



Gulfport Community Update

March 10 - 16, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport **Little League Parade** heated the spark on Opening Day Saturday, March 9 (photos below). Mayor Yakes welcomed team members by throwing the ceremonial first pitch. Players lined the field to participate in the festivities. Visit www.gulfportlittleleague.net for game schedules.



Elizabeth Brown Worthington donated approximately 500 canned goods and supplies to the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Pantry (photos below). The pantry helps about 20 senior citizens in need each week. For more information please call 893-2237.



Upcoming Events:

Brochures for the March 16 **Gulfport Citywide Yard Sale** are available at all City facilities and online at www.mygulfport.us. The Gulfport Public Library, 5501 27th Avenue will be the main hub to pick up a brochure on Saturday. A record-setting 120 Gulfport addresses are listed on this year's brochure.

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.

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@igc.org.

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.

The next **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** is 6 - 10 p.m. April 5 on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District. For more information call 322-5217.

Get thrilled and have some fun at the **Aquamania/Pro-Hydro X Tour Professional Jet Ski races** Saturday & Sunday, April 6 and 7. This two day event will feature closed course and freestyle personal watercraft racing. Tucked in with this full throttle action are two days of entertainment, including a kayak and paddle board race, recycle regatta, kids activities, a corn hole tournament with prizes, vendors and more. For more information, call 893-1118.

Get your organization involved in the fight against cancer at the overnight campout and walk for **Relay for Life** at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex Field beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, April 19, until 8 a.m. Saturday, April 20. For more information call Melissa Weest at 546-9822.

Free Oral Cancer and Prostate Screenings will be offered in the Walgreens parking lot on Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 322-5669.

Boca Ciega Yacht Club FUNDAY on Saturday, April 27, 1 - 4 p.m. at the Yacht Club, 4600 Tifton Drive. Free sailboat rides, hotdogs & soda. For more information call 345-2764.

Bring a chair to Gulfport Beach to enjoy the **Gulfport Yacht Club Multi-Hull Regatta** on Saturday, April 27 at 11 a.m. & Sunday April 28 at 10 a.m. Participants can register online at www.gulfportyachtclub.com. For more information call Regatta Chairman Bob Feckner at 215-7982 or email bobfeck@aol.com.

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

23

Arrests	8
Traffic citations	23

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officials are investigating a suspicious oak tree fire in the 5200 block of 13th Avenue that occurred in the early morning hours of March 5. The fire was extinguished without incident or loss of property.

GPD assisted the St. Petersburg Police Department and Pinellas County School staff with a lock-out at Gulfport Elementary on the morning of March 7 after a suspect's mother made threats toward a juvenile victim.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of 49th Street on the evening of March 8 after receiving a report of a verbal altercation, the third time they responded for similar complaints. Officers determined that the female was too intoxicated to care for herself, and the male who was also intoxicated advised officers that he suffers from several medical issues and would not be able to care for the female in her highly intoxicated state. She was taken into custody under the Marchman act for her safety.

Officers responded to a hit and run crash at the intersection of 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of March 8 after a vehicle turning southbound onto 52nd Street lost control and struck a vehicle at the stop light, pushing it into the grass median and causing extensive damage. The at fault vehicle fled south on 52nd Street, but a witness followed and provided 911 operators with information that allowed the driver to be identified and issued a criminal traffic citation.

Officers received a call from a juvenile on the afternoon of March 9 who reported she was battered by another juvenile at the Skate Park. When officers arrived, the suspect attempted to flee on foot and was taken into custody. The victim's mother did not want to prosecute and the suspect was released to her father at their home.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Casino on the morning of March 10 after a complainant reported that she was struck by another vehicle while backing out of the parking lot. The striking vehicle fled north on Beach Boulevard, and was located a short time later in the 3000 block of 50th Street South. Abygail Yates was cited for leaving the scene with property damage.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	4
Cases Suspended - no leads	0
Cases Assigned:	0
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	1

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	22
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	0
Cases Closed-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	19

Detective Hanh Pham and a several other officers searched for Colleen Alicia, George Englund, and Davaris Street at various locations in St. Petersburg with negative results. Detective Pham discovered Street had a pre-trial hearing on Monday and went to the Criminal Court Complex in

an attempt to take him into custody, but he was not there. Detective Pham also looked for David Fehrenbach to question him about a stolen boat motor, but was unable to locate him.

Detective Embry had an appointment to meet with a suspect involved in three theft and grand theft auto cases, but the suspect didn't appear. He will attempt to locate another suspect involved in pawning items that didn't belong to him.

Officer Motte completed three Baker Act assessments, mediated a situation preventing a fight from occurring, assisted a parent with an unruly child/student, mentored a student on reckless driving, and completed two probation checks on students. He also continued with plans for the Battle of the Belts campaign which began on Monday in which over one hundred students pledged not to text, and participated in a t-shirt painting contest to raise awareness of distracted driving and the need to wear a seatbelt.

Officer Crystal Langston has transferred to the SRO position left vacant when Officer Steven Beltran accepted a position at the University of South Florida Police Department.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis for Officer Cavanah regarding speeding. She also conducted four 45-minute training sessions to familiarize the members of the Gulfport Police Department with offense classification and clearance requirements for UCR reporting.

The Special Enforcement Team conducted a 4 hour detail this week in an attempt to apprehend several wanted people. Although no arrests were made information on their home addresses and places they frequent was obtained. Another detail will be scheduled for next week.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	19
Supplements reviewed:	163
Public records requests:	13
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	7
Citizens assisted:	30

Professional Standards Section

Four policies are in the review process: 150 - Organizational Structure/Command Responsibilities; 323 - Receipt of Subpoenas; 340 - Performance Evaluations, and; 417 - Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Two sworn members recertified this week for access to the National Crime Information Computer database.

Thirteen sworn members completed vehicle operations refresher training.

Twenty-five members attended refresher training on uniform crime report (UCR) standards.

Probationary Officer Samantha Obrart is assigned to Officer Kellington for phase one of her field training program.

Officer David Cavanah is participating the selection process for potential assignment as a field training officer.

Five employment applications were reviewed this week.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand three hundred ninety six (1,396) gallons of gas, and one thousand five hundred three (1,503) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty three (63) vessels.

Assisted thirty two (32) pump-outs evacuating four hundred (400) 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 24' motorboat and a 60' motorboat 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 13 Board of Adjustment meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Attended Public Information Officer training in Clearwater on Monday and Tuesday.
- Created video loop of City information for Pinellas County Fair presentation.
- Distributed April Events/Meetings calendar and Citywide Yard Sale brochure to all City facilities.
- Continued design and architectural structure of new City of Gulfport website.

Parks

Set up trash/recycling bins and prepared fields for Little League opening day.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Library, City complex, Clymer Park and Beach Streetscapes, and raked around benches & pavilions

Repaired fence at benches, replaced flags, cleaned graffiti from playground equipment, fertilized ball field, and cleaned shop, parking stalls and City yard.

Mowed City Complex, Clymer & Tonkin Parks, Senior Center, Chase block, Scout Hall grounds, Dog Parks, 28th Street signage area, Tangerine Greenway & Recreation Center field.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.

Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center complex.

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 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, March 3 1 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 120)
- Tuesday, March 5 Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 19)
1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 7)
2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 63)
- Wednesday, March 6 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 282)
- Thursday, March 7 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 38)
- Saturday, March 9 7 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 225)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

- Every Sunday 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, March 3 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 125)
- Thursday, March 7 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 65)
- Friday, March 8 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 91)
- Saturday, March 9 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 95)

There are no events scheduled in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** next week.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

- Sunday, March 3 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 23)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 9)

Wednesday, March 6 6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (Turnout 15)

Thursday, March 7 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 35)

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, March 4 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class

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

Wednesday, March 6 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 19)

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

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

LIBRARY

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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, March 4, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, March 5, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, March 5, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, March 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, March 6, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Wednesday, March 6, 5 p.m. - *Real Estate News Forum*.
- Thursday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Friday, March 8, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids*.
- Saturday, March 9 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.
- 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.
- Saturday, March 23 & 30, 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshops*. Trace Taylor returns with her popular training on how to produce a book.
- 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/Statistic March 3 - 9, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,318	700
Sun. 3/3	18	17
Mon. 3/4	416	121
Tue. 3/5	424	135
Wed. 3/6	377	114
Thu. 3/7	436	117
Fri. 3/8	361	111
Sat. 3/9	286	85

Recreation Center

The Game Room was rented 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9 for a birthday party with approximately fifty (50) in attendance.

The Game Room is reserved 5 - 11 p.m. 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

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Cooking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Kickboxing Cardio, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Walking Club, Yoga and Zumba.

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 four (44) 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.

Fourteen (14) 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.

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 met with Jim O'Reilly and Bob Williams on Wednesday morning to discuss Summer Program fees.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport fourteen (14) Tot Time/VPK participants and the (10) adults to Lowe's in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Dave of DuraSeal Asphalt on Friday afternoon to obtain a quote for resealing and repainting the parking lot.

Asaph Graham worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport fifty seven (57) Gulfport Elementary students and four (4) adults to the St. Petersburg Main Library on Monday.

Mike Worthington opened the Recreation Center for Municipal Elections on Tuesday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Gas Leaks

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 8 Re Inspections
- 0 C.O.'s
- 1 Smoke Detector

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, 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:

- The Gulfport Fire Department's Large Diameter Hoses and Ground Ladders were tested at the Gulfport Marina on March 7. All successfully passed.
- Chief Marenkovic is following up with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Pro Hydrocross Tour with program directors Brent Venderley and Brad Clark for the Aqua Mania event scheduled for April 5, 6 & 7. GFD will ensure safety on the water with the marine life and vessels that day.
- Chief Marenkovic and Assistant Finance Director Cher Johnson completed the report on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2013/14. The report has been submitted to the County.
- The Gulfport Fire Department and the CERT Team participated in the Little League Parade on March 9.
- 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 are continuing with their March 2013 St. Petersburg College online CME.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced 6 hinges on gates in A/C unit area behind Casino.
- Replaced two 4-lamp ballasts at Recreation Center Game Room.
- Installed hasp & lock on filing cabinet in Police Office at Neighborhood Center.
- Sealed and waxed lobby area and public bathroom floors at Library.
- Reset clocks at Beach, Casino, Dog Park, Library, and Public Services building.
- Unclogged toilet and replaced valve in ladies room at Beach.

- Set up tables, chairs and sound system in preparation for St. Patrick's Day at Senior Center.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Trimmed low limbs on 27th Avenue from 49th to 50th Street.
- Repaired potholes at various locations.
- Removed "Early Warning" signs near 54th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Cleaned storm drains after rains.
- Graded beach near Casino.
- Scheduled citywide street sweeping with City of St. Petersburg.
- Repaired storm drain line at 1617 49th Street.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 72 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 water fountain at Dog Park.

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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel filter canister/fuel pump assembly from engine on MVM Vehicle #70.
- Replaced ABS brake module and replaced lower control arm on right side of Police Vehicle #111.
- Replaced both front shocks and upper control arm on driver's side of Police Vehicle #09.
- 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 13, 2013 Board of Adjustment Results:

- 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. APPROVED
- 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. DELAYED UNTIL APRIL PER APPLICANT REQUEST.

April 10, 2013 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

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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