stripping, crosswalk painting and stop bars on various roadways
- Reset parking bumper at Senior Center.
- Cleared several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Disconnected water service at 47 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 110 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 20 water meters with new style meters.

- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2. Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Loaded concrete, asphalt and debris from 49th Street onto trucks for hauling to recycling centers.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired electrical power supply for vehicle's electronics on Police Vehicle #06.
- Replaced upper control arm and radiator on Police Vehicle #02.
- Replaced faulty thermostat and had diesel particulate filter system cleaned on Recycle Truck #40.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

From January to July of this year, the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board issued 536 citations against unlicensed contractors. Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.

- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at (727) 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at www.pcclb.com.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the New Business Checklist at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

Beginning in February, code enforcement moves to section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

February 6, 2013 Planning and Zoning Board and February 19, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting:

C13-01; 3101 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional Use with Site Plan for a proposed mixed use development with commercial and residential components.

February 13, 2013 Board of Adjustment:

V13-02; 3101 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the commercial component of a proposed mixed use development by 43%, from the required 60% commercial ratio component of the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to 17%, and to increase the residential component of the proposed mixed use development by 43%, from the required 40% residential ratio of the Floor Area Ratio to 83%.

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Attorney
- Department Directors
- The Gulfport Gabber
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
- The St Petersburg Times