



Gulfport Community Update

August 19 - 25, 2012

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

With Tropical Storm Isaac expected to strengthen as it enters the Gulf of Mexico, it's a good idea to be prepared. The City of Gulfport is offering sandbags to Gulfport residents showing a Florida Driver License or ID, or a City of Gulfport utility bill. Sandbags are available at the City Hall complex, 2401 53rd Street South. Don't forget to pick up a 2012 Hurricane Guide with valuable information at Gulfport City Hall, Library or Fire Station.

Upcoming Events:

Enjoy an evening with author and former Tampa Tribune reporter Tim Dorsey at the Gulfport Library on Thursday, September 13. For more information call Dave Mather at 893-1075.

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. Summer hours are 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Gulfport Merchants Association continues to collect donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Senior Center Pantry. Bring donations to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday during the Gulfport Fresh Market. The Pantry is in great need of donations to keep up with the needs of its clients. Stock has been greatly diminished during summer and new donations are appreciated. Bring gently worn apparel to the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** in the Peninsula Inn Courtyard on September 11, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com or contact Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or dan@igc.org.

The **Gecko Ball 2012 GeckoFest "Fundraiser"** is Saturday, August 25, 7 - 11 p.m. at the Peninsula Inn, 2937 Beach Boulevard. This year's theme is *Hooray for Geckowood*. Dress in your Hollywood best! Dinner buffet, live music/dancing & silent auction. Tickets \$25, available at T & Me Tea Co., Domain Home Accessories, Botiki or online at www.GulfportMA.com.

Get ready for Gulfport **GeckoFest on** Saturday, September 1, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Enjoy great music on two stages, kids' events and street performers, peruse the works of local artists and craftsmen. The walking parade begins at 6 p.m., followed by a costume contest at 6:30. For more information call 322-5217.

Gulfport City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of **Labor Day**. The sanitation pick up schedule will not be affected.

Eat all you can at the **Gulfport Lions Club Labor Day Fish Fry** on Monday, September 3, 4 - 8 p.m. at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. Tickets: \$8 at the door. B.Y.O.B. For more information call 515-7509 the day of event.

See you at the **Gulfport Art-Walk** in Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Friday, September 7, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

Everyone is invited to the **49th Street South Business Association (So49)** meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street South. For more information call 515-4941.

The **Third Saturday Gulfport Art Walk** is September 15, 6 - 10 p.m. on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District. For more information call 322-5217.

The next **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 20 at the Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue. For more information call 916-8014.

Join the fun at the **Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon** on Saturday, September 29. Registration forms are available at www.mygulfport.us under "latest news." The \$10 registration fee includes a commemorative T-shirt. Check-in begins at 6 a.m., and the race begins at 7. Last day of registration is September 12. For more information call 893-1118 or 893-1066.

The Third Annual **Tangerine Blues Fest** is Saturday, September 29, 4 - 10 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway. For more information call 515-4941 or visit www.tangerinebluesfest.com or www.so49.org.

Weekly Casino Ballroom Events (Summer Schedule)

- 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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

From January to July of this year, the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board issued 536 citations against unlicensed contractors. Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and

check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at www.pcclb.com.

Long summer days bring more time for home improvement projects. **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 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for July 2012 was 298, for a year-to-date total of 2,101. The number of citizen complaints was 17 which represent 5.7 percent of the case load for July. The year-to-date number of citizen complaints is 167, a ratio of 7.9 percent.

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.

September 12, 2012 Board of Adjustment:

V12-09 - 5437 29th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707. Owner is Oscar Siuda, Trustee; agent is Owen Pach. Variance request to reduce the rear property line setback distance requirement by

approximately 13 feet, from 15 feet to approximately 2 feet, to allow for the installation of a proposed 9'x 12' accessory structure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Offenses	25
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	35

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Lisa Garrett arrested Cynthia Dawson in the 5700 block of Newton Avenue on the morning of August 14 on two counts of obtaining property with a worthless check.

Officer Kellington and Officer Trainee Chris Randazzo are investigating a report of a stolen vehicle. The victim reported that sometime between noon and 1 p.m. on August 14 the vehicle was taken from the 4900 block of Newton Avenue.

GPD responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1200 block of Hull Street in the early morning hours of August 16 after a caller reported a female her yard. It was later discovered that the woman and an accomplice stole plants and a statue from the property. Later that morning, a caller reported that someone had stolen several plants, an iron table, and two iron chairs from her front yard in the 1000 block of 59th Street, and a planter was reported stolen from a home in the 700 block of 64th Street that afternoon. All three incidents are connected and the suspects were arrested on August 17.

Officer Parks made contact with a female sitting on a bench at 54th Street & Shore Boulevard who had been there for several hours in the early morning hours of August 17. The woman said she was recently homeless with no money, food or shelter. Officer Parks took her to the Salvation Army Emergency Shelter.

Officer Ashcom stopped Roosevelt Mells at 49th Street & 18th Avenue in the early morning of August 17 after observing him drive off the road while trying to maintain a lane. Mells performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and gave a breath sample indicating alcohol consumption over the legal limit. He was also cited for an open container of alcoholic beverage.

Officer White identified Chelsea Riger and Janey Teed as the suspects responsible for plant and lawn accessory thefts on August 16. Some of the stolen property was located at Riger's residence in the 1600 block of 59th Street and the rest was returned by Teed. Both were arrested on the morning of August 17 for burglary and theft.

Officers responded to an alleged battery in the area of 54th Street & 31st Avenue on the evening of August 17. The suspect ran northbound at the sight of officers, leaving his bicycle behind at O'Maddy's. PCSO K9 attempted to track the suspect with negative results. The bicycle was impounded. The suspect was described as a black male wearing a white and maroon striped shirt and khaki shorts.

Officer Ashcom, using newly-acquired grant funded thermal imaging equipment saw Bryan Layman and a female in Wood Ibis Park in the early morning hours of August 19. Upon making contact with them she discovered that Layman was in possession of a marijuana pipe. He was issued a notice to appear for possession of paraphernalia.

Officer Crowson attempted a traffic stop in the 5600 block of 20th Avenue on the morning of August 19, but the driver refused to stop. He acknowledged that he saw her and obeyed all traffic signals, then pulled into a residence in the 5600 block of 20th Avenue. During the investigation, Officer Crowson learned the driver is a habitual traffic offender. He was arrested.

On the afternoon of August 20 a caller reported that a trailer and a toolbox were stolen from his fence yard in the 2400 block of 53rd Street sometime between noon & 4 p.m. In investigation continues.

GPD is investigating a stolen vehicle complaint in 5000 block of Jersey Avenue after a caller reported on the afternoon of August 20 that he allowed a roommate to use his car and the roommate failed to return it.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	28
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Closed-No Leads:	13
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	5
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	2

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	12
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously cleared with Arrest:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	7

Detective Hanh Pham identified and arrested Darrell Benjamin, the suspect in a retail theft at Walgreens. He interviewed Benjamin who confessed to the alleged crime. Due to multiple prior convictions for theft related charges, Benjamin was charged with a felony. He allegedly committed at least seven other retail thefts at various Walgreens stores in Pinellas County.

SRO Beltran attended several meetings in preparation for the start of a new school year.

Officer Motte returned to BCHS and attended multiple school meetings regarding school safety and planning for future events. He has also been working on police coverage for off duty contracts for the upcoming football and basketball seasons.

Analyst Palmisano created and distributed two bulletins to GPD officers and local area police agencies: the first for Ofc. Motte regarding a subject wanted for questioning in a Grand Theft case. The second was for Det. Pham regarding an attempt to identify a suspect in a retail theft at Walgreens, which resulted in the identification and arrest of the suspect. Analyst Palmisano also updated the Sex Offender display in the police lobby and pamphlets removing three offenders that moved out of the city and adding two new ones that recently moved into the City, and worked in records for 8 hours.

Sergeant Burkhart transported the Marine Unit to Indian Springs Marina on Friday for maintenance in preparation for duties related to the Republican National Convention.

Records

Reports reviewed:	35
Supplements reviewed:	67
Public records requests:	20
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	48

Professional Standards

Three policies have been reviewed, updated and published: 301 - Issued Property & equipment, and; 505 - On call Personnel.

Sergeant Vandenberg completed driving instructor training at St. Johns River College.

Sgt. Farrand reviewed and processed four training assessment evaluations from courses recently completed by police personnel.

Probationary Officer Randazzo has completed phase one of the field training program and will be assigned to Field Training Officer Horning (dayshift) beginning August 30.

Officer Nicita and Probationary Officer Randazzo have completed an online training module pertaining to eye witness identification.

Officer McLaughlin met with police academy classes, and several Cadets have expressed an interest in GPD.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand five hundred thirty five (1,535) gallons of gas, and one thousand one hundred sixty one (1,161) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety six (96) vessels.

Assisted in thirty five (35) pump-outs evacuating one thousand five hundred thirty five (1,535) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient Vessels

Staff welcomed a 38' trawler, 33' sailboat and a 32' sailboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

Staff Activities

- Replaced exhaust fans in rest rooms.
- Removed safety railing at the end of Williams Pier.
- Cleaned and repaired probes on pump out.
- Replaced fuel hose on pump two.
- Removed nails from Casino dock.
- Removed barnacles from floating dock.

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.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

- Monday, August 13, 5 p.m. - Citizenship class.
- Tuesday, August 14, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Primary Election polling place.
- Tuesday, August 14, 3 p.m. - eSalon facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, August 14, 5:30 p.m. - Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.
- Wednesday, August 15, 10 a.m. - Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers meeting.
- Thursday, August 16, 10 a.m. - Coffee/Talk discussion of *Slaughterhouse-5* by Kurt Vonnegut, sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

- Thursday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. - Storyime for Preschoolers facilitated by Diann Morningstar.
- Thursday, August 16, 4:30 p.m. - Business Debtors Anonymous meeting.
- Saturday, August 18, 10 a.m. - Meditation Class with Ted Leitho.
- Saturday, August 18, 1 p.m. - Voter registration training for volunteers.

Upcoming Events:

- Every Monday, 5 p.m. - Citizenship class. For more information call Adriana Santos at 222-8883 or 442-6881, or email asantos@umcm.info.
- 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. The August 14 meeting is cancelled as the Library is a Primary Election polling location.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers* meeting.
- 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 Friday, 2 p.m. - *Anime Afternoons*. For more information call Sheri at 893-1074.
- Every Saturday, 10 a.m. - Meditation class with Ted Leitho.
- Saturday, August 25, 10:30 a.m. - Free Family movie day: Enjoy free popcorn provided by the Library. For more information call 893-1074.
- Thursday, September 13, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*. For more information call Dave Mather at 893-1075.
- Saturday, September 15 - Back to School Crafts for preschoolers through grade 5.
- Every Tuesday beginning September 18, 10:30 a.m. - Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group meeting.
- Every Wednesday beginning in September, 3 p.m. - Teen Program featuring a different teen event each week.
- Every Thursday beginning in September, 3:30 p.m. - READ Therapy Dog Maya.
- Saturdays, October 6 - November 11, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* Youth Book Writing contest & workshops.

Library Services/Statistics August 12 - 18, 2012:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,058	451
Sun. 8/12	10	3
Mon. 8/13	476	90
Tue. 8/14	310	59
Wed. 8/15	329	80
Thu. 8/16	398	82
Fri. 8/17	295	71
Sat. 8/18	240	66

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit the City of Gulfport YouTube website at www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport. Cable and DSL internet users can access streaming video from the City's website at www.mygulfport.us. Watch videos of recent events. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm.
- Distributed weekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Attended Employee Benefits meeting on August 20.
- Updated class schedules, recreation events and After School program registration forms on Recreation Center website.
- Completed 2012/13 Historical Calendar and sent to printer.
- Provided control room coverage for August 21 City Council Workshop & meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for City Clerk and IT Director.
- Met with City Manager and Senior Center Foundation President.
- Met with Historical Society and City Manager to plan for upcoming Birthday Bash.

Parks

Weeded cleaned and mulched Beach streetscapes, Marina area, Dog Park and Scout Hall grounds, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach following storm.

Mowed Recreation Center grounds, 14th Avenue medians, Senior Center, Library, City Complex, Veterans, Caldwell & Clymer Parks, Pasadena entrance area, 49th & York Street termini, 56th Street drainage area and Gulfport Lion's Club grounds.

Repaired irrigation at Caldwell & Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Parks.

Mowed & raked ball fields, weeded clay areas and cleaned baselines in preparation for upcoming games.

Continued monitoring hole in seawall behind Recreation Center and filling as needed.

Raked beach and removed seaweed.

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.

Senior Center

The Senior Center is closed on Monday and Thursday evenings through September.

The Third Annual Senior Center Card Game & Party is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2 - 5 p.m. Enjoy finger foods, door prizes, opportunity baskets, etc. Tickets: \$10, available at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. Proceeds will benefit Senior Center health & wellness programs.

A Beginners Line Dance class is offered at Scout Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays through the summer months. This class is open to registered members of the Senior Center only. Senior Center membership is free.

The Senior Center will host **Special Bingo** on Wednesday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 for 5 sheets of 9 cards with three chances per sheet to win. Every winner receives a small gift and a ticket for an opportunity to win one of five beautiful baskets filled with great gifts. Winners must be present for final drawings. All gift items are donated by local sponsors.

The Senior Center will host a "Two Chefs" Cooking Demonstration on Wednesday, September 19 at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy an appetizer, entrée and dessert. Donation: \$2.00 to help support the Senior Center's Health and Wellness Programs. Phone reservations required. This event is sponsored by The Fountains of Boca Ciega Bay.

Language Classes will resume in September for registered Senior Center members:

- Spanish for Beginners - Thursday at 9:30 am
- Spanish for Conversation - Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Beginners and Advanced Italian Thursdays at 6 p.m.
- Beginner Conversation, Intermediate & Advanced Grammar Italian - Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The Senior Center will host a celebration for **National Senior Center Month** with free entertainment by The Love Notes on Monday, September 24 at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be offered at the Snack Bar at great prices!

The Senior Center's Annual **Night in Italy** event is scheduled for Friday September 28. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by entertainment by the Italian-American Society of St. Petersburg in the Hickman Theater. Tickets are available at the Senior Center. Look for more details in upcoming issues of the Gulfport Gabber.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$55 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$1.00 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. GEMS has 160 active riders.

The GEMS schedule has been revised for summer due to a seasonal decrease in ridership. Schedules are posted in GEMS vehicles and are available upon request. GEMS continues to offer hourly trips to South Pasadena on Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 893-2242 for more information on the transportation service.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Tuesday, August 14 12 p.m.- Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 7)
 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 2)
 2 p.m. -. Dancing
 6 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango lesson
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 49)

Wednesday, August 15 6 p.m. - Bonus Dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson
8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 185)

Thursday, August 16 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 47)

Saturday, August 18 Wedding reception (Turnout 76)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Sunday August 19 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday 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 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, August 19 1:30 p.m. - *Elvis: A Concert Experience* featuring Jim Jinelli paying tribute to the King.

There are no upcoming events scheduled for the **Catherine Hickman Theater**

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, August 19 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 26)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 13)

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 - Wednesday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Twenty seven (27) children have been 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.

Registration is underway for the 2012/13 Tot Time Program & 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 turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$110 for non residents. Classes begin Tuesday, September 4 and are limited to 10 children each. Twelve (12) children have been registered for Tot Time, and five (5) for VPK. Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 10 - 11 a.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.

Contractual classes: Braveheart Bootcamp, Conversational Spanish, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

Twenty Three (23) FY 2011/12 Gulfport Skate Park stickers have been sold to date.

Registration is underway for 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. To date twenty five (25) teens have been registered.

The 2011-2012 Teen Night Program ended with eighty-two (82) teens registered.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Leah Erbe attended the Gulfport Elementary *Meet & Greet* on Friday evening.

Marivel & Leah attended the Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson *Meet & Greet* on Saturday morning.

Marivel, John Lapham, Nicole Latragna & Joanne McRoberts attended the mandatory insurance meeting on Monday morning.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 35 new, 1 closed
- Water payments: 866 totaling \$90,320.38
- Online Water payments: 135 transactions totaling \$12,920.69
- Bright House payments: 24
- Utility Bills Mailed 08/22/12: 1,634
- Payroll 08/17/12: 161 transactions totaling \$163,644.06
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 12 transactions totaling \$18,957.52

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Tree Fire
- 1 Transformer Pole Fire
- 1 Single Engine Response

Life Safety

- 8 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The CERT Team meets monthly. The next meeting is Thursday, September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com. The CERT team will provide security and traffic control during Gecko Fest.

This Week's activities:

- The Gulfport Fire Department has been working with St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue to provide mutual aid assistance during the RNC opening ceremony on August 26. The City of Gulfport will provide an ALS Pumper staffed with three firefighter personnel.
- Chief Marenkovic attended an RNC meeting with Local EM officials and Fire Chiefs from Pinellas County to discuss operational plans.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the PALS meeting at the SPC Tarpon Springs campus on August 21.
- The City of Gulfport has renewed their ALS First Responder Contract with the Pinellas County EMS authority. The City Council approved the City to enter into a one year agreement with Pinellas County Board of Commissioners.
- Gulfport City Council approved Burning Ordinance 2012-11, amending Chapter 11 of the City's Municipal Code.

Although it appears that Hurricane Isaac no longer poses a direct threat to the Tampa Bay area during the Republican National Convention, it's a good idea to be prepared. Pick up a 2012 Hurricane Guide with valuable information at Gulfport City Hall, Library or Fire Station.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Repaired roof leak at Neighborhood Center and air conditioning unit at Library.
- Delivered lunch boxes to Recreation Center, repaired door in Art Room and replaced ceiling tiles in game room.
- Painted City Manager's office and Fire Department hallway.
- Replaced electrical box, repaired lamps and women's restroom toilet at Casino.

- Completed monthly pest control in City buildings, and annual inspection and tagging of all fire extinguishers in City buildings, vehicles and Marina slips.
- Upgraded ballasts at Public Service building to energy saving devices.
- Set up for daily events at Senior Center.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Removed debris from Neighborhood Center holding area & beachfront, and seaweed from Casino area.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris from various roadways and alleys throughout City.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Assembled and delivered recycling bins and *City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines* information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Assembled and delivered automated trash containers to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris from various roadways and alleys throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets at various locations throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patch work on potholes at 17th Avenue & 59th Street, and York Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Completed alley and easement grading, fill and dust control spraying at 26th Avenue & 54th Street, 20th Avenue & 53rd Street, and 20th Avenue & 54th Street.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout City per direction
- Installed new sidewalks at 17th Avenue & 54th Street, 20th Avenue & 55th Street, and 20th Avenue & 54th Street.
- Supplied cans for removal of construction debris at the Recreation Center.
- Provided safety barriers for downed electrical, cable and phone lines/poles following storm.
- Installed large rocks around outfalls at Casino and Tangerine Avenue & 51st Street.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 46 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 17 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 125 miscellaneous customer service department-generated service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 5218 20th Avenue.

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 Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Monitored lift stations during and following heavy rains.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Installed grabber piston on Sanitation Truck #29.
- Serviced Water/Sewer Truck #17.
- Installed cooler hose on Sanitation Truck # 40.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

Distribution:

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