



Gulfport Community Update

March 17 - 23, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City of Gulfport is hosting a City Information booth in the Community tent at the Pinellas County Fair through Sunday, providing visitors with a preview of all the great programs and events the City has to offer. Staff received numerous positive comments from attendees during the first two days of the event.

Twenty eight dedicated volunteers picked up 283 pounds of garbage during the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on March 16 (photos below). This event is part of the Great American Cleanup and Keep Pinellas Beautiful. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteer staff who made this event a success!



Antiques in the Park returned to Clymer Park for another impressive event on March 16 (photos below). The show featured antiques and collectibles exhibitors. Some of the vintage fun for sale included estate jewelry, old pottery, art, china and glassware, primitives and folk art, kitchen collectibles, linens, toys, fun ephemera including Florida memorabilia, small furnishings, home décor, and more.



Upcoming Events:

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 **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.

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 & 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	33
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	30

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club on the evening of March 12 after a private security officer reported that a resident refused to comply with his commands and conditionally threatened him. The resident claimed he was on his property the entire time and is a member of the country club. Officers restored peace.

GPD received a noise complaint from a resident who stated a rock band was playing loudly in the area late in the evening of March 12, though the caller was unable to give an exact location. The party was located and the band stopped playing for evening.

Officer Horning arrested Kyle Bult on March 14 for cashing checks stolen in a vehicle burglary. Bult provided information that implicated George Englund and several other people in multiple burglaries and cashing of forged stolen checks. George Englund was arrested on March 19 on an outstanding robbery warrant.

Officers responded to a reported vehicle theft in the 700 block of Gray Street after a caller reported his 1994 Mercury was stolen from his driveway overnight. Officers developed information on a possible suspect and are investigating the case further.

Officers assisted SROs with a case involving student arrested for having a loaded gun on campus.

Officer Parks was a guest speaker at a Stetson University of Law seminar on March 15, instructing faculty and staff on what to do during an active shooter scenario.

GPD was dispatched to the 4900 block of 23rd Avenue on the evening of March 16 regarding a possible overdose. Rescue personnel were on scene and treated the male. After speaking with other parties who were with him, it was determined he had been drinking heavily throughout the evening. He was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.

Officers responded to the Family Dollar on the evening of March 17 regarding a theft in progress. Upon arrival Officers were informed that a black male wearing a white shirt, brown shorts, long white socks and carrying a blue bag attempted to steal a "pay-as-you-go" phone. The subject was unsuccessful and left the store before officers arrived.

Ashley Green was observed driving in an area blocked by barricades in the Waterfront District early March 18. She performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested for DUI. Her BAC readings were 0.216 & 0.230.

Officers recovered a missing person on March 18 who had been ordered to not leave the Boca Ciega Center without an escort. Officer Priest contacted PSTA when he was advised the man was last seen at a bus stop. He discovered that the man had a cell phone with him, and dispatch contacted the phone company to track it. The man was located on a bus on 66th Street North and returned to the facility.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 17th Avenue on the evening of March 18 regarding juvenile trouble. Upon arrival it was determined that three males made entry onto a residence in the 5100 block of 17th Avenue and attempted to steal an Igloo ice cooler. They were turned over to their parents due to lack of cooperation from the victim.

Investigations:

New Cases:	13
Cases Suspended - no leads	5
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	5
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	1

Supplements Received:	15
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously cleared with Arrest:	1
Cases Closed-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	14

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a Grand Theft incident and recovered some of the reported stolen property. He also developed probable cause for the suspect for Dealing in Stolen Property and Grand Theft, and will attempt to locate the suspect. Detective Pham will attempt to speak with Erik-Knud Adserbale, the person of interest in a December 2012 arson case. Adserbale is currently in Marion County Jail on an outstanding warrant for DUI.

Detective Embry is investigating a grand theft auto case in which the suspect's fingerprints were found inside the vehicle. He will attempt to interview the suspect at the County Jail, and continues investigating assigned cases.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated an altercation, mentored several students, assisted another agency with investigating a sexual battery that occurred in St. Petersburg, and arrested a student in possession of a firearm on school grounds.

Officer Motte ran the Battle of the Belts Campaign this week. More than 500 students participated. The week prior the campaign, beginning English classes had students write essays on the dangers of distracted driving and the need to wear a seat belt, and the Media Department filmed a 30 second commercial that aired all week promoting seat belt awareness and the dangers of distracted driving. In total it was a great week and with many students realizing the importance of wearing a seatbelt and the dangers surrounding distracted driving.

School Resource Officer Langston primarily shadowed Officer Motte during her first week at the school. She assisted him with the Battle of the Belts, and was given a tutorial of the school camera system. She also met with teachers, staff and administrators.

Officer Langston assisted Officer Motte with an assault investigation. During that incident a gun was recovered from the trunk of a vehicle driven by one of the students involved. She also attempted to locate a runaway at the school, and conducted an investigation involving a student with a knife and drug paraphernalia, counseled a student who was a victim of an incident that occurred in her neighborhood, and counseled a student regarding a traffic related incident.

Analyst Palmisano conducted pawn checks on 18 cases in which there was identifiable property listed as stolen or a named suspect. She located property from one case that was reported stolen the week before, created three bulletins for subjects wanted by GPD detectives, and distributed them to GPD officers and local agencies. She also completed the monthly PCSO call out report, and updated the cost recovery figures and distributed them to officers.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	47
Public records requests:	32
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints:	44
Subpoenas processed:	16
Citizens assisted:	32

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

Probationary Officer Obrart is currently in Phase One of her field training program.

One sworn member completed FCIC recertification this week.

Two training requests were received/reviewed this week. Four sworn members were registered for upcoming classes.

Three employment applications were reviewed this week.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand three hundred seventy seven (1,377) gallons of gas, and one thousand fifty seven (1,057) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy two (72) vessels.

Assisted twenty eight (28) pump-outs evacuating three hundred sixty five (365) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed 9 various vessels from Bradenton Yacht Club, a 44' motorboat and a 36' motorboat and a 26' sailboat 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 19 City Council meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Compiled information from various departments and set up City display booth and presentations at the Pinellas County Fair.
- Updated City Website with new Council information.
- Continued working on design and template for new website.
- Attended Circle of Friends meeting on Tuesday and discussed possible future events.
- Met with City's Pinellas County Fair volunteers at Library to distribute parking passes & badges.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.

Parks

Set up trash/recycling bins and registration station for Clam Bayou Cleanup, and barricades & trashcans for Antiques in the Park and O'Maddy's St. Patrick's events.

Emptied trashcans on Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Library, City complex, Marina area and Beach Streetscapes. Landscaped library entrance area, raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

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

Mowed 56th Street drainage area, 55th Street medians, R.W. Caldwell Park, Hoyt Field perimeter, Lions Club grounds and Recreation Center field.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.

Repaired irrigation at Library & Senior Center.

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.

The First Eckerd College Presentation Series, **Founding Mothers** is Tuesday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Tickets: \$5.

2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 50)

Wednesday, March 13 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 354)

Thursday, March 14 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 31)

Friday, March 15 6 p.m. - Bay Vista Mardi Gras Fundraiser (Turnout 160)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Monday, March 25 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance Admission: \$5 for members; \$10 for nonmembers

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 10 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Woman in Black* (Turnout 125)

Wednesday, March 13 2 p.m. - Senior Center St. Patrick's Day party (Turnout 130)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 24, 2 p.m. - The Performing Arts Consortium of St. Petersburg presents *Super Images in Motion*, created & performed by Travis Mesman. Enjoy Acrobatic, Circus Acts, Hip-Hop and Break Dance, "Duel of Destiny", Vetruvian Man, Motor G-1, Bart the Clown and more. Special guests: Jeff's Del Fuego and The amazing juggler, Kenny. Admission: Adults \$15, seniors & students \$10, under 10 \$5. For more information call 258-8315

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, March 10 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 7)

Wednesday, March 13 6 p.m. - Gulfport Sea Scouts (Turnout 9)

Thursday, March 14 7 p.m. - Kipps Colony Homeowners Association meeting (Turnout 8)

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 11 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class

Tuesday, March 12 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

Wednesday, March 13 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 24)

Thursday, March 14 9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

LIBRARY

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

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center's free *Tai Chi for Arthritis* class is meeting at the Library every Thursday at 2 p.m. until further notice.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

- Monday, March 11, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, March 12, 3 p.m. - eSalon facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, March 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, March 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, March 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. - An Evening with *Real Florida* author Jeff Klinkenberg, facilitated by Dave Mather.
- Friday, March 15 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, March 16, *Free Family Movie Day*: 10:30 a.m. - *Wreck-it Ralph*; 1:30 p.m. - *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, March 23 & 30, 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshops*. Trace Taylor returns with her popular training on how to produce a book.
- Thursday, March 28, 3:30 p.m. - The Gulfport Chamber Players will perform a variety of songs from nursery rhymes to a fun Mozart sonata! Open to all ages. For more information call 893-1073
- 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.
- 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 10 - 16, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,153	655
Sun. 3/10	18	14
Mon. 3/11	318	109
Tue. 3/12	384	110
Wed. 3/13	316	112
Thu. 3/14	446	123
Fri. 3/15	401	114
Sat. 3/16	270	73

Recreation Center

The Game Room was rented 5 - 11 p.m. Saturday, March 16 for a Birthday Party with approximately fifty five (55) in attendance.

The Game Room is reserved 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, Nicole Latragna, Mike Worthington and Leah Erbe attended the *Summer's Coming; Fall Is Not Far Behind* workshop in Pinellas Park on Saturday.

Mike Worthington worked the room rental on Saturday evening.

The **Teen Council** meeting was cancelled due to no quorum in advance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Haz-Mat Response

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re Inspections

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 18. 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.

CERT will be selling hot dogs and sodas during the **Gulfport Marina Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 23, and the Team will provide traffic control and cook free hotdogs for attendees at the City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex on Saturday, March 30.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic and other Pinellas County Fire Chiefs attended a meeting with County staff to continue discussion of Phase III Priority Dispatch implementation.
- The Gulfport Fire Department has applied for a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant for a Special Rescue vehicle. This vehicle, if awarded will be used for special rescues at large City events where crowds of people make ALS Engine access difficult.
- Inspector Vento and the Pinellas County School Board inspector performed an annual inspection at Gulfport Montessori Elementary school.
- The Gulfport Fire Department continues hosting a Paramedic student from the St. Petersburg College internship field program. Lt. Poirrier on the B-shift is his preceptor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Repaired light fixtures at Dog Park.
- Placed City Garage sliding door back on track.
- Installed new section of sprinkler inspection pipe at City Hall.
- Completed inspection of new fire panel & alarm system at Casino.
- Replaced batteries in several "Exit" lights
- Moved cabinet in Game Room at Recreation Center
- Unclogged ladies toilet at the Beach bathroom.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Repaired potholes on 31st Avenue between 56th & 58th Streets.
- Filled holes near Pinellas Trail.
- Cleaned drain grates following rain.
- Trimmed branches in alleys.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.

- Disconnected water service at 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 105 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 4 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.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced 40' of 1.5" water line damaged by stump grinder.
- Repaired 1.5" water break at 57th Street & 31st Avenue.
- Replaced 8 old water meters with new style meters.

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.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced main hydraulic cylinder on front end loader.
- Replaced cab jack hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation Truck #43.
- Replaced grabber arm hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced water pump, pivot arm and timing belt on Police Vehicle #18.
- Replaced front and rear brakes on Police Vehicle #102.
- 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.

April 3, 2013 Planning and Zoning Board and April 16, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting:

- LU13-01; 1601 49th Street South, consideration of application to amend the Land Use Map from Community Redevelopment District (CRD) to Institutional (I) to provide for development of the subject property into a church.
- Z13-01; Companion ordinance to LU13-01, 1601 49th Street South, consideration of application to amend the Zoning Map from Commercial General (CG) to Institutional (I) to provide for development of the subject property into a church.

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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Department Directors
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Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
The St Petersburg Times