



Gulfport Community Update

January 5 - 11, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that new regulations are in effect for the placement of recreational vehicles (RVs). All RV owners were required to obtain a permit no later than January 2, 2014. One hundred twelve properties were notified between October & December 2013 of new regulations. Twenty nine RVs meeting setbacks received a green permit window sticker, and sixty four owners of RVs not meeting setbacks were able to obtain a red permit sticker, which allows for an exemption from regulations to place the RV within setback areas. Thirteen applications are pending, and one was denied. Un-stickered RVs will be removed at owners' expense. RV regulations are available at www.mygulfport.us. For more information call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard every Thursday through March 29. The Club's adventures take them through many Gulfport and Pinellas County parks. Everyone walks at their own pace, so feel free to do a mile or five. For more information call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079.

Upcoming Events:

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, January 11 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & 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 every Tuesday. Swap till you drop at the Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA in the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, January 14. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email gulfportmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com.

Celebrate the life of trees and their importance during the City's annual **Arbor Day** event at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard at 10 a.m. Friday, January 17. A group of children from the School Year Child Care Program will participate in this tradition. A tree will be planted during the ceremony, and small seedlings will be presented to attendees. For more information call 893-1118.

Bring gently used items to swap, give away or dispose of during the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday January 18, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Enjoy "Java with Zack" and register you or your child's bike with the Gulfport Police Department, and meet the candidates for the March 11 Municipal Election between 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Enjoy music and fun. For more information call 893-1118.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information visit www.pava-artists.org.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49th & 51st Streets. More than sixty awards will be presented in numerous

categories ranging from best in show, best paint job, Mayor's Choice and more. Bring the whole family to enjoy the live music, shopping bazaar, costumed characters, and kiddy area! To register your classic car early email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	148
Officer initiated calls for service	287
Offenses	54
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	36

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Chief Vincent spotted a car on the St. Petersburg side of 49th Street that had been reported stolen. Officers watched the car to see if someone would approach it but no one did. SPPD recovered the vehicle.

A woman reported that she exited her vehicle to deliver a newspaper to a residence in the 2300 block of 52nd Street on the morning of January 3, and when she returned a male was sitting in the driver's seat. She asked him not to take her car but he drove away. The vehicle was later discovered hidden under a tarp in the backyard of a residence in the 4700 block of 19th Avenue South.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of 51st Street on the morning of January 3 after resident called 911 to report that a drug dealer that he owes \$250 threw a large rock through his front window. The suspect left in a black sedan which was located near the Gulfport Marina by Sgt. Vandenberg. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed into St. Petersburg and was last seen in the area of 15th Avenue & 46th Street South. Charges are pending for Monte Dudley.

A resident in the 5700 block of 30th Avenue reported on the afternoon of January 4 that her green and brown 26 inch beach cruiser was stolen from her property.

A woman reported that someone she casually dated jumped out of the bushes while she was delivering newspapers in the 5200 block of 8th Avenue South on the morning of January 5 and punched her twice in the face and took her 2 cell phones. The suspect was identified and the investigation continues.

A resident in the 2000 block of Gray Street reported on the morning of January 5 that someone entered her unlocked car, and opened the center console and glove box. Nothing appeared to have been taken.

A resident in the 5800 block of 26th Avenue reported that his unlocked car was entered and items were moved but nothing appeared to be taken.

Officers located a subject wanted on multiple warrants trespassing on private property in the 700 block of 58th Street on the morning of January 6. The subject initially gave false information to officers before being identified and transported to jail.

Officers responded a business in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard on the afternoon of January 6 regarding a juvenile who had stolen a cell phone. The phone was recovered on scene. The juvenile was located and returned to his mother. Charges have been forward to the State Attorney's Office.

Ryan Knight was arrested charges of fleeing & eluding, driving while license suspended, leaving the scene of a crash and possession of marijuana after DNA evidence collected at the scene of

an August 2013 hit and run crash indicated Knight was the driver of a vehicle that fled from an officer and crashed into a fenced yard.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 23rd Avenue on the morning of January 8 after a resident called to report that someone had set a mattress and palm tree on fire. The Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 4.75 hours this week.

Investigations:

New Cases:	16
Cases Assigned:	9
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	7
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements Received:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	8

Detective Hanh Pham conducted a follow-up investigation to a theft of prescription drugs and interviewed all involved parties. The complainant reported other items were missing as well, and provided a list of property taken from his residence while he was in the hospital. Detective Pham conducted pawn checks and discovered one of the reported stolen items was sold at a pawn shop in the 2100 block of 49th Street by one of the complainant's roommates. He attempted to recover the stolen property but it had already been sold. The roommate confessed to taking the complainant's property and pawning it and was arrested on charges of Grand Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property. Detective Pham also conducted a follow-up investigation to an armed robbery that occurred at the Gulfport Carwash approximately a month ago and spoke to a witness who was seen walking with the suspects prior to the robbery. He is still investigating that case and two other armed robbery cases.

Detective Jennifer Crowson conducted an interview at the Pinellas County Jail and helped an inmate verify that his residence was going to be auctioned while he is incarcerated, advising him on how to retrieve his personal belongings from the residence prior to the auction. With the assistance of Crime Analyst Palmisano, Detective Crowson tracked down a suspect in Lakeland and exceptionally cleared a case due to a lack of prosecution by the State Attorney's Office. She also completed 7 supplements and closed out 1 report.

School Resource Officer Langston consulted with a student regarding strange text messages the student was receiving; counseled two students and a parent regarding an alleged theft of money; assisted a Child Protection Investigator with an investigation involving a student and completed a report, and; investigated a report of an alleged assault involving a teacher. It was determined that an assault didn't take place, and the incident was handled by the school. She also assisted with a possible narcotics violation involving a student who had an odor of marijuana on his person. The student was searched, but no narcotics were discovered.

Analyst Palmisano completed the open case lists and forwarded them to officers for review; started and analysis on vehicle burglaries and auto thefts occurring in the City and created and distributed a bulletin for Det. Pham in an attempt to identify two fraud suspects. She also covered records for 16 hours and started a tally of UCR submissions to FDLE. In addition, after

reviewing report GP13-25578 she ran the suspects information in RAPID (Regional Automated Property Information Database) and found that he had pawned a laptop matching the description of the one reported stolen. This information was forwarded to the case agent for further investigation.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	22
Supplements reviewed:	82
Public records requests:	42
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	20
Citizens assisted:	46

Professional Standards Section

The following Policies are in the review process: 104 - Police Vehicle Use, Equipment, Inspections and Operations; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 528 - Sexual Offender/Predator Procedures; 105 - Arrest and Transport Procedures; 306 - Use of Social Media; 800 - Central Records Privacy and Security, and; 805 - Uniform Crime Reporting.

One member of the Criminal Investigative Section attended a training course on Narcotics Identification and Investigation.

Officer Mills completed on-line training in reference to abandoned properties and the effects of these properties on the community.

Eight Police Officer applications are being processed. One applicant is in the final selection phase.

MARINA

Pumped eight hundred forty (840) gallons of gas, and one thousand seven hundred twenty two (1,722) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty four (54) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 22' motorboat, 45' motorboat, 49' gulfstream, 40' motorboat, 28' sailboat, 30' sailboat & 43' sailboat this week.

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/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Provided Control Room coverage for January 7 City Council meeting.

- Troubleshoot City Hall Council Chambers sound system.
- Provided technical support for Fire Chief's annual report.
- Completed photo shoot and digital editing for Gulfport Police Department.
- Continued design and update of information for the Four Fold FAQ brochure.
- Completed and printed Gulfport marina brochure.
- Completed production of February Events/Meetings Calendar and sent to printer.
- Assisted Senior Center Coordinator with upcoming events and sound system needs.
- Assisted Library with technical set-up for new class.

Parks

Replaced fasteners on 4 sign posts at 55th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, 4 fence rails along Tangerine greenway, frame on beach swing at pavilion 4, and POW flag at Veterans Park.

Repaired skate park grinding rail and center support.

Removed broken fence posts and rails at Clam Bayou launch, and cleared fountain nozzles, replaced missing drain cap, and adjusted flow on two spouts on fountain.

Cleared water fountain drains and adjusted flow, removed broken parts from ramps, repaired hoops and adjusted entry gates at Dog Park.

Removed holiday lights and signs from Clymer Park.

Added three benches to recreation center playground.

Set up registration table, route markers and water stations in preparation for JWest 5k run.

Removed Brazilian pepper and other nuisance plants, and cleaned along fence line at Wood Ibis Park.

Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library & City Complex.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced pull strings and clutch springs on on stick edger and line trimmer.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Senior Center grounds, Chase Block and Tangerine signage area; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Chase Block, Dog Park and Tonkin Park.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

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 repairs.

Other Activities:

- All City parks 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 Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a

yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us. The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso with Alzheimer's Association will offer free, confidential memory screenings and advice and information during the new **Monthly Memory Screening Clinic** on the second Monday of every month, beginning January 13, from 9 a.m. - noon. Participants **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Join your Senior Center friends for a tranquil visit and guided tour of the world famous Sunken Gardens botanical attraction during the **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday, January 14. The Gardens has collection of more than 50,000 plants and flowers representing over 500 species of arranged in a beautiful setting of pools and cascading waterfalls. Call 893-2242 before Wednesday, January 8 to reserve a seat. GEMS members \$10/ nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation and admission. The tour **MUST** have at least 15 riders.

Enjoy a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 14.

Community Resource Partnership (CRP) is an alliance of health care industry professionals whose mission is to provide support and information on aging and lifetime health care issues to families and individuals. They are committed to educating the community about available resources on aging and health-related issues, including Affording the Retirement Lifestyle you Need, Financial Planning/Insurance, Government/Public Benefits (Medicaid, VA Benefits), Health Care, Legal & Estate Planning, Nutrition & Wellness, and Senior Housing. Join them for a free informational seminar at the Senior Center on Wednesday, January 15 at 2 p.m.

Volunteer attorneys will assist clients over 60 with wills, living wills, powers of attorney and healthcare surrogate designation during the **Elder Law Clinic** at the Senior Center on Friday, January 17, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 582-7482.

Peg Stella will return on Wednesday, January 22 at 2 p.m. for a **Memory Techniques Workshop: I Will Positively Remember This**. Using a combination of active participation and fun activities, foolproof methods will help trick the brain into remembering names, faces,

numbers, and lists. Learn to sharpen your memory by combining several memory techniques and using all five senses. Use it or lose it!

As we get older, we take more and more prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications, herbal products and dietary supplements. In addition, care is being managed by multiple healthcare professionals. This could be a recipe for complications. Join us for an **HCA Health Talk “Chat with a Pharmacist”** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, January 27. Bring your medication list and go over everything you’re taking with a St. Pete General Hospital pharmacist trained in Medication Therapy Management to determine if there is a risk for drug interactions, and discuss possible less costly options.

Everyone is invited to a **Satin Lips and Satin Hands Mary Kay Party** on Tuesday, January 28 at 11 a.m. The first 10 to sign-up will receive a personal lip and hand treatment, plus a mini skincare spa experience to soften skin for the winter season. Space is limited. Call Rachel at 893-1231 to sign up

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is February 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O’Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston’s technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell’s labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week’s events):

Sunday, December 29	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hales Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 29)
Tuesday, December 31	8 p.m. - New Year’s Eve Party (Turnout 200)

Wednesday, January 1	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 195)
Friday, January 3	Noon - Mini Health Fair (Turnout 25)
Saturday, January 4	6 a.m. - J. West Prostate Cancer 5k Run (Turnout 100)

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday - Saturday, January 9-11, 16-18 & 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 12, 19 & 26, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *In-laws, Outlaws and Other People (That Should be Shot)*, a holiday comedy by Steve Franco. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique and Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, December 29	6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
---------------------	----------------------------------

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, December 30	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7)
Tuesday, December 31	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 12)
Friday, January 3	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

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, December 30, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, December 31, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Thursday, January 2, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, January 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, January 11, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Photography Workshop.* Digital is the quick and easy way to capture those precious moments! Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to register.

Thursday, January 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Everyman by Philip Roth* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, January 16 & 30, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners:* Learn to both benefit and enjoy your new technology. Register for this popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Saturday, January 18, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Saturday, January 25, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Photography Workshop:* Build on the skills from the Beginning class. Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to register.

Tuesday, January 28 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Every Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry:* Gulfport Historian Lynne Brown instructs you on how to research family history and genealogy. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic December 29, 2013 - January 4, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,976	600
Sun. 12/29	Library closed	
Mon. 12/30	463	123
Tue. 12/31	325	100
Wed. 1/1	Holiday Library closed	
Thu. 1/2	408	124
Fri. 1/3	360	129
Sat. 1/4	291	93

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, January 18 for a Baby Shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty eight (48) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. 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 \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Fourteen (14) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) 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. 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 \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Walking Club, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Sixty one (61) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout 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.

Skaters & bicyclists wishing to use the **Skate Park** are required to register with the Recreation Center. Six (6) FY2013/14 passes have been sold to date.

Staff Activities:

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport Holiday Break Child Care Program participants to Ten Pin Lanes in South Pasadena on Friday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1464 totaling \$246,510.50
- On-Line Water payments: 221 transactions totaling \$13,644.34
- Bright House payments: 21
- Payroll 01/03/14: 159 transactions totaling \$171,853.59

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Pinellas County City Managers met with the County Administrator on January 3 to discuss commonality issues. EMS contractors raised concerns regarding exceptions to allowable costs provided to some agencies.
- Gulfport Fire and Rescue was on standby at the J West Annual Prostate Cancer 5K Run & Walk for Awareness on January 4.
- Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs have commenced their January 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services online Continuing Medical Education (CME). This month's topic is Medical Operations Manual 2014: Clinical Standards, Protocols and Procedures. (3 CEUs)
- Firefighter/ Paramedic Gerard Grady taught a Health Care Provider CPR/AED course.
- The Physio-Control Technician performed yearly checks of all AEDs in City facilities. No failures were noted, and preventive maintenance checks were complete.
- Florida's Department of Health has a new hotline at 877-352-3581 for the latest information about H1N1, and health and safety tips. The hotline is open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. 7 days a week, and information is available in English, Spanish and Creole.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Billing Department.
- Cleaned mildew from Scout Hall refrigerator and inspected seals.
- Replaced filters in ice machine at Casino.
- Rehung paper towel machine in Recreation Center kitchen.
- Cleared blockage from men's toilet at Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired 8 tables and air conditioner at Recreation Center.
- Installed new light fixture on front of Neighborhood Center for Police Office.
- Transported Christmas decorations from Senior Center to storage facility
- Repaired air conditioner at Marina.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaf pick-up.

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Replaced stop sign and pole at York Street & 13th Avenue following automobile crash.
- Reset stop sign following vehicle strike at 54th Street & 18th Avenue South.
- Unloaded and stocked new automated containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Removed debris from stormwater inlets on Shore Boulevard.
- Repaired commercial automated containers.
- Graded & added fill to alleyways between 56th & 57th Street, and between 20th & 21st Avenue.
- Removed glass from roadway at 49th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Reset storm drain cover at 59th Street & 27th Avenue.
- Collected Christmas Trees from curbside for recycling.
- Completed asphalt patchwork in Marina section.

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 #09, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 145 locations for non-payment of service
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off
- Completed 174 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.

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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 3013 52nd Avenue.
- Replaced motor and pump #1 at Lift Station #1 and removed motor and pump #2.
- Replaced hydraulic control valve on sewer trailer.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

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 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 visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for December was 198 for a year-to-date (YTD) total of 601. The number of citizen complaints was 15 for a YTD total of 38. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.3 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.