



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *January 18 - 24, 2015*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City of Gulfport celebrated trees and their importance during the **Arbor Day** celebration at the small Dog Park on January 16 (photos below). Children from the Gulfport Recreation School Year Child Care Program presented excerpts on trees, the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments, and two Live Oak trees were planted. The Gulfport Food Forest dedicated a vibrant original song for “Gulfport Tree Lovers” and hosted an educational table for questions about local planting.



Mayor Sam Henderson, Councilman Dan Liedtke and Gulfport Lion's Club President Art Padula planted a tree during the **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** in remembrance of John Campbell, co-owner of Zoomers who passed away on February 12, 2014 (photo below).



The inaugural **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** on January 17 was a huge success. The event was the brainchild of Councilmember Yolanda Roman. There were approximately 250 registered volunteers, 22 teams and projects throughout Gulfport and Pinellas County. Thank you to ALL volunteers, Omaddy's and Stella's for providing breakfast, and CERT for serving lunch. A big thank you to The Gulfport Neighbors and their President Margarete Tober who organized the event. It was a very rewarding day to "give back" to the community (photos below).



The **Gulfport Library will be closed for renovation** beginning Monday, February 9. Library services will temporarily relocate to Scout Hall beginning Monday, February 16. The renovation is expected to last 6-8 weeks. For more information call 893-1075.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

It's easy to get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the **March 7 Citywide Yard Sale**: Fill out a form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, print a form online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](http://www.mygulfport.us/yardsale) or email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us) (you will receive confirmation via email). Deadline to get on the brochure is 4 p.m. Friday, February 27. We know you've got stuff, so clear out the clutter and sign up now! For more information call 893-1118.

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. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway, 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Stop by Moore's Resources Insurance booth and meet former Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Dave Moore. FREE admission. Call 327-3509 for more information.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2Cool's proximity to Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity to find that special fine art gift for your special person. Contact Susan Gehring at 916-0105 or [srgehring211@gmail.com](mailto:srgehring211@gmail.com) or Connie Parkinson at 709-4069 or [cspventures@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cspventures@tampabay.rr.com) or visit [www.pavaartists.org](http://www.pavaartists.org).

Join **Jonathan Herman** at 6 p.m. Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater for a remarkable evening of romantically inspired entertainment. Jonathan is a consummate entertainer whose bass-baritone voice "entrances the audience with its powerful tone." Classically trained under John Fiorito, former lead baritone of the New York Metropolitan Opera, Jonathan performs across all genres: Opera, music from stage and screen, pop, jazz and more. Listen to his sense of the beautiful as he plays acoustic and nuevo flamenco guitar. Jonathan will be performing with piano accompanist Lurray Myers who has served as accompanist for such esteemed ensembles as Gloria Musicae, Florida Voices, and the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra. She holds a Master of Music in Accompanying from the University of Southern California. Seating is limited. Tickets: \$20, available online or at the Gulfport Casino or Gulfport Beach Bazaar box offices. No phone orders accepted. For more information call 893-1070.

**Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.**, three famous superstars who came together in the 1960s as part of the "Rat Pack" will be recreated in a show at the Gulfport Casino at 7 p.m. Friday, February 13. Tony Sands as Sinatra, Johnny Petillo as Martin and Geno Monroe as Davis assume the roles of the three singers during their glory days to bring their audience the best of the Rat Pack songs and their individual hits with the onstage banter that made their act a big hit in Las Vegas. Tickets: \$20, available at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard or the Gulfport Beach Bazaar Box Office, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 893-1070.

The **Sunsation Show Chorus** performs some of the most memorable movie music ever written. Join them for **Let's Go to the Movies** at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 14 at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Tickets: \$15, available at the Casino, or online at <http://sunsations.azurewebsites.net>. For more information call 530-7190.

Coming to Gulfport for the first time: **Ireland on Parade**, an Irish variety show will be presented at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 15. This exciting show features the award winning dancers from the Scariff Hardiman School of Irish Dance, renowned Irish tenor Noel Kingston and singer/storyteller Patricia Brady. Experience the magic of Irish dance at its best. Members of the Firefighters of Tampa Bay Pipes and Drums will be there with their brilliant music. They have played at many parades, memorials and fairs to great acclaim. Their unique sound is sure to electrify all who hear them. Tickets: \$15, or \$10 for students/seniors, available at the Gulfport Casino and Gulfport Beach Bazaar. Call 893-1070 for ticket information. For more information on event call 973-761-0041 or email [pbradyday@erols.com](mailto:pbradyday@erols.com).

Betty Jean Steinshouer will return as guest speaker at the **Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library's annual meeting** at the Catherine Hickman Theater 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 18. This amazing Gulfport Historian and Chatauquan performer dazzled a packed house last year. This year Ms. Steinshouer will trace the importance of Florida in the development of four authors: Laura Ingalls Wilder, Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Steinshouer spends approximately 15 minutes in character as each author, with a discussion to follow on Reconstruction, The Homestead Act, Jim Crow and environmental concerns for the flora and fauna. This free special event is funded by the Florida Humanities Council and is open to the public.

It's time again for **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk/Truck**. Residents can get rid of stuff or trade it for other stuff at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center on Saturday, February 21, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from the Gulfport Food Forest will offer advice on increasing our tree canopy, and a collection center will be set up for attendees to donate non-perishable food for the Senior Center Food Pantry. The Police Department will be on hand to register bicycles for residents. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Get your group, family and friends together for a great outdoor activity at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, February 21, 9 - 11 a.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4. Bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. Email [gufport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:gufport_neighbors@yahoo.com) or visit Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Animal lovers, get ready for the Gulfport **Get Rescued** event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. FREE Admission. Stay for the **Tails at Twilight** animal rescue fundraiser at the Gulfport Casino from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Call 323-3892 for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	145
Self-initiated calls for service	518
Offenses	35
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	21

### **Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Unknown suspect(s) entered through a locked rear door of a business in the 5200 block 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue early January 15 and stole several items from inside, including a \$4,000 Cannondale racing bike. The lock was recovered near the door and was intact.

A caller reported on January 16 that his 15 year old son stole his jackhammer and sold it to someone in Gulfport. Officers retrieved the jackhammer in the 1400 Block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street and the victim chose not to prosecute.

A resident in the 1700 block of York Street discovered early January 17 that the doorknob on an exterior door of her house was damaged. Someone apparently attempted to pry it open overnight but was unsuccessful.

Officers responded to a late-reported incident in the 1200 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street after a resident reported damage to his pickup truck that he noticed approximately one week prior. A .40 Smith & Wesson full metal jacket projectile had hit the tailgate at a steep, downward angle. This likely resulted from a gun fired into the sky from an unknown location.

Officers were notified by an anonymous boater that a male had dumped 5 bags of garbage overboard into Boca Ciega Bay. The caller was able to provide the description of the boat and the subject aboard and contact was made. The subject denied throwing garbage and said it was someone else. Two bags were pulled out of the bay and disposed of.

A resident in the 1400 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported on January 18 that an unknown subject followed him home and pushed him for staring at him. It was later discovered that the victim lied about being battered.

Rolandas Mamuniskis was arrested for simple battery - domestic related after he struck his 18 year old daughter with a belt. The teen sustained minor injuries.

While on patrol near the Gulfport Casino on January 19, Officer Hutsko observed six dinghies tied to the Casino dock in violation of City Ordinances. The dinghies were impounded at the Gulfport Marina since most of them were not registered and there was no way to contact the owners. One of the dinghies was later stolen. A witness reported the theft to the marina attendant several minutes after watching it happen, and the suspect was gone when police arrived.

A resident in the 5000 block of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue left her car unlocked overnight and discovered in the morning that someone had rummaged through her glove compartment. Nothing was taken.

A resident in the 5300 block 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on January 20 that someone used her business debit card number to purchase over \$100 of merchandise in another state.

A resident in the 3100 block 58<sup>th</sup> Street reported that his girlfriend stole his cell phone, keys, and wallet containing \$2,300 the previous weekend. He stated he thought she would bring the items back but decided to make a report when she did not.

A resident in the 600 Block of 54<sup>th</sup> Way reported damage to a fence that surrounds the mobile home park. It appeared as if someone on the Pinellas Trail hit the fence in several spots.

A patron at a convenience store reported that he left his unlocked bicycle outside and when he exited the store he discovered it had been stolen. A witness reported that a teenage black male rode away on it.

A police department in New York contacted the Gulfport Police Department regarding 2 people wanted on felony drug warrants. Randy Reynolds and Jaclyn Reynolds both had outstanding warrants for manufacturing methamphetamine. Both subjects were located in the 5400 Block of Essex Avenue and arrested.

A resident in the 5000 block 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported damage to his mailbox which apparently occurred sometime during the early morning hours of January 21. The support beam holding the mailbox was broken, leaving the mailbox hanging off the post.

A resident in the 1400 block 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported that sometime in the last 10 days an air compressor was taken from their residence.

**Investigations:**

New cases:	26
Cases assigned:	7
Cases suspended-no leads:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	5
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	10

Detective Pham completed 7 supplements; developed probable cause in a pawn case for false verification of ownership, and; attempted to locate two suspects for whom he has probable cause.

Detective Crowson followed up on sexual battery, identity theft, and credit card fraud cases.

School Resource Officer Motte investigated a bicycle theft; arrested a student for resisting an officer without violence; mentored a student; assisted patrol and the investigative unit with a case, and; arranged for GPD's Explorer post to train with PCSO's Explorer post this weekend.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to a medical call and a civil matter, and made contact with students skipping in the hallways; participated in the multijurisdictional warrant sweep; participated in the MLK Day of Service event; attended SRO Leadership training and Photo Pack and Lineup Training, and; collected and dropped off donated food items at the Senior Center food pantry.

Margaret Palmisano completed the annual UCR report to be submitted to FDLE; assisted with statistical data for the Gulfport Police Department annual report; created and distributed a bulletin for SRO Motte in the theft of two bicycles from BCHS, and; completed an analysis of thefts for Chief Vincent.

The Special Enforcement Team (SET) assisted other local agencies on Thursday with a violent offender sweep.

**Records Section**

Reports reviewed	19
Supplements reviewed:	70
Public records requests:	9
Background checks:	22
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	18

Citizens assisted: 33

### **Professional Standards Section**

The following policies are in the review process: 314 - Line and Staff Inspection; 341 - Report Writing; 414 - Traffic Direction and Control; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 425 - Bicycle Patrol; 426 - Problem Oriented Patrols, and; 517 - Search Warrants.

Policies awaiting Chief's signature: 120 - Infectious Diseases; 206 - Grievances, and; 125A - Investigative Responsibilities.

Updated policies distributed to personnel: 109 - Extra Duty/Off Duty Employment

### **Training Coordination**

Members have been assigned online training for Photographic or Live Lineups in Eyewitness Identification. The due date for completion is February 1.

Det. Pham and Det. Crowson attended a one day course on Blood Stain Basics at SEPSI.

SRO Langston attended an SRO Leadership course in Orlando.

Seven Police Officer applications are being processed. Roxanne Affeldt has been given a conditional offer of employment and we are awaiting the results of the medical and psychological screenings.

### **MARINA**

Assisted in thirty four (34) pump outs evacuating four hundred fifteen (415) gallons of waste.

#### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 30' sailboat, 32' powerboat, 2 28' powerboats, 37' powerboat and a 30' powerboat this week.

#### **Staff activities/Marina maintenance:**

- Read and calculated electrical readings.
- Repaired electrical outlet.
- Installed fire extinguisher at fuel dispenser 4.
- Repaired gate lock on pier 6-E.
- Cleaned storage area in truck lock-up.

### **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/gtv-615](http://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.
- Updated meeting schedules & minutes and upcoming events on City Website.

- Provided control room coverage for January 20 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Provided photographic/technical assistance at Arbor Day & MLK events.
- Accepting and organizing Yard Sale registrations.
- Distributed February calendars at City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.

### **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, and 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 this month's calendar or download a copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://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 qualified Gulfport residents 50 & 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, 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Join Dr. Couch for this month's **HCA Health Talks: Advances in Surgery** on Monday, January 26 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Couch will discuss the advances in surgery and the new techniques that St. Petersburg General Hospital offers such as robotic assisted procedures.

Join us at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 28 for a very special performance by The Gulfport Senior Center's **Harmonica Club** as we celebrate their 21 years of dedication. Hors d'oeuvres be served following the performance. **TICKEST MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE EVENT. LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER PERSON.**

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is February 10. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games at our new class every Monday at noon.

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone **CAN** do this, Everyone **SHOULD!**

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance 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.

**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 at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. 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.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

**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.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. 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. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

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

Sunday, January 11	6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance with Swingtime (Turnout 143)
Tuesday, January 13	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 22) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 70)
Wednesday, January 14	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 299)
Thursday, January 15	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 30)
Friday, January 16	7:30 p.m. - Silver Threads Dance & Show (Turnout 220)
Saturday, January 17	6 p.m. - Raymond James party (Turnout 79)

#### **Casino (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday            6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

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

Sunday, January 11    2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 40)

Thursday, January 15    8 p.m. - GCP presents *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 63)

Friday, January 16      8 p.m. - GCP presents *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 104)

Saturday, January 17    8 p.m. - GCP presents *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 85)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):**

Thursday-Saturday, January 22-24, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 25, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present **Escanaba in da Moonlight** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A contemporary comedy about deer hunting traditions set in the Escanaba, Michigan area. Tickets: \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, online at [www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org](http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org) or at the door beginning one hour before performance.

**Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):**

Sunday, January 11            9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 44)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, January 13        10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 22)

**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

**Scout Hall (upcoming events):**

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

Every Monday            9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion  
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday            10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday        10:30 a.m. - Yoga

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 a.m. until 1 p.m.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, January 12, 3 p.m. - *Diabetes Prevention Class.*

Monday, January 12, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, January 13, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting.*

Tuesday, January 13, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, January 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 14, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 14, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, January 14, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, January 14, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 15, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers.*

Thursday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Friday, January 16, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Monday, January 26, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session:* Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument & join us! Get in touch with your musical self. Call Alex at 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, January 27 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, February 12, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners.* Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Thursday, February 26, 3 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 2-4 year olds, and 3:30 p.m. - Storytime Yoga for 5-10 year olds:* All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5.* For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

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, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout:* Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at [riddell@gmail.com](mailto:riddell@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 near the Easy books.

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

**Library Services/Statistic January 11-17, 2014:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,200	728
Sun. 1/11	Library closed	
Mon. 1/12	363	150
Tue. 11/13	480	131
Wed. 1/14	367	116
Thu. 1/15	372	121
Fri. 1/16	332	103
Sat. 1/17	257	86

**Recreation Center**

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty (50) children are registered for the **2014/15 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 non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) 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 turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and 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.

Sixty (60) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Bootcamp, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women’s Self-Defense and Yoga.

**Staff Activities**

John Lapham and three (3) children from the School Year Child Care Program participated in the City’s Annual Arbor Day celebration at the Small Dog Park on Friday afternoon. The children read excerpts on the tree that was planted and the seedlings given to attendees during the event.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Tot Time/VPK participants to Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater on Tuesday.

**Teen Council** members Tayrn Spence and Savannah Roderick served refreshments and offered seedlings to attendees during the Arbor Day celebration.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 631 totaling \$95,938.42
- On-Line Water payments: 151 transactions totaling \$9,931.53

- Utility Bills Mailed 1,635
- Bright House payments: 9
- Payroll 01/16/15: 159 transactions totaling \$187,090.86

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue

### **Life Safety:**

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 7 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O
- 1 Fire Investigation

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, February 18. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshals meeting on January 15.
- Fire Inspector Lundh performed a walk through at the City Marina for Final Inspection of the new tanks and gas pump location. The Fire Extinguishers had to be moved and one added.
- Lt. Huffman is working on the ISO documentation for the three year annual review.
- The Gulfport Fire Department continued their Face to Face St. Petersburg College CME. This month's topic is Mass Causality Incidents and triage.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced three soap dispensers in Casino restrooms.
- Repaired card table, hung bulletin board, and replaced electrical cover, caulked windows outside Room #107 at Senior Center, and set up rooms for meetings and activities.
- Assembled four office chairs for Police Department.
- Reset electronic smoke beam in Theater.
- Completed monthly pest control at all city buildings.
- Repaired handicap electronic door opener at Theater entrance.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Repaired/replaced benches at Clam Bayou and Tangerine lake area.

- Installed butt cans at beach pavilions.
- Repaired drinking fountains at Clam Bayou and Tomlinson Park.
- Removed trash and junk from Veterans Park.
- Cleaned shop and storage area.
- Replaced locks at Beach playground and Skate Park.
- Continued cleaning and removed weeds and grass from base lines, tilled baselines and pitchers mounds, reworked clay and cleaned warning tracks, removed clay from turf areas and cleaned dugouts.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued trimming palms along Beach Boulevard and trees and shrubs at Clam Bayou.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Clymer Park and Recreation Center, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed, Clymer greenway, Senior Center, Library, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Clymer & Veterans Parks, City Complex, Recreation Center grounds, Chase Block & Dog Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt & Little League fields and Caldwell 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.
- 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.

### **Streets & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed debris from City Yard and cleaned truck wash area.
- Added material and set grade at site of sidewalk removal at 1125 Hull Street.
- Continued removal of curbside Christmas trees.
- Set out large trash containers for weekend events.
- Removed debris from roadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Removed large tree from the easement at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of debris following weekend MLK event.
- Removed trash/debris from Tuesday Fresh Market & 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Trimmed palm trees in drainage area at 5614 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## 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 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 70 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 16 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- 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
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Installed new water service and meters at 2620 Beach Boulevard, 1918 60<sup>th</sup> Street, 1912 60<sup>th</sup> Street, 1906 60<sup>th</sup> Street, 1842 60<sup>th</sup> Street and 1836 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

## 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.

## Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced tires on Parks vehicle #25.
- Replaced headlights on Sanitation vehicle #88 & Streets vehicle #38.
- Repaired packer control systems in Sanitation vehicles #31 & 42.
- Replaced air dryer on Fire Truck #P17.
- Researched fluid requirements for 1925 La-France Fire Engine.
- Drained and replaced diesel fuel in Streets tractor #36.
- Replaced grabber arm springs on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Tracked down electrical short in Police vehicle #54.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at [www.pced.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

**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, or for an explanation of 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:

The 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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for December was 151. The fiscal year-to-date total is 496. The number of citizen complaints was 10 with a fiscal year-to-date total of 45. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

## **Planning and Development**

### **February 11 Board of Adjustment:**

V15-06; 5937 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to:

1. To recognize the existing catwalk and dock encroachments of 0.42 feet into the side outer one-third required setbacks of the extended waterfront; and
2. To reduce the right-hand outer one third setback requirement by 12.42 feet, from 26.67 feet to 14.25 feet to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.

V15-07; 5320 Dellett Avenue South; Variance request to:

1. Reduce the side yard setback requirement from by 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed new pool enclosure to be attached to the house; and
2. To recognize the reduction in the separation distance of 5 feet, from 12 feet to 7 feet, between the proposed pool enclosure and an existing accessory structure (shed).