



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 12 - 18, 2012*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

#### ***Kudos to Recreation Staff Member***

City Manager Jim O'Reilly reports he received the attached letter from the parents of a Teen Night participant who was struggling with his Math classes. The teen's mom mentioned his problem to Recreation Leader Justin Shea during a visit to the Recreation Center. Justin volunteered to tutor the teen during Teen Night, and the teen's mom reports that because of Justin's help, his test grades are up and he is now able to complete his homework assignments on his own. The parents are very appreciative!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Come on out for **Family Fun Day** at Tomlinson Park, Saturday, February 18, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lots of kids' activities such as inflatables, entertainment, arts & crafts, family competitions, and hot dogs & bottled water while they last. Free admission. For more information call 893-1068.

Join us on Saturday, February 18 at 6 p.m. for the unveiling of Gulfport Artist Tom Pitzen's sculpture at Clymer Park at the intersection of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards. This event is open to the public. During the September 22, 2011 Council Workshop, Pitzen was chosen out of four artist/artist groups to create the sculpture leading into the Art District in Gulfport. Pitzen stated in his proposal, "The style, flavor and symbols of this sculpture could be made to accentuate public buildings, businesses, signs and other landmarks of the city in an energetic and cohesive way." After six months of creating the project, he is now ready to make his concept public. City Council enacted the Public Art Program by Resolution No. 98-88 for public art for the projects, and in the fall of 2007, a call to artists was made for the Gulfport Neighborhood Center. During the December 18, 2007 City Council meeting, out of three proposals, Pitzen was chosen by Council to create his "Tree Sign". For more information on Saturday's event, please call Gina Burke 743-1326.

Everyone is invited to the **City of Imagination's Mad Hatter Tea Party** on Saturday, February 18 at 3 p.m. in the Gulfport Arts Center, 2726 54<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information call 344-5443.

The Third Saturday **Gulfport Art-Walk** is February 18, 6 - 10 p.m. on Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

All well behaved leashed doggies welcome at the **Gulfport Merchant's Get Rescued fundraiser** on Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Beach Boulevard. Vendors should call 322-5217. Don't miss the fun at the **Get Rescued Party** at the Gulfport Casino. Doors open at 7 p.m. Live music, fun auction items and light snacks. Tickets: \$20. For more information on both events call 439-1485.

The next **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** is scheduled for 6 - 10 p.m. March 2 on Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

**City of Imagination Art Exhibit Opening & Reception**, Friday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue For more information call 344-5443 or 686-2564, or visit [www.cityofimagination.info](http://www.cityofimagination.info).

Support your favorite Gulfport team on **Little League Opening Day Parade** on Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. at Shore & Beach Boulevards. Opening Ceremonies and League games to follow at Lum Field at 1820 55<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information call 565-5511.

Books, CDs and DVDs galore at the **Circle of Friends 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Book Sale** on Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. - 2 pm. at Scout Hall, 5315 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information call 368-1598 or email [phyllrose@gmail.com](mailto:phyllrose@gmail.com).

Gulf seafood at its finest at the **Lions Club Shrimp Boil** on Saturday, March 10, 4 - 7p.m. at the Lion's Den, 4630 Tifton Drive South. Enjoy a half pound of Gulf peel & eat shrimp with Hushpuppies, slaw beans & dessert for \$8. BYOB. For more information call 327-2100.

**The Pink Flamingo Home Tour** kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 10 with a tour of the Stetson University College of Law campus. Tickets: \$13 in advance and for seniors over 62, available at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, 4926 Gulfport Boulevard. For more information call 344-3711.

Have your voice heard at the **Crime Watch Meeting** on Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information call 327-3509.

Everyone is invited to the **49<sup>th</sup> Street South Business Association (So49)** monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 at the Neighborhood Center. For more information call 515-4941.

Bring gently worn items to the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA during Gulfport Fresh Market** in the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 13. For more information call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086.

The **South Pasadena Band Concert Series** season finale is Thursday, March 15 in the Casino Ballroom. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1070. Free Admission.

Get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the March 17 **Gulfport Citywide Yard Sale** in 3 easy ways! Email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us), fill out a form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, print a form online at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us), or fill out the form in the Gabber and send to City Hall. Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. Friday March 9! For more information call 893-1118.

Support the **Teen Council Fundraiser** sponsored by O'Maddy's on Saturday, March 17, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard. For more information call 323-8643.

Lend a hand and have some fun at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 17. Lunch will be provided to 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 17, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Clymer Park at corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards. For more information call 421-0441.

Don't miss the **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on March 17, 6 - 10 p.m. on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District. Shop, dine and enjoy the view of Boca Ciega Bay. For more information call 322-5217.

Ahoy, get that kayak or other boat related items at the **Gulfport Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 24, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Gulfport Marina 4630 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Limited space is available: \$10.00 for a 10x10 space; free for slip renters. Bring your own table. For more information call 893-1071.

Don't miss the **Eggciting Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Springfest** on Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Beach Boulevard. "Get your Bonnet on It" Hat contest and Parade! Fun music, food and lots of cool festivities. For more information call 322-5217.

## Weekly Events

- Every Tuesday, 12 p.m.: Ballroom lessons, August 2 & 9 - \$7

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

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**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.

### **Business Tax Receipts**

A checklist for new businesses is available on the City's website under the documents section.

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets South.

High grass and weeds, and trash and debris make up the largest types of violations that staff deals with during the summer season. Because there is only one inspector who focuses on one section of the City 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 (727) 893-1061 to report 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.

While often times a knock on the door or letter to an off-season property owner will take care of a violation, there are times when it takes a while to gain compliance. Staff has to make every effort to contact the property owner. With so many foreclosures and short sales in our present economy, this can become difficult and can take time. Just because nothing may appear to be happening, doesn't mean the City is unaware of, or ignoring a violation. Life/safety issues are abated as quickly as possible, depending on the extent of the problem. If a property owner cannot be found, the City will attempt abatement to alleviate any immediate problems. If you have questions about a property, give us a call at 893-1061.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

### **Planning and Development**

**Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)** - On January 20, 2012 changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map Series (FIRM) were approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These changes resulted in a number of properties within the corporate limits of the City of Gulfport being removed from the VE or velocity flood zone and relocated into an AE flood zone. This effectively reduced the risk level which should result in considerable savings to those properties on their flood insurance premiums.

Based on direction from FEMA, several things will need to be done and documented by the property owner for the insurance agents/brokers to re-rate a home for maximum premium reductions. A checklist including necessary documents can be found electronically on the City of Gulfport website at <http://www.mygulfport.us> under Departments and then Community Development.

Many of the homes in the old “VE” zones were built to withstand not only flooding, but wave activity, and as a result, were likely built sturdier than required in an “AE” flood zones. Even though this may be true, FEMA now requires these homes to meet “AE” flood zone requirements. If the homes built at “VE” zone standards used break-away walls, these walls will now be required to have openings installed as per “AE” flood zone standards. These openings will need to be permitted, installed, and inspected before a home can be re-rated and enjoy the maximum premium reduction available. Additionally, a new Elevation Certificate (EC) must be completed and a copy submitted to the City. The new EC will document the required flow-through vents, the newly designated flood zone, and specifically identify the address of the house. If these are not done, you may still see some reduction in premiums, but it will not be the maximum deduction that could be available.

For more information on premium reductions, home owners should contact their insurance agent/broker. For more information on the LOMR changes and permitting, please contact staff at 893-1087.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

Visit the City of Gulfport YouTube website at [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport). Cable and DSL internet users can access streaming video from the City’s website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). Watch videos of recent events. It’s a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at [http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live\\_Webstream.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm).
- Distributed weekly press releases to Gabber, and upcoming events to press release group list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Updated Teen Night Kickball standings on Recreation Website.
- Edited Kill-A-Watt presentation & Car Show footage, and added both to City’s YouTube site and GTV615 program lineup.
- Distributed March calendars to all City departments, Gulfport Merchants & Chamber of Commerce.
- Revamped Waterfront Trolley brochure and sent to printer.
- Preparing Citywide Yard Sale brochure; collecting addresses via email and forms.

### **Marina**

Pumped seven hundred eleven (711) gallons of gas, and two hundred fifty (250) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty (50) vessels.

Assisted in one (1) pump-out evacuating fifteen (15) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

### **Transient Vessels**

Staff welcomed a 27’ sailboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

### **Parks**

Obtained lighting prices for Clymer Park sign & artwork on 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Met with repair person to discuss Skate Park & playgrounds repairs, and representative of resurfacing company to discuss new type of surface for walking trails.

Inquired about nematodes for mole cricket eradication.

Removed old signage, cut out landscaping bed and added sod to signage area at Clymer Park.

Continued cleaning & organizing maintenance shop.

Greased all mowers and sharpened blades, replaced belt on tiller, and tuned up generator.

Closed Skate Park for maintenance.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Clymer Park, Library grounds, Beach streetscapes, York Street terminus, and Chase Block.

Mowed Recreation Center field & ball fields, R.W. Caldwell, Tomlinson & Veterans Parks, Pasadena entrance & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue strip, Ted Phillips Wood Ibis drainage area, York Street terminus & Tangerine Greenway.

Repaired irrigation at Veterans & Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Parks, Library & 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape.

Repaired pavers along Beach Boulevard, swing on Beach playground & bench at R.W. Caldwell Park, and replaced all flags at Veterans Park.

Removed graffiti from equipment at Tomlinson playground & Skate Park.

Set up equipment at Senior Center for meetings & events, and removed following events.

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, lined and dragged all ball fields.

#### **Senior Center**

The Senior Center is hosting a series of presentations on Pain Management at 1 p.m. every Thursday in February. Topics include: Benefits of exercise; therapies (yoga, meditation, massage, acupuncture); and patient self advocacy. Sponsored by Gardens of Yoga, The Longhouse, and RN Patient Advocates of South Pinellas.

The Senior Center will celebrate Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 21, 2 - 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. This event is spearheaded by Julie Fuce. All proceeds benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Senior Center from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday, February 24 to help seniors file applications for the 2012 Property Tax Exemption.

The Gulfport Senior Art Workshop Exhibit Opening and Reception is Friday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at the Gulfport Library. The group meets every Thursday at the Senior Center under the direction of Senior Center volunteer Betty Staebell. Their work will be on display at the Gulfport Library through March.

The Senior Center will host another "One Man Show" starring "J" Wygant on Wednesday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Dining Hall. Tickets: \$2. Proceeds support the Senior Center Food Pantry for low income seniors.

The annual spring Senior Follies will be held in the Catherine A. Hickman Theater on Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8. All proceeds will benefit the Senior Center Foundation.

The Senior Center will host an Open House and Gulfport History Expo on Wednesday, March 28 at 2 p.m. The event is designed to showcase the rich history of the Senior Center and the community. The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce and Gulfport Historical Society will partner with the Senior Center to make this an event to not be missed. Gulfport businesses/organizations are invited to participate. Call the Senior Center at 893-2259 for more info.

### **GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)**

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$55 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$1.00 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. GEMS has 160 active riders.

GEMS offers hourly trips to South Pasadena on Wednesdays and Fridays. Call GEMS at 893-2242 for more information.

### **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:**

- Wednesday, February 8, 10 a.m. - Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers meeting.
- Wednesday, February 8, 2:30 p.m. - Teen Board Game Afternoon.
- Thursday, February 9, 8 p.m. - Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library annual meeting at the Senior Center.
- Friday, February 10, 9 a.m. - AARP Tax Aid Volunteer Training Workshop.
- Saturday, February 11, 10:30 a.m. - Free Family Movie Day.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 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 Creative Short Story Writers meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. - Teen Board Game Afternoon.
- Every Monday & Friday Through April 13, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax assistance for seniors. Bring a copy of last year's tax return along with 2011 tax documents.
- Wednesday, February 22, 1 p.m. - *Discovering Your Story. . . A Checklist Approach for Unpacking Craft Elements in Story Writing*. Participants should bring one-to-two (double-spaced) pages of new writing or a synopsis for a story idea to the workshop. A brief lecture, followed by practical exercises, readings, and helpful handouts will follow.
- Wednesday, February 22. 3:30 p.m. - *Intro to Graphic Novels for Young Adults*. Veteran comic-book writer/editor Barbara Randall Kesel talks about how comics and manga are made. Find out how to script or draw your own comics! Get answers from a pro in the business!

**Library Services/Statistics February 5-11, 2012:****Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,987	508
Sun. 2/5	13	4
Mon. 2/6	321	88
Tue. 2/7	418	105
Wed. 2/8	308	84
Thu. 2/9	299	72
Fri. 2/10	349	78
Sat. 2/11	279	77

**Library Staff Activities/Meetings**

Monday, February 6, 1:30 p.m. - PPLC Library Directors Advisory Council meeting at Seminole Community Library (Carol Parker).

Wednesday, February 8, 9:30 a.m. - PPLC Programming SIG meeting at PPLC Headquarters (Carol Parker).

Thursday, February 9, 1 p.m. - PPLC Programming Focus Group meeting at PPLC Headquarters (Carol Parker).

Friday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. - Young Adult SIG meeting at Safety Harbor Public Library (Sheri Stanley).

**Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center****Casino (last week's events):**

Sunday, February 5  
 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker  
 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 40)

Tuesday, February 7  
 Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 14)  
 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 10)  
 2 p.m. - Dancing  
 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango lesson  
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 53)

Wednesday, February 8  
 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime  
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime  
 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 291)

Thursday, February 9  
 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 25)

Friday, February 10  
 7 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show setup

Saturday, February 11  
 10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 2,600)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Sunday, February 19 & 26  
 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson  
 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7

Tuesday, February 21 & 28  
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson  
 8 p.m. - Practice/Milonga Admission \$7

Every Tuesday                      Noon - Intermediate Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker  
    1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom dance lesson  
    2 p.m. - Ballroom 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 23                      7 p.m. - Salsa dance lesson with Carol Rivera  
    8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Monday, February 27                      7 p.m. USA Ballroom dance Members \$5; nonmembers \$7

**Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)**

Friday, February 10                      6 p.m. - *A Bee Story* presented by Ken Slikie (Turnout 80)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Thursday - Saturday, March 1-3 & 8-10, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 4 & 11, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *An Inspector Calls*. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Elieen's Resale Boutique, Beach Bazaar & the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. For more information call 322-0316.

**Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):**

Sunday, February 5                      9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 15)  
    6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting(Turnout 12)

**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

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

**Recreation Center**

The Art Room is reserved 12 - 4 p.m. Saturday, March 3 for a Baby Shower.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

*Family Fun Day*, presented by the City of Gulfport Recreation Division is Saturday, February 18, 2012, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Tomlinson Lake Park (corner of Tangerine Avenue & 54<sup>th</sup> Street). This FREE event will include inflatables, entertainment, arts & crafts, family competitions, and hot dogs & bottled water while they last.

Contractual classes currently in session: Cheerleading, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Tai Chi, Tennis, Walking Club, Watercolor and Yoga.

Six (6) FY 2011/12 Gulfport Skate Park stickers have been sold to date.

Sixty (60) teens have been registered for the 2011/12 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.

Forty one (41) children are registered for the 2011/12 School Year Child Care Program for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. The non-refundable annual registration fee is \$15 for residents and \$100 for non-residents, with monthly fees of \$133 for residents and \$266 for non-residents (fees subject to change). Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Montessori, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an additional fee.

Nine (9) children are registered for the 2011/12 Tot Time Program and eight (8) for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK). The Tot Time Program is a preschool, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. Registration fees are \$15 for residents and \$100 for non residents. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at Coordinated Child Care and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Classes are limited to 10 children each. Twenty Tot Time participants/family members went on a field trip to the State Fair in Tampa on Saturday (photos below).



The Tot Time & VPK Program celebrated Valentine's Day with a Tea Party on Monday morning (photos below). The children sang a song, danced a waltz and enjoyed a party filled with goodies. There was also a visit by Cupid (Justin Shea).



### **Recreation Staff Activities**

Brian VanSlyke used the school bus to transport 20 Tot Time participants/family members to the State Fairgrounds in Tampa on Saturday afternoon.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### ***Customer Service & Finance:***

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 987 totaling \$107,769.86
- Online Water payments: 121 transactions totaling \$11,591.78
- Progress Energy payments: 311
- Bright House payments: 53
- Utility Bills Mailed 02/15/12: 1,260
- Accounts Payable 02/10/12: 608 transactions totaling \$535,563.72
- Mail processed 02/10/12: 1,000 pieces totaling \$589.20
- Purchasing Cards 02/9/12 month report: 260 transactions totaling \$36,440.33

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### ***Calls for Service:***

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Gas leak
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Wires Down

### ***Life Safety:***

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections

The Gulfport Community Emergency Response Team (**CERT**) meets monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Call 916-8014, look for CERT on Facebook, or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com) for more information.

### ***Other Activities***

- Chief Marenkovic met with City Manager O'Reilly & Suzanne King of the Gulfport Merchants Association to discuss planning of upcoming events in the City, and to view scaled drawings of vendor location set-up operations.
- Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs continued their February St. Pete College online CME: Newborn to Adolescent Emergency Care & Assessment, Part 2.
- Chief Marenkovic spoke with Ruth Gruhn of the Boca Ciega Nursing Home about planning meetings for their festival event scheduled for May 12. She also plans to contact Chief Vincent & Bob Williams to discuss their participation. This event will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center.
- Scott Burford has applied to the St. Petersburg College EMT and Paramedic Field Internship Program to become a preceptor for the college. Once approved by the Medical Directors Office, he will be able to have students begin their ride time with him at GFD.

- Chief Marenkovic attended the City Safety Committee meeting hosted by Human Resources Officer Mercedes Perez, followed by an Accident Review Committee meeting at the Fire Department Conference room. Two accidents were reviewed.
- The Trauma Transport Protocol (TTP's) updates were sent to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in Tallahassee Florida for review on February 13. GFD is working on obtaining capability certifications from local hospitals.
- Inspector Vento attended a Parco meeting in Largo on February 14. The topic of discussion was investigator call out procedures for the surrounding areas.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### ***Calls for Service:***

Offenses	40
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	9

Gulfport officers performed a traffic stop in the 4900 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of February 12 after observing a driver failing to maintain a single lane. They had suspicion that the driver, Glen Seegar was under the influence of a substance. He provided a sample of his breath for testing blood alcohol content. His BAC was .245/.252. The legal limit in the State of Florida is .08. Mr. Seegar was arrested

On the afternoon of February 11, Jason Swoyer's probation officer called to report that Swoyer had outstanding probable cause affidavits in VIPAR out of St. Pete for Grand Theft and Uttering a Forged Instrument. Gulfport officers located Mr. Swoyer in the 5100 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and arrested him. He was also charged with violation of probation.

In the early morning hours of February 12 Gulfport officers stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for a traffic violation. Roberto Gibson had been a passenger in the car. The driver threw him out of the car before leaving. Gibson was walking down the middle of street, and refused to move out of the way when a patrol car approached. Initially he was taken in on a Marchman Act, but it was discovered he was on felony probation and had a curfew. He was charged with violating his probation.

On the evening of February 12 a complainant in the 1800 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street called to report that his landlord, Colleen Callahan pointed a gun at him and threatened to shoot him. The victim stated they had been arguing for the past few days. The victim was able to describe the gun and Callahan admitted she had never shown it to the victim in the past. She was arrested and the gun was taken as evidence. The next day the victim got a repeat violence injunction against Callahan and she temporarily had to move out of her house.

Officers responded to a crash in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of February 13 after a car which had stopped to turn left into McDonald's was struck by the car behind it. The driver of the vehicle that was struck went to the hospital complaining of neck pain.

### **Investigations:**

New Cases:	5
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Closed-No Leads:	2
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Supplements Received:	20
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0

Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	15

Detective Pham investigated his assigned cases. He suspended a few due to lack of evidence. He also attended the countywide monthly Sex Crimes Intelligence meeting, and investigated an alleged sexual battery case involving a minor, determining the alleged crime occurred in Brooklyn, New York. Detective Pham will forward the case to NYPD for follow-up.

Detective Embry interviewed a suspect involved in a credit card fraud case in which the suspect admitted to taking and using the credit card. The victim no longer wishes to prosecute, and Detective Embry exceptionally cleared the case.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Beltran made an arrest for possession of controlled substance on campus and recovered a stolen cell phone. He also served as a mediator for several altercations on campus, and worked several basketball games last week. SRO Motte was sick this week.

Crime Analyst Palmisano worked in records for 10 hours. She also completed the open case lists.

Sergeant Burkhardt escorted a film crew as they toured the Police Department. The crew is in town to explore potential movie locations.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 7 hours this week.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed:	37
Supplements reviewed:	28
Public records requests:	245
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	86

### **Professional Standards**

The following Gulfport Police Written Directives are being staff reviewed: 101 (Responding to Resistance); 312 (Fiscal Activities); 314 (Line and Staff Inspections); 414 (Traffic Direction and Control), and; 101 (Responding to Resistance).

### **Accreditation File Maintenance**

All 263 files have been reviewed. There are 20 small tasks to perform such as inputting proofs from the 2011 annual report, and other small items that still need to be completed.

The on-site assessment for reaccreditation has been scheduled for April 17 - 19. A mock assessment is scheduled for February 21 - 23.

### **Applicant Screening**

Police Applicant Santo Nacita has been given a start date of 02/28/12. Nacita will be filling a vacant position. We are still looking for applicants to fill another vacancy

### **Internal Affairs**

The Policy Compliance Section has one active internal affairs investigation which Sgt. Stone is in the process of starting (assigned 02/01/12)

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Installed one case of florescent lamps at Library.
- Completed painting exterior of Little League Building.
- Repaired walls in Council Chambers.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Installed double lamp at Recreation Center playground.
- Repaired towel machine at Casino.
- Replaced light ballast in Fire Department.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Installed new stormwater grate at Del Rio Way & 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Delivered recycling bins and information sheets to residents.
- Assembled and delivered large recycling carts for PYCC Marina.
- Removed bagged leaves from roadways.
- Applied 300 gallons of dust control to alleyways.
- Trimmed & removed vehicle obstruction from alley at 54<sup>th</sup> Street between 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
- Reset storm drain lids at 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street, 51<sup>st</sup> Street & Tangerine, and 54<sup>th</sup> & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Regraded alleys at 57<sup>th</sup> & 58<sup>th</sup> Streets between 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenues, and at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of dirt and debris piles from Clymer Park.
- Reset barricade at York Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue following vehicle strike.
- Delivered recycled mulch to mulch bin at the Neighborhood Center.
- Installed new sidewalks at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Emptied green cans on Beach & Shore Boulevards, bus stops on Gulfport Boulevard, and Little League.
- Performed daily vehicle safety and maintenance check lists.
- Recycling personnel added new containers/pickups to route and replaced old and broken bins. Residents interested in participating in the recycling program should call 893-1089 for information and to request a recycling bin.

### **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 59 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 93 miscellaneous customer service department-generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at fish table on Miriam Street.

## **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 Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Adjusted elevation of sewer manhole ring & cover in alley between Shore Boulevard & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Performed rear brake job on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Repaired electrical circuit for rear camera, replaced steering gear box & power steering pump on Sanitation Truck #45.
- Replaced hydraulic oil pressure switch on grabber arm and coolant sensor on Sanitation Truck #43.
- Replaced tensioner pulley on Police Vehicle #111.
- Repaired transmission on Police Vehicle #501.
- Replaced air governor on air compressor for air brake system on Fire Truck #E17.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

### Distribution:

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

***Grant and Michelle Nelson***



January 30, 2012

Jim O'Reilly  
City Manager  
5501 – 27 Avenue South  
Gulfport, Fl., 33707

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

We would like to bring to your attention an outstanding employee at the Recreation Center. A couple of months ago when my husband was working out of town, our son Grant Nelson, who attends Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School was having difficulty with his math. During a conversation with one of the coaches at the recreation center, Justin Shea, I happen to mention Grants problem to him. Without hesitation, Justin suggested Grant bring his math homework with him to teen night and he would help tutor him. This seemed like an answer to my prayers, as I was going to look for a tutor for Grant and Grant really likes Justin. For the next couple of months, twice a week, Justin tutored Grant. As a result Grant is now able to complete his homework on his own and has brought his test grades up. It has truly been a blessing that Justin Sheahas given selfishly of his time to help our son and we would like you to know how much we greatly appreciate his patience and kindness.

Sincerely,  
Grant and Michelle Nelson

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