



Gulfport Community Update

April 7 - 13, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Beach was the place for Aquamania/Pro-Hydro X Tour Professional Jet Ski races Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7. This two day event featured closed course and freestyle personal watercraft racing (photo below), and was the first time such an event took place at Gulfport Beach. Tucked in with this full throttle action were two days of entertainment, including a kayak and paddle board race, recycle regatta, kids' activities, a corn hole tournament with prizes, vendors and more.



Photo Courtesy: Gulfport.Patch.com, Daniel Thyreen

Upcoming Events:

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

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.

The **Boca Ciega Yacht Club FUNDAY** is Saturday, April 27, 1 - 4 p.m. at the Yacht Club, 4600 Tifton Drive. Enjoy 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 **19th 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 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. & 10 a.m. Sunday, April 28. Participants can register online at www.gulfportyachtclub.com. For more information call Regatta Chairman Bob Feckner at 215-7982 or email bobfeck@aol.com.

Registration for the **2013 Summer Program** begins Wednesday, May 1 for Gulfport residents. Non-resident registration begins Monday, May 20. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Pre and post-camps will also be offered. Program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended care until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Participants will enjoy activities, field trips, lunches, positive role models and a safe environment to call their own. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

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	38
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	29

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

A student called 911 to report a fight in progress in the Boca Ciega High School parking lot. Officer Novak arrived while the fight was still in progress and arrested a juvenile for battery after in-car video confirmed a witness statement that he was the aggressor.

A woman claiming she was being stalked by an ex-boyfriend sought refuge in the Save A Lot grocery store where Gulfport officers kept her safe until St. Petersburg Police arrived to investigate. The stalking occurred in St. Petersburg and the woman fled to Gulfport.

GPD & GFD Baker Acted a woman who intentionally overdosed on pills, leaving a suicide note for her family. She was transported to St. Anthony's Hospital.

Officers responded to the 2200 block of Beach Boulevard after a caller reported that his boyfriend had pushed him down after a night of drinking. He was transported to hospital for treatment of a large gash to the back of his head. Joshua Taylor was arrested for domestic battery.

Officers responded to the Town Shores Buckingham Building after a resident reported that he had his floors replaced by Stiles Flooring and after the workers left, he found two diamond rings missing from his jewelry box. The workers were interviewed and denied taking the jewelry.

The owner of a vacant home in the 1300 block of Gray Street discovered the air conditioning unit had been stolen when he stopped by to check on the property. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of 45th Street after a caller reported that her car's license plate was stolen while she was cleaning a residence. There are no suspects.

The City of Gulfport Water Department reported that someone paid a water bill with a credit card and later disputed the charge in order to avoid paying for the water service.

An unknown person attempted to gain entry into a vehicle parked in the alleyway in the 3000 block of 51st Street, attempting to pry open the driver's side door, causing some scratches in the paint. No entry was made and nothing was taken.

GPD assisted SPPD with a hit & run that occurred just east of the intersection of 22nd Avenue & 49th Street. The suspect vehicle was located in the 2700 block of Beach Boulevard.

Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5700 block of 11th Avenue after observing a car being driven erratically. Mandy Mertz was arrested for felony driving while license suspended or revoked (Habitual Traffic Offender), and issued two citations for failure to maintain a single lane and felony driving while her license was suspended or revoked.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 8th Avenue after a caller reported juveniles inside a vacant, bank-owned house. Two juvenile females who were skipping school admitted they did not live at the house, but claimed that men who worked for the bank were at the house the day before and allowed them to be there. They were released to a relative.

Officers assisted SPPD in locating a vehicle burglary suspect, detaining the suspect in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue until SPPD responded to investigate.

A bicyclist used an air-soft gun to shoot out the driver side window of a vehicle parked in the 800 block of 51st Street. There is no description of the bicyclist.

Officers responded to the 700 block of 61st Street after a 17 year old male was reported missing by family members. He was last seen leaving his residence for school, and has not attempted to contact family who tried to locate him with no success. He is a habitual runaway and is believed to be at the home of his girlfriend who recently moved to an unknown location in Largo.

Officers responded to the 2800 block of 56th Street after a caller reported that someone entered his vehicle and stole his golf bag and clubs. Sgt. Burkhart discovered the incident earlier in the evening but could not get a response from the victim. Vacationers staying across the street reported that they observed two black males opening the back of the car and placing the clubs into a vehicle before speeding off, but did not call the police.

Staff at Salty's Bar reported that someone was using cocaine in the restroom at the business. Officers arrested the suspect who was in possession of three small baggies of cocaine and a rolled up dollar bill with cocaine residue.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 49th Street after Adam Silva reported that his stepfather had entered one of his rental properties without permission and battered the tenant. Donald Williams was located in the upstairs apartment of Silva's other property, but refused to answer the door. Williams does not live there. Silva gave permission to enter the property and remove and trespass anyone in the apartment. Donald Williams was arrested for battery, and he and Theresa Graham were trespassed from both properties.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard after a woman reported her purse was stolen. The purse was located at 2819 Beach Boulevard, and some of the contents were found at 2825 Beach Boulevard. There are several possible suspects, and the case remains under investigation.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 17th Avenue after a 9 year-old threw a stick at the head of her 10 year-old neighbor. The girl was not hit, but her father was adamant about pressing charges, claiming this was not the first incident involving his daughter and the girl. The suspect

was released to her guardian and a simple assault charge was forwarded to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

An intoxicated man entered a residence in the 2400 block of Beach Boulevard and removed his shorts before passing out in a chair. When the resident returned and confronted him he left and headed south down the alley, leaving his clothes behind. The suspect has been identified and a notice to appear in court will be issued.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	15
Suspended - no leads	3
Assigned:	6
Cleared With Arrest:	1
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Referred Back to Patrol:	3

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	22
Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously cleared with Arrest:	1
Closed-No Leads:	7
Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Still Active:	13

Detective Hanh Pham interviewed David Fehrenbach at the Criminal Court Complex. Fehrenbach, a suspect in multiple theft cases confessed to one. He was not taken into custody because the victim did not wish to prosecute. Detective Pham also located and interviewed Danardrick Chance, a suspect in a residential burglary. Chance was uncooperative. Detective Pham will forward the charges to the SAO for review.

Detective Embry has a Non-Arrest Invest at St. Pete PD and is attempting to locate Evalio Ricks, the suspect in a Strong Arm Robbery case. The prosecuting attorney advised he will obtain a warrant for Ricks' arrest. Detective Embry continues investigate his assigned cases.

Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated a verbal altercation, attempted to locate a runaway, and broke up a fight in which a student was arrested for simple battery. He also met with the school's social worker on several occasions discussing a problematic student, and the possibility of having the student reassigned to another school.

Officer Langston assisted PCSO with an investigation involving a BCHS student and helped SPPD on two separate AOA's, aided in a theft investigation, and assisted in the attempted recovery of a runaway juvenile student. Officer Langston also investigated a burning complaint, responded to two separate medical/ambulance calls, three fights that occurred during school hours and one fight that occurred immediately after school, assisted with traffic control during morning drop off due to inclement weather, spoke with a teacher regarding a drug related issue, counseled a student about the police academy, spoke with students who had general police questions and concerns and counseled a student related to a bullying incident involving another student at the school. She is currently working on a lesson plan titled *Tips on How to Deal with the Police*, and is coordinating with TV Productions students to produce an informative video related to her lesson plans.

This week Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis on a pattern of residential burglaries and an analysis on a pattern of thefts of AC units from vacant residences. She completed pawn check for 25 cases in which there was identifiable property or a named suspect and attended a three hour training session at FDLE.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	11
Supplements reviewed:	223
Public records requests:	14
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	35

Professional Standards Section

Lieutenant Farrand is coordinating the field training program. There is one probationary officer in training.

Two officers successfully completed a defensive tactics-related class at SEPSI.

MARINA

Pumped three thousand six hundred ninety three (3,693) gallons of gas, and one thousand eight hundred ninety nine (1,899) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty one (131) vessels.

Assisted thirty one (31) pump-outs evacuating five hundred twenty five (525) 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 30' sailboat, 26' sailboat, 33' motorboat, 28' sailboat and a 43' 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.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.
- Provided control room coverage for April 10 Board of Adjustments meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615, and made DVD copies for City Clerk.
- Engineered lights and sound for Senior Follies event at Hickman Theater.
- Continued preparations for the April 20 Cancer Screening event.
- Contacted vendors for participation at City's annual Hurricane Seminar.
- Started event preparations for 4th of July celebration.
- Continued development of 2014 Events Resolution.
- Continued updating 2014 Historic calendar.
- Continued architectural design for new website.

- Met with Dave Mather to discuss City Intranet on new website.
- Updated postings on City Job Line webpage.
- Assisted Gulfport Police Detective Pham with a video conversion.

Parks

Set up barricades, snow fence, tables/chairs & trashcans in preparation for Aquamania event at Gulfport Beach, and removed following event.

Removed broken concrete from pier, and repaired electrical outlets on Clymer Greenway and benches at Clam Bayou.

Removed past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard, and replaced with upcoming event banners.

Emptied trashcans on Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Scout Hall, Dog Park & Tonkin Park, graded & sodded Dog Park, raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed Senior Center, Library/28th Street signage area, Clymer & Veterans Parks and Tangerine signage area.

Neighborhood Center grounds.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced chock line on sand pro, replaced belt on reel mower & repaired mower tire.

Repaired irrigation at Dog Park & Library.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

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

Other Activities:

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

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

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

Multipurpose Center

The Senior Center's singing group is reforming with a new instructor. The group meets in the dining area on Mondays at 2 p.m.

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 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.

If you are over 65 and have questions for a lawyer, stop by the Gulfport Senior Center on Friday, April 19 for the **Community Law Program** at 9:30 a.m. Call 582-7480 for more information.

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.

Sign up now for the May **beginner and intermediate computer classes**. This month long course will help participants learn more about their computer and the internet. Call Rachel at 893-1231 for more 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.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Monday, April 1	7 p.m. - Hustle dance lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 10)
Tuesday, April 2	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 9) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 9) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 42)
Wednesday, April 3	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 287)
Thursday, April 4	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 17)

Saturday, April 6	10:15 a.m. - Aquamania Outdoor Bar (Turnout 442) 6 p.m. - Wedding Reception (Turnout 154)
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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)

Friday, April 5	7 p.m. - Joe Koehler Senior Follies (Turnout 160)
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Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Thursday - Saturday, April 11 - 13 & 18 - 20, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 14 & 21, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *A Flea in Her Ear*, a classic farce of mistaken identities, clandestine meetings and a jealous husband. Directed by Vic Carr. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar and Gulfport Chamber of Commerce or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, March 31	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 38)
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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, April 1	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 5 p.m. - Historical Society Pot Luck
Tuesday, April 2	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)
Wednesday, April 3	10:30 a.m. - Yogarific (Turnout 19)

Thursday, April 4	9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice
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Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
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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, April 1, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, April 2 9 a.m. - *Representative Bill Young's Community Involvement Consulting*.
- Tuesday, April 2, 11 a.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Tuesday, April 2, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, April 3, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. - *Spanish for Beginners*.
- Thursday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Storyime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Friday, April 5, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.

Upcoming Events:

- Monday 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.
- Tuesday, April 16, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop*. Learn to use new technology. Each session is limited to 15 participants. Please call 893-1073 to reserve a seat.
- 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.
- Tuesday, April 23, 7:15 p.m. - *Light the Night & World Book Night*. This year our circle of Friends will celebrate WBN and present in informal program at the Library. Luminarias available for a suggested donation of \$5 each.
- Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. - *Downsizing, Donuts & Donations*: A mini yard & book sale organized by the Circle of Friends. Proceeds help fund the new Reading garden. For more information call 488-0663
- 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, 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. - *Spanish for Beginners*.
- 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 31 - April 6, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,046	629
Sun. 3/24	14	5
Mon. 3/25	333	104
Tue. 3/26	348	104
Wed. 3/27	361	121
Thu. 3/28	327	105
Fri. 3/29	378	113
Sat. 3/30	285	77

Recreation Center

The game room is reserved 12-4 p.m. Saturday, April 13 for a Teen Retreat, and 2-6 p.m. Saturday, April 20 for a Bridal Shower.

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.

Sixty one (61) 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.

Eight (8) **FY2012/13 Skate Park** registrations have been issued to date.

Staff Activities

Mike Worthington drove the Trolley for the Aquamania Event on Saturday & Sunday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed three (3) Teen Night Program Recreation Leader applicants on Tuesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 24 new, 1 closed
- Water payments: 1,332 totaling \$138,957.52
- On-Line Water payments: 97 transactions totaling \$8,920.17
- Bright House payments: 28
- Utility Bills Mailed 04/10/13: 1,258
- Accounts Payable 04/05/13: 493 transactions totaling \$453,349.59
- Mail processed 04/05/13: 422 pieces totaling \$553.53
- Purchasing Cards March report: 188 transactions totaling \$21,064.40

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Duck Rescue
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re Inspections
- 2 Plans Reviews

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. For more information visit www.gulfportcert.com or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic attended a Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting on April 4.
- All Pinellas County fire agencies participated in a conference call with County EMS Coordinator administrator Steve Fravel. A CME with the Q-CPR puck is scheduled for April. Training with the new ePCR will begin in June.
- Gulfport Fire Rescue crews continued with their annual Structural Firefighting Bunker Gear Personal Protection Equipment evaluation and inventory check-list.
- GPD "B" Shift rescued a mother duck and her offspring from a storm grate at 53rd Street & Gulfport Boulevard, and relocated them to the Tangerine Greenway pond. A video of the rescue is available on Gulfport Patch.com.

- All Automatic External Defibrillators (AED'S) in City buildings passed annual inspection this week.
- Inspector Vento completed a Plans Review for an underground standpipe replacement at the Town Shores Kenmore building, and a Plans Review for a fire alarm upgrade at Pelican Bay Plaza B.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced two emergency lights and all ballasts & lights in Public Services building break room.
- Completed annual fire sprinkler inspection at the Casino.
- Painted all green trim in Recreation Center gymnasium and lobby area at City Hall.
- Unblocked ladies room toilet at Library.
- Repaired air conditioning unit at Police Department.
- Assembled desk chair for Code Enforcement office.
- Installed five new paper towel dispensers in Theater lobby restrooms.
- Repaired back door at City Hall.
- Distributed mail for City Hall.
- 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 from City rights of way.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at numerous City locations.
- Assembled and delivered new automated containers.
- Delivered load of recyclable metal to Trademark Metals.
- Removed loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Removed debris from storm drain box on 20th Avenue between 57th & 58th Streets.
- Set-up garbage and recycling containers for weekend event.
- Built milling ramp at the end of 58th Street.
- Assembled and delivered automated route containers to 54th Street & 30th Avenue, and 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Delivered automated route containers to 1615 Hull Street & 6015 Kipps Colony Drive.
- Assembled and delivered a new commercial container to O'Maddy's.
- Performed dust control spraying in the alleys at 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, 49th Street & 16th Avenue, and 61st Street & 7th Avenue.
- Picked up debris following weekend events.
- Installed new lid and cleaned storm drain box at 54th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Removed debris in the roadway at 57th Street & 25th Avenue.
- Removed debris from beach outfall.
- Graded beach between Casino and Pier.
- Continued installation of handicap ramps on 64th Street between 11th & 7th Avenue.
- Completed roadwork at York Street & 25th Avenue.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at various locations.
- Disposed of concrete pole, per Code Enforcement request.
- Disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at 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 33 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 104 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 8 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.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 29 backflow devices due in April.
- Replaced water service line at 2819 Seabreeze Drive.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage in the block of 13th Avenue & 59th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced both in tank fuel pumps and driveshaft coupler in Police Vehicle #18.
- Replaced oil flow restrictor for grabber hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Repaired air leak on Sanitation Truck #45 air brake system.
- 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.

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 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th 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.

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

- 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. BOARD RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- 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. BOARD RECOMMEND APPROVAL

April 10, 2013 Board of Adjustment meeting results:

V13-05; 5703 25th 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. APPROVED

Distribution:

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