



Gulfport Community Update

March 3 - 9, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Upcoming Events:

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

Everyone is invited the next **49th Street South Business Association (So49)** meeting at the Gulfport Meeting Place, 5021 Tangerine Avenue on Monday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 515-4941.

Gulfport Polling places are open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 for **Municipal Election Day**. Voting is at large for Mayoral Candidates. For more information call the City Clerk's office at 727-893-1012 or visit www.mygulfport.us and click on March 2013 Election information.

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. Bring gently used clothing to the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** (Community Action Stops Abuse) at the Peninsula Courtyard 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on March 12. Bring your own hangers. Extra clothing donations for CASA are appreciated. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email dan@igc.org.

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.

Third Saturday **Gulfport Art-Walk** is March 16, 6 - 10 p.m. on Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

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	30
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	32

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Davis stopped a car with an expired tag in the 4900 block of 31st Street on the morning of February 26 and discovered that the driver, Joseph Civita had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for an arraignment hearing. Mr. Civita was arrested.

The owner of a gas station in the 2200 block of 49th Street advised he was having a problem with a transient loitering around his business and asking customers for money. Officer Iwanowski located the man identified as Sean Aldridge walking around the business on the evening of February 26. He was issued a trespass warning per the owner's request.

Anthony Okuma was arrested on an outstanding warrant on the evening of February 26 for violation of probation for driving with no valid license.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 31st Street on the evening of February 26 after receiving a report of a male and female arguing loudly in the area. They made contact with a male and Tamara Badger. She and the male were having a verbal altercation which was intensified by alcohol. The male quickly calmed down and went back to his apartment. Badger refused to leave the area and continued causing a disturbance. After several warnings she was arrested for disorderly intoxication.

Officers responded to the 5900 block of Shore Boulevard on the morning of February 27 after a caller reported he was head butted in the mouth by Leonard Goga after an argument over soccer. Goga sustained a minor injury to his head and was issued a notice to appear for battery.

Officers were dispatched to the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard on the afternoon of February 27 after a caller reported that she was advised by a credit card company that someone had attempted to open an account under her name, using an address in St. Petersburg.

GPD is investigating a retail theft after an employee of the Walgreens on Gulfport Boulevard witnessed a woman putting items into a bag without paying for them on the afternoon of February 27. When confronted, she refused to show a receipt for the items and left the store.

Officers responded to the intersection of 15th Avenue & 58th Street on the evening of February 27 regarding a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident. The vehicle was traveling west on 15th Avenue, approaching 58th Street. According to several witnesses and the driver, the vehicle had a green light. The pedestrian attempted to cross the street before the vehicle, but he was unsuccessful. A traffic homicide investigator was called to scene due to the serious nature of the pedestrian's injuries. The investigation continues, however evidence suggests that the driver was not at fault.

Officers were called to the scene of a disturbance in the 5200 block of 12th Avenue on the evening of February 27 after a woman got into a verbal altercation with her adult nephew. It

turned physical with the woman being pushed to the ground. The nephew left the scene and has yet to be located. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers responded to the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club on the afternoon of March 1 after receiving reports that three people in a black Volkswagen Passat were shooting paintballs at vehicles. No damage was reported and officers are following up with the security guards at PYCC to try to identify the vehicle's occupants.

GPD is investigating a fraud case after a couple reported on March 2 that three of their credit cards were used to make purchases without their knowledge. They were also advised by the IRS that someone had filed a Federal Income Tax return using their information.

Officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress at a foreclosed property in the 1300 block of 53rd Street on the afternoon of March 3. The parties on scene were maintaining the property for the bank, and both provided the work orders for the location.

Patrol officers performed a welfare check on a man later identified as Ricky Maynard after they observed him stumbling in the street in the area of 50th Street & 29th Avenue on the evening of March 2. He consented to a search, and was found to be in possession of a prescription pill bottle with another person's name on it. He was arrested for possession of a scheduled narcotic without a prescription.

Officers responded to a hit & run crash in the 1300 block of 58th Street on the morning of March 3 after a caller reported that a green sedan, possibly a Toyota Camry failed to stop for the stop sign, causing his vehicle to strike the sedan. The car then continued south on 58th Street and then east on 15th Avenue, where it was last seen. The driver was described as a young black male with close cut hair. The car possibly had a Tennessee tag

Officers responded to the 6300 block of Pasadena Point Boulevard on the evening of March 3 after the golf course groundskeeper reported a vehicle had driven "donuts" on the greenway, causing several thousand dollars damage. A security guard recognized the suspect vehicle after reviewing surveillance video. The vehicle was located in PYCC and the suspect, Kasey Stefanski admitted that he did it because his friends bet him 10 dollars that he would not do it. Stefanski was arrested for criminal mischief.

While on routine patrol on March 3 Sergeant Marotta ran a tag check on a Ford sedan in the 2700 block of 53rd Street and discovered the tag was issued to a trailer. The driver, Jonathan Holzapfel admitted that the tag did not belong on the car and that his license was suspended. Holzapfel has an extensive history of driving offenses and was arrested for felony driving while license suspended or revoked.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 30th Avenue in the early morning hours of March 4 regarding an armed burglary and grand theft auto. The victim's ex-boyfriend forced his way into her home and armed himself with a kitchen knife that he used to threaten her. The suspect took the victim's iPhone and car keys, and left the house. Once outside he stole the victim's car. The suspect has been identified and officers are attempting to locate him.

Officers were notified by a City employee that someone appeared to be living under a pavilion in Clam Bayou Park. The area was checked, and items were found that did seem to indicate that a person is staying there. Officers will check the area more frequently.

Sgt. Burkhardt located a 2013 Ford Mustang that had fled several times over the past few weeks from Gulfport Police, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and St. Petersburg Police. The vehicle was parked at the Kwik Stop on the St. Petersburg side of 49th Street, unlocked and unoccupied with the engine running. Officers found approximately 90 grams of marijuana, 4 grams of crystal methamphetamine, and a stolen, loaded Kahr Arms 9 millimeter firearm inside the vehicle.

Officers responded to a reported theft in the 5200 block of 14th Avenue after a caller stated he left a \$700 bicycle unsecured in the front yard of his residence, and discovered it missing approximately 2 hours later. The investigation is ongoing.

Investigations:

New Cases:	12
Cases Suspended - no leads	2
Cases Assigned:	7
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	1

Supplements Received:	22
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously cleared with Arrest:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	15

Detective Pham spoke with Crystal Russell at the Pinellas County Jail regarding a residential burglary. Russell denied involvement. Detective Pham continued investigating assigned cases.

Detective Embry arrested Samantha Montoya for passing a stolen check, and is obtaining evidence to arrest a second suspect. He also continued to investigate assigned cases.

This week Officer Motte mediated an altercation preventing a fight from occurring, dispersed an unruly crowd, made contact with a suspicious person determining that he had a legitimate purpose on the school's campus, had a K9 Officer at the school performing a drug sweep, and assisted SPPD in a sexual battery investigation involving a student. He also continued to work on the Battle of the Belts Campaign which kicks off the week of March 11.

Analyst Palmisano completed two analyses for Officer Davis; one regarding speeding in several locations and the other in reference to an ordinance violation and drug complaints at Gulfport Beach. She also compiled statistics for Lieutenant Stone and completed the biweekly open case lists to be distributed to all officers.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	19
Supplements reviewed:	266
Reports disseminated:	19
Public records requests:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	15
Citizens assisted:	30

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 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 March 5 City Council meeting and March 6 Planning & Zoning meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Contacted Bright House Networks for GTV615 audio issues.
- Uploaded upcoming meeting agendas and packets to City website.
- Addressed community inquiries regarding March 16 City Wide Yard Sale.
- Continued preparations for Pinellas County Fair presentations.
- Completed Events/Meetings Calendar for the month of April.
- Completed City Wide Yard Sale Brochure and sent to printer.
- Assisted Dave Mather with cleaning IT office.
- Met with Bob Williams to discuss logistics for upcoming events.
- Met with Department Directors to discuss new website pages.
- Commenced design and architectural structure of new City of Gulfport website.
- Assembled Leisure Services information for 2012 Annual Report.

Parks

Replaced vegetation in Library sign area, Marina area and along Beach Streetscapes.

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

Repaired fence at tennis courts, rekeyed Hoyt field gates, lights & restrooms, and cleaned graffiti from playground equipment throughout City.

Mowed Recreation field, Beach area, Veterans Park & Tangerine Greenway signage area.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and cleaned & serviced all Parks Maintenance equipment.

Repaired irrigation at City Complex and Clymer Park.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

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

Other Activities:

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

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

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

Multipurpose Center

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

Sign up today to enjoy all the classes and events offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up a copy of the March schedule at the Senior Center or online at <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>. The Senior Center currently offers 49 monthly classes for residents over 50 to choose. Membership required.

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 Snack Bar Movie Day at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 12 and enjoy a great movie & rib sandwich for only \$2.50.

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 5 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 24 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John
7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 51) |
| Monday, February 25 | 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 129) |
| Tuesday, February 26 | Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 18)
1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 3)
2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 54) |
| Wednesday, February 27 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 255) |
| Friday, March 1 | 8 p.m. - Historical Society Dance for Fun Fundraiser (Turnout 150) |
| Saturday, March 2 | 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 130) |

Casino (Upcoming Events):

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Friday, March 8 | 7:30 p.m. - Brookwood Florida Mardi Gras Carnival Fundraiser.
Admission \$50 |
| Sunday, March 10, 17 & 24 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7 |
| 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 24 | 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>The Woman in</i> |
|---------------------|---|

Black (Turnout 126)

Thursday, February 28 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 73)

Friday, March 1 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 50)

Saturday, March 2 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 88)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, March 7 - 9, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Women in Black*, an intense Gothic ghost story with a spine-chilling climax. Tickets: \$15, 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 24 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 15)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 9)

Wednesday, February 27 6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (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

Monday, February 25 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, February 26 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, February 27 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 25)

Thursday, February 28 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 is meeting at the Library every Thursday at 2 p.m. until further notice.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

- Monday, February 25, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, February 26, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, February 26 - *SCORE Counseling*.
- Tuesday, February 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, February 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, February 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, February 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, February 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Friday, March 1, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.

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, March 9, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids!* Make it and 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.
- Tuesday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop*. This class is full. Please call 893-1073 to reserve a seat for the April 2 or 16 class.
- 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 24 - March 2, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,119	731
Sun. 2/24	13	9
Mon. 2/25	380	135
Tue. 2/126	365	123
Wed. 2/27	392	134
Thu. 2/28	349	116
Fri. 3/1	350	126
Sat. 3/2	270	88

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 nine (59) 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

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Leisure Services Supervisor's meeting at the Casino on Wednesday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez and Nicole Latragna met with Dave Mather and Justin Shea on Friday morning to discuss the Recreation Center's website design.

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport thirty five (35) Gulfport Elementary students and six (6) adults to the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg on Tuesday.

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:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Haz-Mat Response
- 1 Tree Fire
- 1 Wires Down

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re Inspections
- 1 C.O.'s

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:

- Chief Marenkovic met with Parks Superintendent Bob Williams and City Staff to discuss March and April events.
- The Gulfport Fire Department commenced annual Large Diameter Hose and Ground Ladder testing at the Gulfport Marina with Treasure Island Fire Department rotating their apparatus through. Waterway Fire Services L.L.C. is facilitator again this year.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association (PCFCA) meeting in Largo on March 7. Topics included: an update on Emergency Fire Dispatch; training report from the training Ops Chief; EMSAC report from Chief Angle; PALS report from Chief Marenkovic, and; Priority Dispatch protocols, Fitch Survey.
- Chief Marenkovic and the Finance Director are working on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2013/14. Due date for submission is March 15.
- The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program. Lt. Poirrier on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.
- The Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs have commenced their March 2013 St. Petersburg College online CME.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Repaired two light fixtures in breezeway at Recreation Center.
- Installed new 30-Ton Carrier A/C Unit at Casino.
- Installed clock in City Hall main lobby.
- Relocated furniture from dining area at Senior Center for floor waxing; and replaced upon completion.
- Unclogged ladies room toilet at beach restroom.
- Replaced four 12-volt batteries for fire alarm panel at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced two ballasts at Fire Station.
- Rewired light on outside of bathroom at Hoyt Field
- Repaired front door at Scout Hall
- Completed monthly change-out of all A/C filters on all City A/C units.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins and "City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines" information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Graded beach and removed debris around outfall.
- Delivered a new 90 gallon containers to Pasadena Point & Boca Ciega High School.
- Replaced two 40 gallon containers with a 90 gallon container on 13th Avenue.
- Painted crosswalk on Tangerine Avenue and stop bars on Tangerine at 52nd & 54th Streets.
- Painted stop bars at the end of 30th Avenue in Town Shores.
- Replaced stop signs at 57th Street & 20th Avenue, 53rd Street & 21st Avenue, and 53rd Street & 20th Avenue.
- Delivered two automated recycling bins to Town Shores Nottingham Building.

- Completed special pick-up at Bayview Circle.
- Assembled and delivered/replaced 90 gallon and 40 gallon automated containers.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcass at Town Shores.
- Cleaned and reset steel storm lid at 58th Street & 30th Avenue.
- Picked up street signs in St. Petersburg.
- Removed barricades at the Canoe/Dredge Project/Open Canoe Parking.
- Removed and recycled old 4 x 6 yard dumpsters.
- Installed new stop signs, street signs, and poles at 58th Street & 9th Avenue, 64th Street & 9th Avenue, and 51st Street & 17th Avenue.

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 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 44 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 13 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 103 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 2 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.
- Installed new 4" meter and backflow at 2785 Kipps Colony Drive.

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, televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1207 Gray Street & 5221 23rd Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced grabber arm hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Repaired front axle oil leak on Recycle Truck #40.
- Replaced EGR valve on Lightning Loader #88.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 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 & Zoning Board and March 19, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting Results:

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. P&Z RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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:

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