



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *March 24 - 30, 2013*

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

#### **Upcoming Events:**

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made art and crafts, bath, body and wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket), call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email [dan@iqc.org](mailto:dan@iqc.org).

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, Skin 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.

The Clymer Greenway will transform into an enchanted village of costumed faeries, spirits, gnomes, ogres and trolls during the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Springfest** on Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. This year's theme is *A Garden Art and Faerie Festival*. This all-ages event is free and open to the public. Enjoy live music throughout the day. For more information, visit Springfest on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest](http://www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest) or call 322-5217.

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](http://www.gulfportyachtclub.com). For more information call Regatta Chairman Bob Feckner at 215-7982 or email [bobfeck@aol.com](mailto: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
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Offenses	29
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	35

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

Officers responded to the 1600 block of Hull Street on the afternoon of March 19 after a resident reported paying an A/C repairman \$1,400 in cash to replace an air conditioning unit. The repairman took the money and the old unit, and didn't return.

GPD received a report of a runaway on the afternoon of March 19. His mother reported he had a court date that evening, so a court pickup order is likely to be issued soon.

Officers were summoned to a residence in the 1600 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of March 19 after a man who had been drinking throughout the day sustained a head injury in a fall. He was transported to the hospital under the Marchman Act after refusing medical treatment.

Officers responded to the 6200 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of March 19 after a subject, possibly the resident's ex-husband attempted to enter a home through a rear window, cutting himself and leaving a small amount of blood behind. The case is ongoing.

Officer Novak spotted a subject who fit the description of a wanted person on the afternoon of March 20. The woman provided an alias that Officer Novak confirmed via the police records database. Colleen Alecea was arrested on multiple warrants. A search revealed she was in possession of crack cocaine, and she was charged with possession.

Officer Obrart and Field Training Officer Kellington conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that ran the red light at the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 49<sup>th</sup> Street in the early morning hours of March 21. The driver, a habitual traffic offender identified as Richard Blackstock was driving on a suspended license, and was under the influence of alcohol. Passenger Timikia Williams had two warrants for her arrest. Both were arrested.

Officers responded to a burglary in progress in the 5400 block of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of March 21 after a resident reported an individual in his carport pulling on doors and picking up a stereo system. The suspect, identified as Jesse C. Culler attempted to leave the property with the stereo but was confronted by the homeowner. He dropped the stereo and left on foot but was located three houses away. He was arrested for burglary to a dwelling and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Officers received a report of an intoxicated person in the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard on the afternoon of March 22. The subject was covered in blood, very uncooperative and threatening to harm himself. He was placed into protective custody under the Baker Act, and charged with domestic assault for attempting to attack his partner.

Officers responded to an attempted burglary in the 1300 block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of March 23 after a caller reported that someone had climbed over his back fence from the alley way and attempted to gain entry into the shed. There were small pry marks on the door, which fell off its hinge. The victim's son heard someone was running down the alley. Nothing was taken from the shed or residence.

Officers assisted the SPPD with an emergency request for help after a police vehicle crashed and overturned in the area of 19<sup>th</sup> Street & 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue South during a vehicle pursuit. St. Petersburg Fire/Rescue pulled the officer from the wreckage.

## **Investigations:**

<b>New Cases:</b>	12
Cases Suspended - no leads	4
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	0

<b>Supplements Received:</b>	24
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	5
Previously cleared with Arrest:	0
Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	11

Sgt. Woodman interviewed robbery suspect George Englund at the County Jail after he was picked up by the St. Pete Police Department. He confessed to an armed robbery and a separate burglary to vehicle. The armed robbery is likely unfounded due to a false police report that will be followed up. Englund faces additional charges of burglary, grand theft, and 6 counts of forgery.

Detective Hanh Pham interviewed a wanted suspect at the Pinellas County Jail this week regarding stolen firearms and guitars. Phillip Thompson was taken into custody on March 23 for Grand Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property, and admitted to stealing the guitars but denied taking the guns.

Detective Embry arrested Colleen Alicea for Grand Theft from a dwelling, and Grand Theft of a firearm. He also arrested Ronald Nixon for burglary and continued investigating assigned cases.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	26
Supplements reviewed:	124
Public records requests:	43
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	6
Subpoenas processed:	13
Citizens assisted:	41

## **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand three hundred seventy (1,370) gallons of gas, and six hundred ninety four (694) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty three (53) vessels.

Assisted thirty one (31) 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 33' motorboat, 24' motorboat, 26' sailboat, 25' sailboat, 43' sailboat and a 39' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

### **Staff activities:**

- Replaced nonskid tape and checked diesel and gas sumps on fuel dock.

- Repaired storage area gate.
- Cleaned probes and completed maintenance.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live\\_Webstream.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm). It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Provided audio assistance for presentation at Catherine A. Hickman Theater.
- Setup City's information booth at Pinellas County Fair. Removed display following event and returned City material to appropriate departments.
- Updated City Website scrolling calendar with new workshop dates.
- Continued working on design and template for new website.
- Designed new Fire Department identification badges
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.
- Created Promotional Video for Aquamania event and uploaded to YouTube and GTV.
- Continued preparation of 2014 Events Resolution.
- Continued updating Historic Calendar information for 2014 edition.

### **Parks**

Repaired bench swing on beach, benches on beach and prepped for painting, cleaned graffiti from playgrounds citywide, replaced flags and cleaned benches & birdbaths at Veterans Park.

Delivered chairs, extension cords and barricades to Recreation Center in preparation for Family Fun Day event.

Emptied trashcans on Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Library, 49<sup>th</sup> & Beach Streetscapes, Recreation Center grounds, Casino & Marina area, raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed Senior Center grounds, Veterans & Clymer Parks, Library grounds, 28<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine signage areas, Marina area, City Complex and Recreation Center field.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, sharpened hedge trimmers and adjusted carburetor.

Repaired irrigation at 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes, R.W. Caldwell Park and Recreation 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.

Join Life Coach Nancy Lang at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 3 as she teaches you how to visualize what you want during a free **The Law of Attraction** workshop.

Find great bargains at the **First Friday Flea Market** in room 107 on April 5, 9 a.m. - noon.

The Senior Center will host a **Pam McGinnis Plaque Dedication** ceremony at the Celebration Wall immediately following the Flea Market on April 5.

The **Joe Koehler Senior Follies** presents *Blast from the Past: Musical Memories of the 50's and 60's* in the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Remember Bobby Darin, Connie Francis, Roy Orbison, Diane Renay, Elvis, Peggy Lee, Patty Page and Richie Valens? These performers will bring back those memories. A Dick Clark announcer will introduce them all! Directed & Produced by Dave O'Brian & Cookie McPhee. Tickets \$7, or 2 for \$10!

Watch a **free movie at the Snack Bar** on Tuesday, April 9 at 11 a.m. Ask Stephanie about a great deal on lunch for \$2.50!

Check out **Life is in the Blood** on Wednesday, April 10 at 2 p.m. Blood Analyst Debi McArthur will analyze a drop of blood to show what different cells in the blood look like, what they mean and how we can be healthier. A very fascinating, not to miss FREE seminar!

Join Barbara Newborn at Scout Hall on Tuesday, April 16 at 1 p.m. for a talk on **Empowerment of Healing**. Her FREE lecture will discuss methods and new insights into the amazing power of healing.

Our friends at St. Vincent Thrift Store will offer advice on how to stretch your money and dress smart during the **Fashion Show for the Fashion Saving Diva** at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. See some of your favorite Gulfport models sporting the latest fashions for less! Tickets are just \$2.

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

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

Join Escot Tours for a visit to Hard Rock Café. The bus leaves the Multipurpose Center at 7:45 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, and at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday & Tuesday. The \$20 fee includes \$30 in casino tokens. Parking is available at the Gulfport Library. For information and reservations call 545-2088 or 888-571-7778, or visit [www.escotbuslines.com](http://www.escotbuslines.com).

A representative from the Community Law Program visits the Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. every third Friday offering **free legal help** for people over 60 who meet certain criteria. Call 582-7480 for more information.

A beginner's **Sketching Art Class** is offered at 1 p.m. every Friday. Learn the ropes with Richard. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to register.

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

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

Sunday, March 17	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 53)
Tuesday, March 19	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 13) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 8) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 50)
Wednesday, March 20	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 259)
Thursday, March 21	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 30)
Friday, March 22	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 200)
Saturday, March 23	7 p.m. - Dawn Fisher 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday party (Turnout 212)

#### **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

Saturday, March 30            8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7  
   8 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga & Dinner Buffet Admission \$15

**Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)**

Monday, March 18            9 a.m. - Sunflower School play rehearsal  
Tuesday, March 19            9 a.m. - Sunflower School play rehearsal  
Wednesday, March 20        1:30 p.m. - Sunflower School performance (Turnout 90)  
Thursday, March 21          7 p.m. - Sunflower School performance (Turnout 115)  
Friday, March 22            8 p.m. - Performing Arts Consortium of St. Petersburg presents  
*Super Images in Motion* (Turnout 25)  
Saturday, March 23          8 p.m. - Performing Arts Consortium of St. Petersburg presents  
*Super Images in Motion* (Turnout 43)

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

**Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):**

Sunday, March 17            9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 16)  
   6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)

**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 18          10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class  
Tuesday, March 19          11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 18)  
Wednesday, March 20      10:30 a.m. - Yoga class  
Thursday, March 21        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 18, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Tuesday, March 19, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, March 19, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, March 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, March 20, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Friday, March 22 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshop* facilitated by Trace Taylor.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Saturday, March 30, 2 p.m. - *Writing Workshops*. Trace Taylor returns with her popular training on how to produce a book.
- 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.
- Thursday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of **Tortilla Flat** by John Steinbeck. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. 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:	2,189	674
Sun. 3/17	51	9
Mon. 3/18	348	133
Tue. 3/19	384	114
Wed. 3/20	338	105
Thu. 3/21	341	117
Fri. 3/15	359	103
Sat. 3/16	368	93

**Recreation Center**

The Game Room was rented 3:30 - 7 p.m. Saturday, March 23 for a baby shower with approximately thirty (30) in attendance.

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 Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex, 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, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

Forty seven (47) 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 Stetson Public Service Fellows President Lee Feldman on Thursday afternoon to discuss final plans for the *Fun in the Sun Day* event.

Asaph Graham worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,011 totaling \$107,911.42
- On-Line Water payments: 79 transactions totaling \$8,677.56
- Bright House payments: 21
- Utility Bills Mailed 03/27/13: 1,313
- Accounts Payable 03/22/13: 548 transactions totaling \$456,207.38
- Mail processed 03/22/13: 330 pieces totaling \$314.27
- Purchasing Cards March report: 188 transactions totaling \$21,064.40

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 6 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Odor of Smoke

### **Life Safety:**

- 3 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re Inspections
- 1 Smoke Detector

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, 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](http://www.gulfportcert.com) or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

CERT will provide traffic control and cook free hotdogs for attendees during 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 attended an EMSCA meeting on March 28. Elections were held by the board.
- The Gulfport Fire Department Lieutenants participated in NFIRS training on Monday March 25. This Web site provides fire system resources and an overview of the standard national reporting system used by U.S. fire departments to report fires and other incidents to which they respond, and to maintain records of these incidents in a uniform manner.
- All GFD personnel participated in annual SCBA maintenance and Fit testing this week.
- 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:**

- Replaced toilet in ladies' handicap stall at Beach restroom.
- Rented scissor lift to change lights Recreation Center gym.
- Replaced ballast in Building Maintenance office.
- Repaired water cooler at Beach restrooms.
- Completed monthly pest control at all City buildings
- Replaced toilet handle kit in ladies' Theater Lobby restroom.
- Repaired hole in ceiling at Casino.
- Picked up repaired vehicles in Tampa for Garage.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses.
- Repaired storm drain pipe at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Completed asphalt patchwork.
- Relocated traffic control sign at 62<sup>nd</sup> Street & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Continued street and curb sweeping.
- Reset storm drain lid at 55<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Reset parking bumpers on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Built storm water lid frames.
- Cleared and removed visual obstruction on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed debris surrounding beach outfall.
- Graded beach area between Pier & Casino.
- Reconnected storm water pipe and backfill behind Recreation Center.
- Completed "rock work" per direction in the 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue alley between 54<sup>th</sup> & 55<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Removed barricades and cones following Marina Nautical Flea Market.
- Delivered set up materials for "Fun in the Sun" Event.
- Cleaned truck wash area and City Yard.
- Removed and disposed of debris from City Garage.

### **Water:**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 85 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.
- Repaired 1 ½ inch water break at 2825 Clinton Street.

- Replaced 15 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.
- Serviced sewer pressure trailer; including oil change and all filters.
- Replaced assist spring in hydraulic lift gate on truck # 80.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired evaporation system leak on Police Vehicle #54
- Replaced both radiator cooling fans, and fan resistor on Police Vehicle #18
- Replaced bad tire pressure on GEMS Vehicle #01
- Replaced back up camera control box on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Repaired steering system leak on Recreation Department Bus #68.
- 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

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

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

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

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

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

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on

advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the [Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board](#) at (727) 582-3100.

- [Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services](#) at (727) 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

#### WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

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

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

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Beginning in April Code Enforcement will move to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

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

- LU13-01; 1601 49<sup>th</sup> 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 59<sup>th</sup> 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.
- V13-05; 5703 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 7.5 feet, from 15 feet to 7.5 feet for the construction of a proposed 16' x 20' accessory structure.

Distribution:

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