



Gulfport Community Update

February 24 - March 2, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Public Works Director Don Sopak reports that **new watering restrictions** went into effect for the Tampa Bay Area on February 26. Please see the attached documents for the most up to date information.

It was a symbolic morning of events at the Recreation Center on Saturday, February 23 as the City of Gulfport honored retiring Mayor Mike Yakes by renaming the Gulfport Recreation Center to the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex (photo below).



Dogs and owners filled the streets of the downtown waterfront and enjoyed a day of fun during the **Ninth Annual Get Rescued** animal rescue festival and fundraiser on Beach Boulevard on February 23 (photos below). Gulfport's Get Rescued is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state.



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 or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email dan@iqc.org.

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.

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, 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 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.

Ahoy, get that kayak or other boat related items during the **Nautical Flea Market** at the Gulfport Marina, 4630 29th Avenue on Saturday, March 23, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Limited space is available: \$10.00 for a 10x10 space. Bring your own table. For more information call Harbor Master Denis Frain at 893-1071.

Weekly Casino Ballroom Events

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Offenses	44
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	31

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the 1900 block of 53rd Street on the morning of February 19 after a caller reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle overnight and stole her Sirius satellite radio. There are no suspects.

Officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of 57th Street early February 20 after a home's residents interrupted a burglary in progress. The suspects fled out a window and broke a fence while leaving. The victims did not see the suspects leave and could not provide much information. Miscellaneous jewelry was taken from a bedroom.

Officer Davis ran a tag on a vehicle on the morning of February 20 and discovered that registered owner Cassandra Dorsey had an outstanding warrant for Fraud. He stopped the vehicle in the 1900 block of 49th Street, and Dorsey was arrested.

Officers responded to the 5800 block of 27th Avenue on the morning of February 20 after a caller reported that he left a window partially down on a friend's vehicle and later discovered the title and insurance paperwork missing. Nothing else appeared to have been taken.

GPD is investigating a theft after a complainant reported that her purse was stolen after she left it at an establishment in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard in the early morning hours of February 22. The purse was later recovered, but a cell phone and cash were missing.

A laptop computer was reported stolen from a residence in the 1800 block of 52nd Street on the morning of February 22. The resident believes he may have left a backdoor unlocked.

While searching a disorderly conduct suspect in the 5600 block of 19th Avenue on the evening of February 22 officers discovered a silver metal pipe in his pocket that field tested positive for marijuana. The suspect was issued a notice to appear in court.

Officers responded to the 700 block of 61st Street on the evening of February 22 after a caller reported a young male entering a vehicle through an open driver side window. Cigarettes and a handful of change were reported missing.

While on patrol on the evening of February 22 Officer Kellington observed a person sleeping next to a building in the 2200 block of 49th Street. The subject was in possession of an open container of beer and issued a City Ordinance Violation. A friend of the subject approached the officer. He was identified as Robby Walker who was wanted by Hillsborough County sheriff's Office on two warrants for failing to appear for an open container and panhandling. Walker was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to O'Maddy's Bar in the early morning hours of February 24 after a caller requested two intoxicated individuals be trespassed from the establishment. Officers told the subjects several times to leave the premises. Both reentered the property and were arrested.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	9
Cases Suspended - no leads	1
Cases Assigned:	7
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	1
<i>Supplements Received:</i>	25
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	21

Detective Hanh Pham spoke with an inmate at the Pinellas County Jail who was a possible suspect in a grand theft case. The inmate provided the names of the other suspects and information concerning the theft of a boat motor. Detective Pham also continued investigating his assigned cases and conducted sex offender checks this week.

Detective Embry set a Non-Arrest Invest for burglary suspect Ronald Nixon after being unable to locate him, and will obtain a warrant for Nixon's arrest. He is also attempting to locate Samantha Montoya, a suspect in a check fraud case, and continued investigating assigned cases this week.

Lieutenant Stone is investigating a credit card fraud case involving an elderly victim who lives in Manatee County. The victim's grandson lives in Gulfport and used the card multiple times without authorization.

Officer Motte mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring, mentored several students, assisted Pinellas Park in a possible child abuse investigation, and investigated a late reported theft in which 2 Kindle Fire tablets were stolen from the school. The theft occurred over a three day span and there was no physical evidence or witnesses so the case has been suspended due to the lack of follow up information. He also met with Student Government in preparation of the Battle of the Belts campaign scheduled for the week of March 11.

Officer Steven Beltran accepted a position with the University of South Florida Police Department. His last day with GPD was February 27. We are searching for a replacement SRO.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	30
Supplements reviewed:	269
Public records requests:	9
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	20
Citizens assisted:	30

Three policies are in the review process: 323 - Receipt of Subpoenas; 340 - Performance Evaluations, and; 417 - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence.

Applicant Screening

Two employment applications were reviewed this week. Staff continues to recruit and screen applicants to fill the vacancy created by Officer Beltran's resignation.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand one hundred ninety (1,190) gallons of gas, and two hundred thirty eight (238) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty seven (57) vessels.

Assisted in twenty five (25) pump-outs evacuating four hundred ten (410) 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 37' sailboat, 40' powerboat, 27' powerboat & 26' powerboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

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.
- Attended *The New Role of Journalism* training at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg on Tuesday.
- Uploaded Mayor's dedication video to City of Gulfport's YouTube site.
- Continued collecting resident information for Citywide Yard Sale brochure.
- Commenced preparation of April calendar.
- Updated March program calendars and events on Recreation website and GTV615.
- Met with Department Directors to discuss and assist with new website design and ideas.
- Met with Parks Superintendent and Leisure Services supervisors to discuss upcoming events.
- Commenced preparation of 2013/14 Event Resolution.

Parks

Set up tables, chairs and trash/recycling cans in preparation for Mayor's Recreation Center Dedication ceremony and Pet Rescue event.

Measured greenway for possible bollard placement, and priced different style bollards.

Cleared fountain filters at Wood Ibis Lake.

Graded and reworked sand at volleyball courts.

Repaired bench at Tomlinson Lake.

Cleaned baseline & turf edges at Lum Fields.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Marina area & Beach Streetscape, raked around benches & pavilions.

Emptied trash bins on Beach & Shore Boulevards following Art Walk weekend.

Mowed Recreation field, Tomlinson, Caldwell, Tonkin & Wood Ibis Parks, Clam Bayou, Pasadena entrance, 15th Avenue & 55th Street medians, Dog Park, Chase Block & trail spur.

Greased mowers & replaced blades, repaired pull string on blower, and replaced deck wheels on mower.

Repaired irrigation at Chase Block & Tonkin Park and installed additional irrigation lines at Library.

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 March 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. Tickets: \$5.

Boca Ciega Center will host a **nutrition class** featuring Diabetic Management and Cardiac Diets on Wednesday, March 27 at 2 p.m. A free blood sugar check will be offered to attendees.

Want to know more about **Hospice and Caregiving**? 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.

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 17	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 50)
Monday, February 18	7 p.m. - Hustle lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 17)
Tuesday, February 19	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 22) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 4) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 49)
Wednesday, February 20	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 251)
Thursday, February 21	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 40)
Saturday, February 23	8 p.m. - Swing dance lesson 9 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 150)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, February 17	10 a.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) stage setup
Monday, February 18	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Tuesday, February 19	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Wednesday, February 20	6 p.m. - GCP dress rehearsal with family & friends
Thursday, February 21	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Woman in Black</i> (Turnout 50)
Friday, February 22	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Woman in Black</i> (Turnout 84)

Saturday, February 23 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 63)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, February 28 - March 2 & March 7 - 9, 8 p.m., and Sunday, 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 17 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 25)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 12)

Wednesday, February 20 6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (Turnout 12)

Saturday, February 23 11 a.m. - Mayor Yakes reception (Turnout 40)

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 19 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, February 20 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 29)

Thursday, February 21 9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice

Saturday, February 23 11 a.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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 18, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, February 19, 11 a.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop* facilitated by Dave Mather & Cailey Klasson.
- Tuesday, February 19, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

- Tuesday, February 19, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*
- Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Second Annual meeting.*
- Wednesday, February 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*
- Wednesday, February 20, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, February 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, February 21, 10:30 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey.
- Thursday, February 21, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Friday February 22, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshop* presented by Trace Taylor.

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.
- Wednesday, March 6, 5 p.m. - *Real Estate News Forum.* For more information call 202-7111.
- Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids.* Make it & take it DIY with Youth Services Librarian Cailey.
- Saturday, March 9 & 23 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshops.* Trace Taylor returns with her popular training on how to produce a book.
- 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.
- Saturday, March 16, *Free Family Movie Day:* 10:30 a.m. - *Wreck-it Ralph*; 1:30 p.m. - *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.* Enjoy free popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.
- Thursday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk* discussion of the book *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen over light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.
- 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.

Library Services/Statistics February 17 - 23, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,963	672
Sun. 2/17	16	15
Mon. 2/18	316	82
Tue. 2/19	357	144
Wed. 2/20	284	100
Thu. 2/21	341	119
Fri. 2/22	322	111
Sat. 2/23	327	101

Recreation Center

The Game Room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9 for a birthday party and 3:30 - 7 p.m. Saturday, March 23 for a Baby Shower.

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.

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.

Seven (7) **FY2012/13 Skate Park** registrations have been issued to date.

Staff Activities

Recreation Staff worked the Mayor's Dedication Ceremony on Saturday morning.

Teen Council members Nolan Slone & Laura Karbowski attended the Mayor's Dedication Ceremony on Saturday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 33 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,048 totaling \$118,792.36
- On-Line Water payments: 88 transactions totaling \$11,085.15
- Bright House payments: 24
- Utility Bills Mailed 02/27/13: 1,308
- Accounts Payable 02/22/13: 579 transactions totaling \$617,675.54
- Mail processed 02/22/13: 862 pieces totaling \$808.83
- Purchasing Cards February report: 237 transactions totaling \$25,140.88

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Traffic Incidents (1 Trauma Alert)
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Odor Investigation
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 3 Annual Inspection
- 1 CO Inspection

Inspector Vento was conducting an inspection walkthrough with a contractor at 5413 Shore Boulevard when a water rescue call came in. He responded to the empty field behind the Recreation center to try and establish a visual on the problem. A catamaran sailboat had flipped over and was being pushed by the wind into the beach area. No rescue was required.

Inspector Vento attended Pinellas County HazMat Training this week. As a Statewide Emergency response team, he reviewed more of the state required training for team members: Suit testing procedures and; suit compliances and possible problems that can occur. An

afternoon drill consisted of a simple spill in a warehouse in which a recon team, backup team and a Rapid intervention team were sent in for a mock rescue.

Inspector Vento and Acting Chief Poirrier attended the Special Magistrate hearing on February 28. Both cases heard involved Fire Code violations; one for failure to comply with the annual inspection/repair and maintenance of required fire extinguishers, and the other for failure to repair an existing emergency light in the foyer of a multi-family rental unit.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th 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 or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

Staff Activities:

- Lt. Adam Poirrier continued serving as Acting Fire Chief this week while Fire Chief James Marenkovic is out of the area.
- Vendor inspections were completed by B-shift personnel for the **Get Rescued** event. No violations were noted. In addition, a special rescue vehicle was in service staffed by two members to respond for medical emergencies at this event.
- The B-shift attended the dedication ceremony for Mayor Yakes at the Gulfport Recreation Complex on February 23.
- FF/EMT Lesley Jordan taught a CPR/AED class to a member of the Gulfport Police Department on February 25.
- 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.
- The C-shift responded to a traffic incident involving a vehicle and a bicycle. The bicycle rider was transported as a Trauma Alert to Bayfront Medical Center. As time is a critical factor in the outcome of these types of patients, the C-shift was able to transport the patient within 3 minutes after the arrival, and had the patient to the emergency room within 20 minutes. These times are a testament of their hard work.
- The A-shift presented a **Youth Sport Concussions** training session to the Gulfport Little League on February 28.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced water line on faucet sink in ladies' beach restroom.
- Repaired men's urinal in City Hall public restroom.
- Repaired toilet in employee men's room at City Hall.
- Unclogged and repaired ladies' handicap toilet at beach restrooms.
- Replaced motion detector at Historical Building.
- Rewired light at Recreation Center.
- Obtained FL diesel for garage/Vehicle Maintenance Department.
- Replaced ballast in men's theater lobby restroom.
- Arranged and completed set-ups for Mayor's ceremony.
- Painted Lift Station near Recreation Center.
- 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.
- Assembled new metal commercial dumpster for P.Y.C.C. Marina
- Completed storm drain repairs at 54th Street & 15th Avenue
- Removed & disposed of illegal dumping at 49th Street & 28th Avenue and Osgood Point.
- Removed debris and picked up dumpsters following weekend events.
- Removed debris from storm drain outfall at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at 54th Street & 23rd Avenue, 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, 53rd Street & 25th Avenue, and Marina parking lot.
- Replaced 300-gallon container at George’s Restaurant.
- Reset storm drain covers at Dellett & Beach Boulevard and 58th Street & 17th Avenue.
- Barricaded and removed roadway obstruction at 50th Street & 12th Avenue.
- Cleaned storm drain box at 54th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at 1617 49th Street.
- Delivered replacement automated containers to P.Y.C.C.

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 #45, 46, 47 and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 51 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 88 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 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.
- Repaired fire hydrant at 11th Ave & York Street.
- Assembled 126 new 5/8” electronic water meters in preparation for installation.

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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 1807 49th Street.
- Cleaned, televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1819 49th Street.
- Cleaned sewer main line at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel pump in Fire Truck #P17.
- Replaced brake light switch and brake light switch wire harness on Police Vehicle #09.
- Performed complete tune up on Bldg. Dept Vehicle #03.
- Replaced hydraulic bucket cylinder and manifold blocks on Lightning Loader #29.
- 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 have moved to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th 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.

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

Conditional Use Application: C13-02; 5134 – 15th Avenue South; Conditional Use to establish a mixed use development through the creation of a Live-Work Use by proposing the partial conversion of the residence to accommodate a commercial use.

March 13, 2013 Board of Adjustment:

- V13-03; 1525 53rd Street South; Variance request to:
 - 1) Reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 21.28 feet, from 25 feet to 3.72 feet; and
 - 2) Reduce the side yard setback 0.10 foot, from 12 feet to 11.90 feet to recognize the existing encroachments for the reconstruction of a non-conforming carport.
- V13-04; 817 59th Street South; Variance request to reduce the side yard setback 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet to construct a conditioned living space addition to the existing house.

Distribution:

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

District Increases Water Restrictions in Tampa Bay Area

Due to below normal rainfall, reduced river levels and increasing water supply concerns, the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board voted today to increase water restrictions in the Tampa Bay area. Even though December rainfall was near normal for our region, rainfall in January and February was 3.5 inches below normal.

The Governing Board enacted Phase III restrictions for lawn watering, car washing and fountain use in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. The tighter restrictions begin March 13th and take into account that Tampa Bay Water's C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir is currently under renovation, meaning the utility is relying on its desalination plant and regional well fields to meet public demand in the coming months. Tampa Bay Water is the wholesale water supplier for Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas county water utilities as well as the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and New Port Richey.

Under the Phase III restrictions, the allowable lawn and landscape watering schedule is reduced to once-per-week on a specified day based on address. Micro-irrigation and hand watering of non-lawn areas still are allowed any day; but like all irrigation, such activity must now occur only during designated hours (before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. unless otherwise specified by a stricter local ordinance). Car washing is limited to once per week, and fountain operation will be limited to four hours per day. These restrictions apply to well, pond and canal water sources in addition to city or county water supplies. See fact sheet for more details on these restrictions.

There are no changes to the Phase I restrictions currently in place for other water uses, including agricultural irrigation, golf course operations, industrial processes, or pressure washing activities.

“For the last several months, we’ve watched the conditions decline, said Chairman Paul Senft. If we do not receive significant rainfall in the coming months, we may have to extend these restrictions into other areas of the District. We ask residents to be conservative with their water use, especially outdoor irrigation.”

Phase I restrictions remain the same in Charlotte, Citrus, Desoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter Counties. The City of Dunnellon and The Villages in Marion County also remain under Phase I restrictions. Other portions of Marion County and the City of Ocala follow restrictions set by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

For additional information about water restrictions and water conservation, please contact your local utility or visit the District's website at WaterMatters.org/restrictions/.

The mission of the Southwest Florida Water Management District is to manage water and related natural resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing environmental, economic and recreational benefits.

Phase III
Water Restrictions
FACT SHEET

Effective Dates and Affected Areas

- The restrictions are scheduled to begin on March 13, 2013 and expire on July 31, 2013. The restrictions affect Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

Lawn Watering Schedule and Times

- Lawn watering is limited to a once-per-week schedule. The following schedule applies unless your city or county has a District-approved different schedule or more stringent restrictions.

Addresses with "house numbers" ...	May only irrigate on...
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday
Rights-of-way, common areas and other "no address" locations	Friday

- Allowable watering hours are before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Landscape Watering

- Hand-watering and micro-irrigation of flower beds, shrubs and other plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day, if needed, but is limited to allowable watering hours.

New Lawns & Plants

- New lawns and plants have a 60-day establishment period. On days 1-30, they may be watered any day of the week. During days 31-60, they may be watered three days a week. Even-numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Odd-numbered addresses may be watered on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Rights-of-way and other "no address" locations may be watered on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.
- Except on the day of installation or when sprigs are being grown, establishment watering must be done during allowable watering hours.
- Be able to supply proof of installation date upon request.

Fountains

- Fountains and other aesthetic water features may only operate four hours per day. The regular hours of operation can be selected by the owner, but must be posted.

Vehicle Washing

- Car washing is limited to once per week on the designated watering day for the location.
- Fundraising car washes cannot be scheduled after the effective date of these restrictions.
- Commercial car washes, including mobile detailing businesses, may still operate on any day.

- Fire engines and other emergency vehicles may still be washed on any day as needed.
- Boats can be rinsed and boat engines can be flushed after each use.

Other Water Uses

- Restaurants shall only serve water upon request.
- Other than athletic play areas, including golf, football, baseball and other athletic fields, all lawn and landscape areas must comply with the once-per-week restrictions.

Deed Restrictions & Community Standards Enforcement

- Homeowners associations and other entities must suspend any requirement to replace lawns, pressure wash or engage in other activity that increases water use during this water shortage declaration.

Water Utilities and Other Local Enforcement Agencies

- Use automatic meter reading or weekly night patrols to monitor compliance where restriction violations or high-use single family residential accounts are concentrated.
- Issue citations without needing to have first issued a warning.

This is just a summary; for complete information, please refer to the Phase III Water Shortage Order.

If you have any questions about how these restrictions apply to your situation, please call 1-800-848-0499 during normal business hours or send an inquiry to Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org any time.

Susanna Martinez Tarokh
Public Information Officer
Southwest Florida Water Management District
OFFICE: 813-985-7481 ext. 2008
CELL: 813-781-9817
watermatters.org/newsroom