



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *April 14 - 20, 2013*

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

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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, Skin and Prostate Cancer 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.

Celebrate **Earth Day** with the City of Gulfport. Residents dropping off recycling at the collection bins behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street between the hours of 8 a.m. & 3 p.m. Monday, April 22 are invited to stop by the Public Works office for a free City of Gulfport Dolphin Key Chain while supplies last.

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@igc.org](mailto:dan@igc.org).

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 **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. & 10 a.m. Sunday, April 28. 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).

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.

Everyone is invited to the **2013 Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23. A Hurricane Vendor Open house is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Theater Lobby. For more information on this event or to become a vendor please call Technical Events Specialist Justin Shea at 893-1118 or email [jshea@mygulfport.us](mailto:jshea@mygulfport.us). The Senior Center Snack Bar will offer 2 slices of pizza and a soda for only \$3.00 from 5 until 7 p.m.

#### **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          | 38 |
| Arrests           | 6  |
| Traffic citations | 23 |

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

Officers were dispatched to various City locations on the afternoon of April 9 after a car purposely ran over several mailboxes. PCSO was dispatched to the mobile home park on 64<sup>th</sup> Street South at the same time regarding a gray Honda Accord stolen after someone left the keys in the ignition. Pieces of a car that matched the stolen car were found at the scene of the mailbox incidents. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers responded to the 5900 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of April 9 after a caller reported that sometime between Sunday & Tuesday, an unknown subject made entry into a vehicle and stole a stereo faceplate and the car's registration & insurance information. There was no damage to the car.

GPD established a presence along 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of April 10 while "Dangeruss", a rapper featured in the film *Spring Breakers* filmed a music video in front of a convenience store in St. Petersburg.

Officers responded to a burglary in the 5700 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of April 10 after a resident reported his laptop computer missing. He advised officers he had observed an acquaintance leaving his residence as he arrived home. The woman was located nearby, and the laptop was recovered. The resident did not wish to prosecute.

Officers responded to Gulfport Beach on the evening of April 10 after a caller reported that he parked his rental car on a side street and left the keys in the glove box with the doors unlocked. The car was gone when he returned. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the vehicle, which was entered into state and federal computers as stolen. The vehicle was recovered in St. Petersburg on April 15.

Officer Tiffany Ashcom attempted a traffic stop near the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 49<sup>th</sup> Street in the early morning hours of April 11 after observing a vehicle failing to signal a turn, and obstructing the roadway. The driver, identified as Joshua Gray, exited the vehicle then got back into the car and fled the scene. Gray was located at his residence and arrested for fleeing and eluding, 2 misdemeanor warrants for failure to comply, violation of probation, and driving without a valid driver's license.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of April 11 after a caller reported that a neighbor, identified as Patrick Thompson punched him in the head after he went into Thompson's yard to retrieve a football. Thompson admitted to the battery and was arrested.

Police were dispatched to Family Dollar on the afternoon of April 12 after a man was observed putting bath soap into his satchel and leaving without paying. A clerk attempted to stop him, but he escaped on a bicycle. Police obtained surveillance video of the incident and the investigation is ongoing.

Officer Parks made contact with a homeless man at the corner of Gulfport Boulevard & 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South on the afternoon of April 12. The man had no money and nowhere to go, so the officer gave him a ride to St. Vincent de Paul Center of Hope, a St. Petersburg shelter.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of April 12 after a caller reported receiving a letter from Capital One advising his identity may have been stolen. The letter, which appeared to not be authentic, requested he call a certain phone number to follow up. Capital One was contacted by police and an effort to confirm the validity of the letter is in progress.

Officers responded to the 1200 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street on the afternoon of April 13 regarding a report of a large brown snake on the complainant's porch. Upon arrival they observed a small black snake on the porch. The snake was cooperative and left the scene without incident.

An officer gave a verbal warning to a group who were grilling on the beach on the afternoon of April 14, advising that grilling on the beach is a violation of City Ordinances. The officer observed the subjects extinguishing the grill prior to leaving the scene.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard on the evening of April 14 after a caller reported that a blue pickup struck two vehicles in the parking lot at 3202 58<sup>th</sup> Street and left the scene. The vehicle was located, and the driver, identified as Angela Mikolajczyk performed poorly on field sobriety tasks. She was arrested for DUI with property damage and leaving the scene of a vehicle crash with property damage.

Officers responded to a brush fire in the 2200 block of Pelican Bay Plaza on the evening of April 15 after several juveniles started a small fire in a thick area of trees while burning sticks. Another resident smelled smoke and called the fire department. The juveniles ran away but were located and turned over to their parents. There was no property damage.

### **Investigations:**

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| <b><i>New Cases:</i></b> | 21 |
| Suspended - no leads     | 6  |
| Assigned:                | 9  |
| Cleared With Arrest:     | 2  |
| Exceptionally Cleared:   | 0  |
| Unfounded/No Crime:      | 3  |
| Referred Back to Patrol: | 1  |

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| <b><i>Supplements Received:</i></b> | 26 |
| Cleared With Arrest:                | 0  |
| Previously cleared with Arrest:     | 8  |
| Closed-No Leads:                    | 2  |
| Unfounded/No Crime:                 | 1  |
| Exceptionally Cleared:              | 0  |
| Still Active:                       | 15 |

Sgt. Woodman unfounded an armed robbery case in which the alleged victim is now being sought on charges for perjury and filing a false police report. The man has since moved out of state, and Sgt. Woodman is attempting to obtain warrants for the his arrest.

Detective Pham located a runaway juvenile who had been missing for a few days. Upon searching the juvenile Detective Pham located approximately three grams of marijuana. The juvenile was arrested and transported to Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center. Detective Pham also continued investigating assigned cases.

Detective Embry issued Probable Cause (PC) for Christina McGregor for Forgery in two separate cases. SPPD arrested McGregor on April 15 for Detective Embry's charges, and for

Armed Robbery and Forgery cases they investigated. Detective Embry also continues to investigate assigned cases.

Officer Motte broke up a fight, mediated an altercation, mentored several students, issued a warning for a pedestrian zone violation, and attended two school meetings regarding threat assessments being conducted on two students who had violent outburst at school. One of the students was arrested for disorderly conduct and reassigned to another school. The second student received school consequences and a reassignment request. Officer Motte also scheduled a visit from the Pinellas County Schools Police Departments K9 unit. The K9 did a drug sweep of the school and student parking lot, and no contraband was found.

Officer Langston spoke with a few concerned parents of BCHS students. Issues discussed related to truancy, behavior problems, and narcotics violations. One parent also had questions relating to school speed zones. Officer Langston also counseled several students at the school and responded to a disturbance that occurred during dismissal. She assisted dayshift GPD units with their investigation of a criminal mischief call, assisted with the recovery attempt of a runaway juvenile, and with the arrest of a volatile student at the school. Officer Langston is currently investigating a narcotics violation involving an allegation that a group of students are leaving the campus to smoke marijuana, and later returning to school. She also continued working with the TV Productions class to shoot a video on what to do during traffic stops that will be used during her classroom instruction.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed the monthly PCSO call out report and the open case list. She was also out of the office for 10 hours.

### **Records Section**

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed:        | 21 |
| Supplements reviewed:    | 86 |
| Public records requests: | 33 |
| Bike registrations:      | 0  |
| Fingerprints:            | 5  |
| Subpoenas processed:     | 2  |
| Citizens assisted:       | 30 |

### **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](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.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.
- Provided control room coverage for April 16 City Council meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for City Clerk.
- Operated video for Empowerment of Healing seminar at Scout Hall.
- Continued preparations for City of Gulfport Team at Relay for Life Event.
- Continued preparations for April 20 Cancer Screening Event.
- Posted video for Earth Day promotion on YouTube & GTV615.
- Contacted vendors for participation in City's annual Hurricane Seminar.
- Commenced preparations for 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.
- Continued development of 2014 Events Resolution, updating 2014 Historic calendar and architectural design for new website.

### **Parks**

Replaced missing/loose nails along Beach boardwalk handrail.

Replaced missing foot and seat clips on metal beach swings.

Repaired beach swing near playground.

Remounted GFCI outlet on power pole near volleyball courts.

Cleaned gutters a Recreation Center.

Created game board for Relay for Life.

Emptied trashcans on Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Clymer Park & Greenway and Clam Bayou, removed dead tree from Tangerine Lake, trimmed low branches along Clymer Greenway, raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed Senior Center, Library/28<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine signage areas and Clymer & Veterans Parks.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced fuel tank and shaft on line trimmer and rebuilt carburetor on edger.

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.

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.

Join Life Coach Kathy Lane to learn how to visualize what you want during the free **Law of Attraction** seminar on Wednesday, May 1 at 1 p.m.

The greatest deals for less are at the **First Friday Flea Market** on Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. - noon.

Everyone is invited to the free **Life is in the Blood** seminar at 2 p.m. Wednesday May 8. Blood Analyst Debi McArthur will analyze a drop of blood to show what different blood cells look like, what they mean and how we can be healthier. A very fascinating, not to miss seminar!

The next monthly **Movie Day** at the Snack Bar is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 14. Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$2.50!

Actors 2-Go will help The Gulfport Senior Center celebrate Older Americans Month with **Shorts For Seniors: A Comedy Show** in the Catherine Hickman Theatre at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. The two-act performance will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation. Actors will revisit vaudeville's doctor routines, examine what happened in Pinellas County households when the recession brought lower property taxes, poke fun at the Gulfport chicken ordinance struggle, and parody a politician deciding whether or not to sell out his principles for campaign cash. Actors 2-Go is a troupe of some of South Pinellas County's best community theatre actors, most familiar to Gulfport audiences. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center for \$7 each, or two for \$10.

Wartime era veterans & spouses are invited to the **Tour of Duty Conference** on Wednesday, May 22 at 2 p.m. Speakers Michael B. Osadchey from Lasting Legacy & Attorney Spiro Verras will discuss benefits veterans may not be aware of. Topics Include: Eligibility Requirements Benefit Coverage, Eligibility of Spouses, Advanced Directives, Wills & Probate. This event is sponsored by Lasting Legacy and is free to the public.

Want to learn more about Hospice? Join Janet Pattison for a free informational seminar on **Hospice and Caregiving** on Thursday, May 28 at 1 p.m.

Join Barbara Newborn at Scout Hall on Wednesday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m. for a talk on Empowerment of Healing. Her FREE lecture will discuss methods and new insights into the amazing power of healing.

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](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.

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

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

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 7     | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with John<br>7 p.m. - Mario De Leon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 58)  |
| Monday, April 8     | 7 p.m. - Hustle dance lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 10)   |
| Tuesday, April 9    | Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 15)<br>1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 5)<br>2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing<br>6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson<br>8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 48) |
| Wednesday, April 10 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime<br>7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime<br>8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 278)  |
| Thursday, April 11  | 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera<br>8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 22)   |
| Saturday, April 13  | 6 p.m. - Wedding Reception (Turnout 115)   |

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Every Sunday     | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson<br>7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7       |
| Monday, April 22 | 7 p.m. - Hustle dance lessons with Carol Baker                                       |
| Every Tuesday    | 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker<br>2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson<br>8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7  |
| Every Wednesday | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime<br>7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime<br>8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Thursday  | 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera<br>8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7   |

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

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 7     | 10 a.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) stage setup      |
| Monday, April 8     | 6 p.m. - GCP rehearsal                                      |
| Tuesday, April 9    | 6 p.m. - GCP rehearsal                                      |
| Wednesday, April 10 | 6 p.m. - GCP dress rehearsal with family & friends          |
| Thursday, April 11  | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>A Flea in Her Ear</i> (Turnout 53) |
| Friday, April 12    | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>A Flea in Her Ear</i> (Turnout 78) |
| Saturday, April 13  | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>A Flea in Her Ear</i> (Turnout 85) |

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Thursday - Saturday, 18 - 20, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 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, April 7    | 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)<br>6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous (Turnout 9) |
| Thursday, April 11 | 11:30 a.m. - Gulfport Garden Club meeting (Turnout 15)   |

**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 8 | 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class       |

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 9    | 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)  |
| Wednesday, April 10 | 10:30 a.m. - Yogarific (Turnout 17)  |
| Thursday, April 11  | 9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice      |
| Saturday, April 13  | 7 p.m. - Psychic Circle (Turnout 34) |

**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, April 8, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Tuesday, April 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*
- Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, April 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, April 11, 9:30 a.m. - *Spanish for Beginners.*
- Thursday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, April 11, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog.*
- Friday, April 12, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance.
- Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids* facilitated by Caily Klasson.
- Saturday, April 13, 1:30 p.m. - *Crafts for all Ages.*

**Upcoming Events:**

- 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.
- Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids.* For more information call Youth Services Librarian Cailey Klasson at 893-1134.
- Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project (PEEP) class:* Learn about energy conservation. Attendees will receive an insulated tote bag, Smart Strip surge protector and a manually-powered flashlight. Presented by the Pinellas County Extension Office. Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat.
- Saturday, May 11, 1:30 a.m. - *Crafts Club for All Ages:* Join Pat for some fun making Mother's Day gifts from recycled materials.

- 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.
- Every second Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Assistance Dog Maya*: Share a picture book with a beautiful Golden Retriever. Call 893-1073 to schedule an appointment.
- Every Friday, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

**Library Services/Statistic April 7 - 13, 2013:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,924 | 626 |
| Sun. 4/7            | 5     | 11  |
| Mon. 4/8            | 285   | 112 |
| Tue. 4/9            | 364   | 99  |
| Wed. 4/10           | 367   | 111 |
| Thu. 4/11           | 305   | 100 |
| Fri. 4/12           | 344   | 118 |
| Sat. 4/13           | 254   | 75  |

**Recreation Center**

The game room was rented 12-4 p.m. Saturday, April 13 for a Teen Retreat with approximately forty (40) in attendance.

The game room is reserved 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. Fifteen (15) Tot Time/VPK participants and sixteen (16) adults visited Lowry Park Zoo on Wednesday.

Sixty two (62) 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**

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport fifteen (15) Tot Time/VPK participants and sixteen (16) adults to Lowry Park Zoo on Wednesday, and to transport forty six (46) Gulfport Montessori students and eight (8) adults to Great Explorations in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham attended Afterschool Nutrition Program training in Largo on Tuesday morning.

Five (5) regular Teen Councilmembers were in attendance for the monthly meeting at City Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Topics discussed: Advisor report; approval of February's minutes; changes/additions to Resolution 2006-13; Suncoast League of Cities Conference in Crystal River; Community Service Projects; rewording the Scholarship Program, and; review of the City Council Workshop meeting agenda.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): | 14 new, 1 closed                       |
| Water payments:                         | 1,117 totaling \$125,189.78            |
| Online Water payments:                  | 90 transactions totaling \$9,954.78    |
| Bright House payments:                  | 25                                     |
| Utility Bills Mailed 04/17/13:          | 1,635                                  |
| Payroll 04/12/13:                       | 155 transactions totaling \$159,853.26 |
| Payroll-Accounts Payable:               | 11 transactions totaling \$19,105.52   |

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

### **Life Safety:**

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. CERT is dedicated to being actively involved in local community events. For more information visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com) or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Chief Marenkovic attended a PALS meeting on April 16. Discussions included Mass Causality Incidents Training & protocols, and Narcotic log protocol.
- The Gulfport Fire Department has commenced their April St. Petersburg College Online CME. The topic is Cardiology and will include Case Scenarios for review and study.
- Chief Marenkovic and Community Development Director Fred Metcalf attended a Disaster Management assessment seminar presented by Pinellas County Emergency Management on March 17. They discussed new computer software to file for Declarations from the State and how to document damage throughout the County.
- The Gulfport Firefighters have been training in High-Rise NFPA drills within local departments this weeks.
- Inspector Vento came across an occupancy operating without a completed CO under different business occupation. Code Enforcement was notified. Occupancy Load signage was printed and left at 2726 54<sup>th</sup> Street South for occupant to install.
- Inspector Vento completed a NFPA On-Line Webinar Code review of revisions to NFPA 72, 2012 version.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

##### **Building Maintenance:**

- Installed seven paper towel machines throughout Senior Center.
- Repaired air conditioning units at Public Services building and Senior Center & Fire Department dining areas.
- Assembled chair for Public Works Administrative Assistant.
- Patched numerous bubble spots on Senior Center roof.
- Repaired fresh air damper in duct work at Library.
- Replaced two ballasts in Garage area and two at Fire Station.
- Replaced boards on west side of decking at Casino.
- Ran errand to Tampa for Garage Supervisor.
- Unblocked men's urinal at the Beach bathrooms.
- 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.
- Removed debris from roadway and patched asphalt at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Quincy Street.
- Removed and disposed of debris from storm drain inlets.
- Set up barricades and cones in preparation for new sidewalk construction.
- Removed palm trees on right-of-way per Code Enforcement.

- Completed alley work at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Cleaned and deodorized Little League Field dumpsters.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Replaced 40 gallon automated containers.
- Removed Pepper Trees from easement at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Removed loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Disposed of tires from City garage.
- Cleaned truck wash area at the City yard.
- Cleaned and washed fleet of service trucks.
- Removed barricades and cones from 64<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Added fill, set grade, and completed asphalt patchwork on 64<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point.
- Removed Electronics and metal for recycling.

#### **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 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 32 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 21 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 110 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.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 12 backflow devices due in April.
- Repaired 6" water break at Seaside Villas.

#### **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 sewer line stoppage at 5226 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired electrical problem in A/C system on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Installed bracket for radar on Police Vehicle #54.
- Recharged A/C system in Police Vehicle #154.
- Replaced both oxygen sensors and one radiator cooling fan in Police Vehicle #19.
- Installed back up camera system on Fire Truck #P17.
- 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 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).

**May 1, 2013 Planning and Zoning Board and May 14, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting:**

Site Plan Application: S13-03; 5102 Gulfport Boulevard; Site plan approval request for a conditional use to allow indoor repair of scooters and power sport vehicles within the existing structure; to allow outdoor storage of up to a maximum of 24 operative vehicles at any given time; the designated storage area will be completely fenced with opaque fencing; existing parking areas will be identified with the front parking area designated with wheel stops; and landscaping will be provided and maintained between the front fence and City sidewalk.

**May 8, 2013 Board of Adjustment:**

Variance Request: 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.

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Attorney
- Department Directors
- The Gulfport Gabber
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
- The St Petersburg Times