



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 17-23, 2013*

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

The Gulfport Recreation Division hosted **Family Fun Day** at Tomlinson Park on February 16. Families enjoyed inflatables, entertainment, free food, arts & crafts, and family competitions (photos below).



Approximately 100 people attended the Gulfport Public Library's Second Annual Circle of Friends meeting on February 19 (photos below). Guest Speaker, author Peter Kageyama did a fabulous job conveying the importance of love, fun, and thinking outside the box. Attendees were invited to take a tour of the Reading Garden, and the reception featured wonderful food from local restaurants and chefs.



### **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. 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](http://www.gulfportma.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket), call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email [dan@iqc.org](mailto:dan@iqc.org).

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 55<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information call 565-5511.

Councilmember Salmon will host a **Town Hall Meeting** at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex on Thursday, March 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Everyone is invited

It's easy to get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the March 16 **Citywide Yard Sale!** Email [jshea@mygulfport.us](mailto:jshea@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, or print a form online at [www.mygulfport.us](http://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 to 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 on the 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
- 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

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Administration**

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

Offenses	24
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	51

## **Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:**

Chief Vincent came upon a vehicle crash that had just occurred at the intersection of 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of February 14. One driver was transported to Bayfront with minor injuries. Officer Parks completed the crash investigation and issued a citation to the at fault driver.

While investigating a hit & run crash on February 16 Officer Randazzo located the suspect, who was discovered to be in possession of cocaine. The suspect was arrested in the 5200 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue for possession of cocaine & drug paraphernalia.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of February 17 after a caller reported a green Next BMX bike and a men's 26" red Schwinn mountain bike were stolen from a driveway. The theft occurred between 5 & 6:30 pm. There were no witnesses, and the resident was unable to provide serial numbers.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of February 18 after a caller reported that a pit-bull terrier was running at large, and had killed a cat. The dog attacked one of the officers, forcing him to fire a single shot, striking the dog. The officer was not injured. The dog was transported to an emergency veterinarian by the SPCA and is expected to survive. Animal control is investigating.

## **Investigations:**

<b>New Cases:</b>	16
Cases Suspended - no leads	2
Cases Assigned:	10
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	2

<b>Supplements Received:</b>	14
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously cleared with Arrest:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	10

Sergeant Woodman and Detective Pham interviewed and arrested Prometeo Iglesias-Bernal for lewd and lascivious battery on a minor. Sergeant Woodman also interviewed several people regarding the death of a 93 year old man who fell from a 4-story window.

Detective Pham administered annual physical abilities testing this week.

Detective Embry was on vacation this week.

Officer Beltran assisted Officer Motte with an arrest on campus. He also assisted school personnel with several peer mediations and a Baker Act evaluation.

Officer Motte continued to organize the *Battle of the Belts* seatbelt campaign. He also mediated several altercations preventing fights occurring, investigated a simple battery in which the suspect was arrested, and testified in a trial in which two suspects were found guilty of burglarizing a residence. He is currently investigating a theft of school property case.

This week Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis for Officer Priest regarding speeding. She also created and distributed bulletins to assist Detective Pham & Officer Parks in identifying

suspects in their investigations, and completed an informational review of all accident calls and accident reports for Lieutenant Stone.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	34
Public records requests:	41
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	31

### **MARINA**

Pumped five hundred thirty eight (538) gallons of gas, and two hundred twenty (220) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling thirty seven (37) vessels.

Assisted in twenty (20) pump-outs evacuating three hundred fifteen (315) 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 28', 44' and 50' sailboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Installed supports for deck ladders.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Completed slip count at marina and BCYC.
- Read and calculated marina electrical readings.

### **LEISURE SERVICES**

#### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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](http://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 19 City Council & Community Redevelopment Agency meetings. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Assisted City Clerk with A/V setup for Mayor's Recreation Center Dedication ceremony.
- Inventoried IT Department storage closet.
- Uploaded upcoming City meeting agendas & packets to City website.
- Addressed community inquiries regarding March 16 Citywide Yard Sale.

- Continued preparations for Pinellas County Fair presentations.
- Finalized meeting preparations for the Marina Charrette.
- Set up A/V equipment for Circle of Friends meeting at Gulfport Public Library.

## **Parks**

Installed 3 benches at tennis courts.

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

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

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Recreation Center grounds & Beach Streetscape, raked around benches & pavilions.

Mowed Recreation field, City Complex, Library & Senior Center grounds, Clymer & Wood Ibis Parks, Clam Bayou & trail spur.

Greased mowers & replaced blades, disassembled reel mowers in preparation for blade sharpening, and replaced shaft on line trimmer.

Repaired irrigation at Library and Beach Streetscape.

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.

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.

**Dance Fusion** classes are offered at Scout Hall every Monday at 10:30 a.m. Mrs. Eastman guides participants through salsa-type line dancing moves followed by a palates cool down.

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

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. Parking is available at the Gulfport Library. For information and reservations call 545-2088 or 888-571-7778, or visit [www.escotbuslines.com](http://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.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center**

#### **Casino (last week's events):**

Sunday, February 10	9 a.m. - PAVA 2013 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,704)
Monday, February 11	7 p.m. - Hustle lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 17)
Tuesday, February 12	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 16) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 5) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 77)
Wednesday, February 13	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 254)
Thursday, February 14	8 p.m. - Valentine's Day dance featuring Lloyd John's 18-Piece Big Band (Turnout 210)
Friday, February 15	8 p.m. - Swing dance lesson 9 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 350)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

- Sunday, February 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
- Every Thursday            7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
    8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

There were no events in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** last week.

**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 10        9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 22)  
    6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)
- Wednesday, February 13   6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (Turnout 12)
- Friday, February 15        5 p.m. - Pasadena Point Homeowners meeting (Turnout 6)

**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 12      11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)
- Wednesday, February 13   10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 29)
- Thursday, February 14     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.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center's free *Tai Chi for Arthritis* class will meet at the Library every Thursday at 2 p.m. beginning March 7, and continue until further notice.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

- Monday, February 11, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, February 12, 3 p.m. - eSalon facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, February 12 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*
- Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, February 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, February 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Storyime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, February 14, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Thursday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog.*
- Friday, February 15, 4:30 p.m. - *Tales from Kayak Adventurer Daniel Alvarez.*
- Friday February 15, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, February 16 - Free Family Movie Day: 10:30 a.m. - *Hotel Transylvania*; 1:30 p.m. - *Total Recall*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.

### **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 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.
- Thursday 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.
- Wednesday, March 6, 5 p.m. - *Real Estate News Forum.* For more information call 202-7111.
- Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with "Real Florida" Author Jeff Klinkenberg.* Join us as the popular Tampa Bay Times staff writer shares his insights on Florida and its natural treasures and memorable residents. For more information or to reserve a seat call 893-1073.
- 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 10 - 16, 2013:

#### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,206	690
Sun. 2/10	30	19
Mon. 2/11	334	113
Tue. 2/12	410	125
Wed. 2/13	343	111
Thu. 2/14	334	103
Fri. 2/15	390	121
Sat. 2/16	365	98

### Recreation Center

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

The Gulfport Recreation Division will offer full day activities during **Spring Break**, March 25 - 29 for children in Kindergarten to age 14. Hours are 7:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Registration fee: \$17 residents, and \$110 for nonresidents. Daily fee: \$11 for residents, and \$22 for nonresidents.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m. - noon at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment and food. Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Peter Cottontail will be on hand for pictures.

### 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. Seventeen (17) Tot Time/VPK participants and eleven (11) adults visited the Fine Arts Museum in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

**Contractual classes:** Chair Yoga, Cooking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Kickboxing Cardio, 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 hosted the Teen Council meeting at City Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

Recreation Staff worked the Family Fun Day Event at Tomlinson Park on Saturday morning.

Brian Van Slyke used the school bus to transport seventeen (17) Tot Time/VPK participants and eleven (11) adults to the Fine Arts Museum in St. Petersburg on Wednesday morning.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,086 totaling \$126,743.45
- Online Water payments: 101 transactions totaling \$10,814.37
- Bright House payments: 20
- Utility Bills Mailed 02/20/13: 1,638
- Payroll 02/15/13: 160 transactions totaling \$162,777.08
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 10 transactions totaling \$19,382.18

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 5 Traffic Incidents
- 7 Fire Alarms

### **Life Safety:**

Fire Inspector/Investigator Vento completed numerous inspections, re-inspections and plan reviews this week.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21. The Gulfport CERT team is dedicated to being actively involved in local community events on a regular basis. For more information visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com) or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Fire Chief James Marenkovic is out of the area. Lt. Adam Poirrier is serving as Acting Fire Chief until he returns.
- Lt. Poirrier obtained his Bachelors in Public Safety Administration from St. Petersburg College, and was certified as an Instructor 3 by the State of Florida Fire Marshal.
- All shifts attended in-service *Impact of Ventilation on Fire Behavior in Legacy and Contemporary Residential Construction* training presented by Underwriters Laboratories at the Performing Arts Center in Pinellas Park.
- FF/PM Michael Hays taught a Healthcare Provider CPR class to a member of the U.S. Coast Guard on February 17.
- Lt. Poirrier attended the Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association's meeting at station 65 in Palm Harbor on February 19. The County's new Medical Director provided system updates. A conference call was held with the same group on February 21 regarding the new computerized patient care reports that will be added to the system later this year.
- A St. Petersburg College Paramedic 3 student continues to ride with the Gulfport Fire Department as part of the field internship program. The "B-shift" is supervising his development.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

##### **Building Maintenance:**

- Removed & rekeyed lock on closet door at City Hall.
- Repaired four card tables at Senior Center.
- Installed art channels on walls in Room #106 and Dining Room at Senior Center.
- Repaired two tables at Recreation Center.
- Completed semi-annual inspection of Fire Suppression System at City Hall and Police Department.
- Replaced faucet in outside Men's Room at the Casino.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Replaced ballast in Theater Lobby.
- 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.
- Milled alley entrance at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 50<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Cleaned truck wash area.
- Removed vehicle obstruction from roadway at 55<sup>th</sup> Street & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and reset storm lid and cleaned box at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard.
- Cleaned storm grates at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard and Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Straightened traffic control devices on 58<sup>th</sup> Street from Gulfport Boulevard to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed stop signs at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Refilled mulch bin.
- Cleaned and removed debris from City Yard and Storage Pack Area.
- Removed and disposed of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street Holding Area.
- Removed roots from storm drain line at Tifton Drive & Del Rio Way and repaired seawall at outfall box.
- Completed milling of East/West alley between 50<sup>th</sup> & 49<sup>th</sup> Streets at 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
- Removed debris from storm drains on 58<sup>th</sup> Street between 11<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

### **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 #31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 91 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 8 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 10 backflow devices due in February.
- Repaired water break at 5879 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **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 and removed roots from sewer lateral at 2902 50<sup>th</sup> Street & 1212 62<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Continued smoke testing of sewer main line in the area south of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Replaced sewer manhole ring and cover at 59<sup>th</sup> St & 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired emergency lights on Police vehicle #501.
- Replaced water pump, timing belt tensioner pulley, and serpentine belt idler pulley on Police vehicle #111.
- Replaced electronic throttle pedal assembly and intake manifold pressure sensor in Lightning Loader #88.
- Repaired fuel pump and one fuel injector on Water Department vehicle #20.

- 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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> 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.

Beginning in March Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

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