



Gulfport Community Update

February 10 - 16, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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@igc.org.

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 893-1068.

Don't miss the live music, original art and great eateries during **Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard on Saturday, February 16, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Meet the **Circle of Friends** during their Second Annual meeting at the Gulfport Public Library on Tuesday, February 19 at 7 p.m. Guest Speaker is *For the Love of Cities* author Peter Kageyama. The Friends will also officially launch their newest project, the Gulfport Library Reading Garden. The meeting is open to all. For more information call 893-1075.

Gulfport Marina Harbormaster Denis Frain will host a **Marina Master Planning Charrette** at Gulfport City Hall at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 21 to gather public input regarding future Marina improvements. For more information please call Harbormaster Frain at 893- 1104.

Come out to the **Ninth Annual Get Rescued** animal rescue festival and fundraiser on Beach Boulevard Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call Suzanne King at 322-5217.

The next **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** is 6 - 10 p.m. March 1 on Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

Dance for Fun at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. - midnight. Great music from the 1970's to present. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Historical Society. Tickets: \$5 in advance; \$6 at the door. Call 893-1070 for more information.

Support your favorite Gulfport team during the **Little League Opening Day Parade** on Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. at Shore & Beach Boulevards. Opening ceremonies and league games to follow at Lum Field, 1820 55th Street. For more information call 565-5511.

Get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the March 16 **Citywide Yard Sale** in 3 easy ways! Email jshea@mygulfport.us, fill out a form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue, or print a form online at www.mygulfport.us. Deadline for submission to get on the brochure is 4 p.m. Friday, March 8. For more information call 893-1118.

Lend a hand and have some fun at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 16. Snacks will be provided for dedicated volunteers! Come by land or water! For more information call 893-1118.

Peruse the many vendors and find the right cool item for your home at **Antiques in the Park** on Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Clymer Park at corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards. For more information call 421-0441.

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	64
Arrests	19
Traffic citations	43

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

While patrolling the Marina area early morning February 5 Officer Horning observed a black male later identified as Lucious Cheatem walking away from a vehicle. He stopped Cheatem who dropped a pair of gloves as he attempted to walk away. A search of the suspect revealed a pair of pliers in his pocket. A lock on the vehicle had been ripped off and the ignition was damaged. Cheatem was arrested for burglary.

Officers responded to a residence in the 4900 block of 13th Avenue early February 6 after a man attempted to enter the home through a rear door. The suspect made eye contact with the residents then fled on foot. He is believed to be involved in a domestic incident in the area.

Officers responded to a traffic crash at 64th Street & Gulfport Boulevard early February 7 after a driver crossed the center lane and crashed head-on into an oncoming vehicle. Both cars were totaled, and both drivers suffered minor injuries. The driver of the first car is being investigated for DUI.

Henry Luper was arrested on the afternoon of February 7 after he took his girlfriend's car without her permission and failed to return it when she asked him to bring it back. He left the car at a storage facility and walked back home where police were waiting for him.

Daniel Pokrajac was arrested on the evening of February 7 after he damaged the property of a family member and left his residence, a violation of his probation. Pokrajac resisted arrest, battered a PCSO Transport Deputy and attempted to escape custody, but was apprehended.

Gulfport Officers Crystal Green, Santo Nicita and Jon Davis assisted PCSO with the apprehension of Jamarcus Lewis on February 8 after Lewis displayed a handgun during a road rage incident in St. Pete Beach. Another driver followed Lewis to Gulfport while relaying his whereabouts to law enforcement, and GPD officers stopped him at 47th Street & 22nd Avenue. An air soft gun and a 9mm replica gun that fires blanks were found in the car.

Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 3200 block of 58th Street in the early morning hours of February 9, and discovered driver Rachel Vevier in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. She was arrested to driving under the influence. Upon arrival at

the PD, Vevier attempted to flush marijuana she concealed from officers during their search down the toilet. She was charged with tampering with evidence.

Officers responded to a report of a structure fire in the 5400 block of Essex Avenue on February 10 after an investigation determined that 4 juveniles were involved in starting the fire. Several windows were also damaged. The juveniles were arrested for the crime.

Officers responded to the Joy Food Mart on the evening of February 10 after a male approached the store with what appeared to be a bandanna covering his face. The store clerk had the door locked and could see the suspect as he was approaching. The suspect left on foot after approximately 20-30 seconds.

A juvenile was arrested for criminal mischief and probation violation after he and another juvenile confronted his sister's ex-boyfriend at a home in the 2600 block of 52nd Street. The resident noticed that a tire on his current girlfriend's car was damaged. The juveniles were suspected of vandalism but there were no witnesses. During the investigation, it came to light that one of the two was in violation of his felony probation for being out later than his court-ordered curfew and he was taken into custody.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	11
Cases Suspended - no leads	6
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	0

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	9
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	0
Cases Closed-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	6

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a sexual assault case in which a woman was allegedly raped in a house in Gulfport. Physical evidence was found at the crime scene. Detective Pham is actively investigating the case. He was also acting supervisor this week during Sergeant Woodman's vacation.

Detective Embry was conducting a follow up investigation at Super Gas when he witnessed a male identified as Jonathan Cowart pass two counterfeit \$20 bills to the cashier. During the investigation, he discovered that Cowart passed a counterfeit \$20 bill at Bayside High that had the same serial number as the one he had just confiscated. Cowart was arrested.

Officer Motte had two arrests: one for trespassing on school grounds after warning and the other for resisting an officer without violence. He also recovered two runaways, trespassed a person from the High School, mentored several students, broke up a fight, Baker acted two students, handled an ambulance call in which two students were taken to a local hospital, and assisted a citizen regarding an injury that occurred on campus. Additionally, Officer Motte investigated a grand theft in which a ring was stolen, however all leads have been exhausted so the case has been suspended. He also covered two after school basketball games.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	23
Supplements reviewed:	156
Public records requests:	08
Bike registrations:	01
Fingerprints:	02
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	53

Policy Review and Development

One policy is in the review process: 203 - Philosophy of Enforcement

Training Coordination

Four sworn members were registered for upcoming classes, and one sworn member attended a 40 hour class

All sixteen sworn members who attempted annual Physical abilities testing (PAT) were successful.

Applicant Screening

Welcome to newly hired Police Officer Samantha Obrart. She comes to us from the Lake Mary Police Department.

Two employment applications were reviewed this week and staff is nearing completion of a background investigation on a police officer candidate.

Other Activities

The Police Department Annual Report is available online at www.gulfportpolice.com.

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, GTV615 & Gulfport Patch website.
- Provided control room coverage for February 12 Meet the Candidates event and February 13 Board of Adjustment meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Sent completed March events/meeting calendar to the printer.
- Addressed community inquiries regarding March 16 Citywide Yard Sale.
- Continued preparations for Pinellas County Fair presentations.

- Met with Harbormaster Denis Frain and Community Development Director Fred Metcalf to discuss A/V needs for Marina Master Planning Charrette.

Parks

Removed no smoking signs from beach area.

Removed broken bench and installed concrete slabs around tennis courts for in preparation for new bench installation.

Replaced past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard with upcoming event banners.

Resurfaced Bocce court.

Cleaned baselines and turf edges at Hoyt & Lum Fields, reworked pitchers mounds and added clay to low areas.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Recreation Center Grounds, Wood Ibis & Veterans Parks, picked up trash and emptied cans on Beach & Shore Boulevards, and raked around benches & pavilions.

Mowed Recreation field, Chase block, Dog Park, Tangerine Greenway, Caldwell & Tonkin Parks, Pasadena entrance, and Tangerine Greenway.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades and replaced shaft on power pole chainsaw.

Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field & Dog Park.

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.

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

Like us on Facebook at "Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation". Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

Sign up today to enjoy all the classes and events offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up a copy of the February schedule at the Senior Center or online at <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>.

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.

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 us for an **Artist Reception** in the Gulfport Library Friends Room at 6 p.m. Friday, March 1. Students from Betty Staebell's class will display their works through March.

Got Green? Come to the **St. Patrick's Day Party** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. \$5 admission includes Irish entertainment by Paul Fornatar and The Toonsters. Wear a costume for the *Luck of the Irish* costume contest! Green beer will be offered in the Theater Lobby for \$1 a glass until 3 p.m. Stay for a traditional Irish dinner of corn beef, cabbage, red potatoes, rolls and dessert for \$7 at 4:30 p.m.

Join Buddy Cloud of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Communities for a Lifetime for the **SAFE Home Workshop** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20. Buddy will discuss a collection of home related safety tips for secure, mobile accessibility and comfort.

The First Eckerd College Presentation Series, **Founding Mothers** is Tuesday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater. This is free and open to the public.

Want to know more about **Hospice**? Join Janet Pattison on Thursday, March 28 at 1 p.m. for free information.

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.

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

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, February 3	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 30)
Monday, February 4	7 p.m. - Hustle Lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, February 5	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 21) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 11) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 76)

- Wednesday, February 6 10 a.m. - Multipurpose Senior Center Health Fair (Turnout 462)
 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 308)
- Thursday, February 7 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 19)
- Friday, February 8 PAVA 2 Cool Art Show vendor setup
- Saturday, February 9 9 a.m. - PAVA 2013 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,700)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

- Sunday, February 17 & 24 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
- Thursday, February 21 & 28 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Friday, February 8, 7 p.m. - Vaudeville Show (Turnout 176)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday- Saturday, February 21 - 23, February 28 - March 2 & March 7-9, 8 p.m., and Sunday, February 24, March 3 & 10, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Women in Black*, an intense Gothic ghost story with a spine-chilling climax. Tickets available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar and Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

- Sunday, February 3 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 8)
 6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 12)
- Wednesday, February 6 6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (Turnout 10)
- Thursday, February 7 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 27)
- Saturday, February 9 6 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 23)

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, February 5 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, February 6 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class

Thursday, February 7 9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice

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:

- Monday, February 2, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, February 5, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, February 5, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, February 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, February 6, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, February 7, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Friday February 8, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids*.
- Saturday, February 9 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshop*.

Upcoming Events:

- Every Monday & Friday through April 15, 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 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.

- Saturday, February 23 and March 9 & 23 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshops*. Trace Taylor returns with her popular training on how to produce a book.
- Tuesday, February 26, - *SCORE Counseling*. Free and helpful advice from experienced business professionals.
- 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 First Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m. - *Community Involvement Consulting*. A representative from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's office provides information and solicits questions and concerns from the public. First come, first served.
- 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, 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 February 3 - 9, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,278	705
Sun. 2/3	8	9
Mon. 2/4	299	107
Tue. 2/5	483	146
Wed. 2/6	353	103
Thu. 2/7	427	125
Fri. 2/8	372	124
Sat. 2/9	336	91

Recreation Center

The Game Room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9 for a birthday party.

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 eight (58) 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 Bob Williams, Justin Shea, Lesley DeMuth and Kathy Tatay on Thursday morning to discuss plans for the Mayor's Recreation Center Dedication event.

Brian Van Slyke used the school bus to transport the Tai Chi Society to Clearwater for High Tea on Tuesday morning.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 18 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,237 totaling \$145,311.31
- On-Line Water payments: 69 transactions totaling \$6,589.43
- Bright House payments: 30
- Utility Bills Mailed 02/13/13: 1,253
- Accounts Payable 02/08/13: 497 transactions totaling \$243,379.11
- Mail processed 02/08/13: 1,033 pieces totaling \$826.06
- Purchasing Cards February report: 237 transactions totaling \$25,140.88

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Transformer/Pole Fires
- 1 Single Engine Response

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re Inspection
- 0 C.O.'s
- 1 Smoke Detector

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.

CERT will cook hotdogs and dispense water during Family Fun Day at Tomlinson Park on Saturday, February 16.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic attended the annual Pinellas County Emergency Management Coordinators meeting at the Tampa Bay Regional Council Center on Wednesday. Discussions included lessons learned from Super Storm Sandy, Debby & Isaac.
- The Gulfport Fire Department's Antique Fire Truck participated at the Seminole Fire Station 29 Open House on February 10. This annual event is similar to the Gulfport's Touch-a-Truck event scheduled for 10 a.m. March 30.
- Chief Marenkovic is working on the FY2013/14 budget process for ALS First Responder Services with the City's Finance Department. EMS Audits for FY11-12 will be available in the next few weeks.
- The Gulfport Fire Department continues with the Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program. Lt. Poirrier on the "B"- shift is his preceptor along with Firefighter/ Paramedic Burford.
- Inspector Vento has filed two Fire Code Violations cases for the February 28 Special Magistrate hearing.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Snaked out men's urinal in beach restrooms to remove paper and sand.
- Repaired south gate at Neighborhood Center.
- Completed monthly filter replacement on all City a/c units.
- Installed 14 energy saver ballasts in Public Services building.
- Repaired loose boards on Casino outdoor decking.
- Replaced soap dispenser and ballast in ladies room outside Casino.
- Installed book drop-off at main Library desk.
- Replaced light fixture in men's room outside Casino.
- Repaired cabinet in Friend's Room, and wheel on book cart 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 concrete sidewalk work
- Reset stop sign at 53rd Street & 14th Avenue.
- Cleaned up spill in the roadway at 54th Street & 31st Avenue.
- Cleaned equipment at the yard.
- Reset storm grate at York Street & 23rd Avenue.
- Removed grass, graded, and added millings to alley from 29th to 30th Avenue and 57th Street to DuPont Street.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick up.
- Removed debris loads 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).
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 12 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 83 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 water meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- 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.
- Televised sewer lateral 2701 55th Street and removed roots.
- Commenced smoke testing of sewer main line in the area of 28th Avenue & DuPont Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- 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 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. .

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.

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 13, 2013 Board of Adjustment Results:

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%. BOA APPROVED VARIANCE AS REQUESTED.

Distribution:

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