



Gulfport Community Update

January 19 - 25, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City of Gulfport celebrated trees and their importance during the City's **Arbor Day** celebration at the Gulfport Recreation Center on January 7 (photos below). Children from the Gulfport Recreation School Year Child Care Program presented excerpts on trees, the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments, and Mayor Henderson & City Councilmember Christine Brown helped plant a Live Oak sapling on Gulfport Beach.



The **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event was held behind the Neighborhood Center on January 18. Gulfport Residents brought items to swap, give away or junk (photos below). The Gulfport Police Department registered six (6) bikes and residents enjoyed a cup of coffee with Community Resource Officer Zack Mills during Java with Zack.



The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the 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:

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 call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email gulfportmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com.

The League of Women Voters will host a **Meet the Candidates forum** in Gulfport City Hall Council Chambers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 28. Ward 3 candidates will discuss current issues in Gulfport. For more information call 893-1012.

Enjoy **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District February 7, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, February 8 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

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, email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

Dance the night away at the Gulfport Casino **Valentines Dance** on Friday, February 14, 8 - 11 p.m. Enjoy live music by the Encore IV 17-piece big band. Tickets: \$15 at the door. For more information call 893-1070.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

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|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Dispatch calls for service | 170 |
| Officer initiated calls for service | 292 |
| Offenses | 40 |
| Arrests | 5 |
| Traffic citations | 28 |

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5500 block of 16th Avenue reported on the morning of January 16 that a juvenile was trespassing in her back yard and smoking marijuana behind the bushes. When she confronted him he got angry and punched the fence across the alley and damaged it. He was gone when police arrived and the owner of the fence did not wish to prosecute.

Officers responded to the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on the evening of January 16 after a caller reported 2 trash cans on fire at the beach restrooms. A juvenile was identified as a possible suspect and the investigation is continuing.

Travis Kennedy was arrested on the evening of January 17 after officers observed him smoking marijuana. He tried to conceal his pipe, but when approached by officers he admitted he had been smoking marijuana.

Officer Nicita stopped Rand Domke for committing several traffic violations while driving a moped on the afternoon of January 18. Domke has a suspended license and disregarded officers' commands after he was stopped. He was charged with driving while license suspended and resisting officers without violence.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 14th Avenue on the afternoon of January 18 after a caller advised she observed a juvenile male hit a juvenile female. The victim and her mother returned to the scene and the victim pointed out the subject. Officers attempted to place him under arrest and while doing so, he fought with officers and attempted to escape from the patrol vehicle. He was transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Officers responded to the Family Dollar on the afternoon of January 18 after the store manager observed a woman putting laundry detergent in her purse. She dropped the bag and fled the store when confronted. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 12th Avenue in the early morning hours of January 19 after a resident reported she observed a male inside her vehicle which was parked in the carport attached to her house. The victim stated the male got out of the vehicle and ran when he saw her. It was determined that nothing was taken from the vehicle. A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office K9 responded with negative results.

A resident in the 700 block of Gray Street reported that she returned home after being away overnight, and discovered someone had crawled through her doggie door and stole her laptop computer and Nintendo Wii. The investigation continues.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of Newton Avenue on the morning of January 20 after a resident reported a deceased person in the backyard of a vacant house. Records in the man's possession indicated he was a transient who had recently listed his address as a St. Petersburg homeless shelter. There were no signs of trauma, but it was not immediately obvious how he died. Detectives and investigators from the medical examiner's office were called to the scene to investigate.

Officers responded to a residence in the 1800 block of Gray Street on the evening of January 20 regarding a burglar alarm. A window was found with a screen cut and 3 jalousie panes were removed to make entry. A door leading to the garage was also found unlocked. Jewelry was missing and cash was taken from a drawer in the bedroom. The investigation is ongoing.

A resident in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue reported on the morning of January 21 that sometime overnight someone entered his unlocked 2013 Mazda which was parked in his driveway and stole several items including the keys to his 2006 Ford F150, which was stolen. The subject returned to the residence on January 22 and stole the Mazda.

Officers responded to a domestic in progress in the 2800 block of 51st Street in the early morning hours of January 21. Upon arrival Officer Randazzo heard a woman screaming so he kicked in the door and observed a male standing over a woman lying on the floor. After conducting an investigation it was determined that the male, identified as James Schutt, had kept the female from leaving, and threw her over his shoulder.

The Marine Unit was out for service this week for repairs covered under warranty.

Investigations:

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|--------------------------------|----|
| New Cases: | 16 |
| Cases Assigned: | 5 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 9 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 0 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 2 |
| Cases referred back to patrol: | 0 |
| Supplements Received: | 14 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 1 |
| Previously Cleared With Arrest | 1 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 0 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 2 |

Cases Exceptionally Cleared: 0
Cases Still Active: 10

Detective Hanh Pham is the lead investigator in the Newton Avenue death referenced in the incidents section, and is attempting to locate and notify next of kin. He also completed eight supplements, attended a live invest with the SAO in a Grand Theft case and closed out a retail theft case with an arrest.

Detective Jennifer Crowson investigated a possible child abuse in which a two year-old was transported to All Children's Hospital with a head injury, and determined the injury was minor and the result of the child slipping in the bathroom. She also shadowed Detective Pham for training during a suspicious death investigation.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, broke up two fights, and recovered a runaway.

During this week School Resource Officer Langston attempted without success to locate a student who had a pick up order (arrest warrant). She also investigated an incident involving several juvenile trespassers on campus. They left campus prior to contact being made. Officer Langston was able to determine their identities and forwarded the information to their various schools. Additionally, she investigated a report of a theft of a cell phone; assisted a PCSO deputy with an investigation and arrest of a student involved in an incident that occurred off campus; investigated a report made regarding narcotics that are being sold on campus; attended a countywide SRO meeting, and; provided security during a basketball game.

Analyst Palmisano submitted the approved Uniform Crime Report data to FDLE; completed a review of stolen property for proper documentation that it had been entered into FCIC; created a bulletin for a strong armed robbery suspect and distributed the bulletin to GPD officers and local agencies, and; started an analysis of vehicle burglaries and auto thefts in the City.

Records Section

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|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed: | 15 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 45 |
| Public records requests: | 28 |
| Background checks: | 0 |
| Bike registrations: | 8 |
| Fingerprints: | 6 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 14 |
| Citizens assisted: | 29 |

MARINA

Pumped eight hundred nineteen (819) gallons of gas, and four hundred eighty two (482) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling forty six (46) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

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

Staff Activities:

- Read and calculated electrical readings.
- Replaced line holders on pier two, slip 26.
- Completed pump out maintenance.

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 21 City Council meeting and uploaded video to City website.
- Continued transition training at Casino.
- Conducted debrief meeting on Junk in the Trunk Event with Gulfport Neighbors, Public Works and Police Department.
- Hosted Public Information Officer meeting at Gulfport Public Library on Thursday.
- Provided photographic coverage for *We're Talking Trash Birthday* contest winners.
- Commenced video production of January 16 Gulfport Police Reaffirmation.
- Commenced coordinating expert panel for Hurricane Seminar in May.
- Commenced preparations for March 8 Spring Citywide Yard Sale.

Parks

Staged tree for Arbor Day celebration and ran water line & sprinkler head.

Adjusted light timers on Beach Boulevard.

Installed three benches at Recreation Center playground.

Replaced fence around library outside reading area, and hung plaque for Circle of Friends.

Removed broken fence posts and rail at Tangerine parking stalls.

Cleared Recreation Center water fountain drains and removed broken parts.

Continued removal of playground and mulch at Recreation Center, added fill dirt and graded.

Meet with contractor regarding installation of new playground at Recreation Center.

Hung Car Show ad banners on Gulfport Boulevard.

Repaired Wood Ibis flag pole.

Replaced flag at Veterans Park and bench slats at Tomlinson Park.

Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center and Caldwell & Veterans Parks.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced front drive on mower and fuel lines on hedge trimmers, ordered parts for hedge trimmers, tuned up hedge trimmers and adjusted carburetors, and transported sand pro from Hoyt Field to City Yard for repairs.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Library, 28th Street signage area and triangle bed on Beach Boulevard; trimmed palms at Caldwell Park, mulched Recreation Center exercise area, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Chase block, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center grounds, Pasadena entrance, 14th Avenue medians, Hoyt perimeter, Dog Park, and Tonkin, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks.

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. 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 qualified 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.

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.

Premier Vein Institute will offer complementary screenings and an educational seminar on venous disease and the effects on the body on Monday, February 3 at 2:30 p.m.

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.

Heidi Crockett from Aging Care Advocates, Inc. will present **Healthy Aging: Mindful Consumption of Food & Pleasure** on Wednesday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. Participants will discuss how to bring more awareness, joy, and pleasure into normal daily activities.

You never know treasure you might find at **First Friday Flea Market** on February 7, 9 a.m. - noon.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimers Association will offer **FREE, Confidential Memory Screenings**, advice and information at the Senior Center on Monday, February 10, 9 a.m. - noon. Call 893-1231 to schedule your screening.

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

Explore a living memorial that inspires citizens to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity during the Senior Center's **Gulfport Getaway** to the Florida Holocaust Museum on Tuesday, February 11. The Museum has made available a historical record and artistic interpretation of the Holocaust and other genocides. The museum's collection covers the end of World War I through the close of the Jewish displaced persons camp in the mid-1950s. Call GEMS at 893-2242 more information & to reserve a seat before February 5. Round-trip transportation and admission: GEMS members, \$13; nonmembers, \$15.

Empower your Mind, Body, & Soul during the annual **Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino on Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. Don't miss out!

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.

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*):

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| Sunday, January 12 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 44) |
| Tuesday, January 14 | 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 28) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 44) |
| Wednesday, January 15 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 274) |
| Thursday, January 16 | 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 36) |
| Friday, January 17 | 7:30 p.m. - Silver Threads (Turnout 203) |
| Saturday, January 18 | 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 200) |

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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|--------------------|--|
| Every Sunday | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7 |
| Monday, January 27 | 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance Admission: members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10 |
| 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 (*last week's events*)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, January 12 | 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 173) |
| Thursday, January 16 | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 170) |
| Friday, January 17 | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 172) |
| Saturday, January 18 | 8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 171) |

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday - Saturday, January 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 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 & Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

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|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 12 | 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous |
| Tuesday, January 14 | Republican Primary election |

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*):

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|-----------------------|---|
| Monday - Friday | 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting |
| Monday, January 12 | 10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 9) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 18) |
| Tuesday, January 14 | 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 21) |
| Wednesday, January 15 | 11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 20) |
| Thursday, January 16 | 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 9) |
| Friday, January 17 | 10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9) |

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 Tuesday | 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing |
| 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, January 13, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Tuesday, January 14 - *Special Primary Election* polling location.

Wednesday, January 15, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, January 15, 1 p.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors* meeting.

Wednesday, January 15, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Thursday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, January 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Everyman* by Philip Roth over coffee & light refreshments.

Thursday, January 16, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners* class.

Friday, January 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, January 18, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, January 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, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Every Monday & Friday beginning February 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, photo ID and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.

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, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

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 January 12-18, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 2,261 | 734 |
| Sun. 1/12 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 1/13 | 422 | 130 |
| Tue. 1/14 | 399 | 126 |
| Wed. 1/15 | 395 | 135 |
| Thu. 1/16 | 356 | 130 |
| Fri. 1/17 | 326 | 108 |
| Sat. 1/18 | 333 | 91 |

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, January 18 for a Baby Shower with approximately 50 in attendance.

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 issued to date.

Staff Activities:

Marivel Gutierrez and three (3) children from the School Year Child Care Program participated in the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Friday morning. The children read excerpts on the tree that was planted and the seedlings that were distributed to attendees.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport a group of Tot Time/VPK participants to Dinosaur World on Plant City on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Savannah Roderick & Taryn Spence served cookies and punch to attendees at the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas leak

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plans Review

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs continued their January 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services online Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topic is Medical Operations Manual 2014: Clinical Standards, Protocols and Procedures. (3 CEUs)
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas Advanced Life Support (PALS) meeting at the St. Petersburg College Health Educational Center on January 21. Topics discussed: Approval of the December 17, 2013 meeting minutes; approval of the Treasurer's report; discussion of new COG from the Medical Director's Office, and; discussion of EMS Coordinator issues & new equipment and medication that will be added to the EMS system.
- Pinellas County Dispatch updated the MDC application software in the Fire Apparatus. This software provides Firefighters with call information and dispatch instructions.
- GFD personnel continued High Rise Training this week. High-rise fires can be challenging due to the complexity of the buildings themselves, as well as all the bases that must be covered in these incidents to ensure a successful outcome. One of the most difficult challenges that we as firefighters can face when responding to these incidents is a wind-driven fire in a high-rise. This is an extreme and very serious situation. Locating the fire in a high-rise building is challenging but crucial. Stretching hose lines in high-rises is very labor intensive and we must be certain we're advancing to the right location; it's not a simple task to reposition the line.
- Chief Marenkovic attended a Plans Review with Community Development for the Genesis Church site at 1601 49th Street. There were a few outstanding issues.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced two light switches at Beach restrooms.
- Repaired men's restroom handicap door at Casino.
- Removed floor tile at Little League in preparation for new floor installation.
- Replaced water line on faucet in Library men's restroom.
- Repaired office lock at Senior Center.
- Received three bids on fencing for Little League complex.
- Delivered mail to main Post office for Administrative Services Department.
- Installed floor drain riser in Little League concession stand.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and 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 potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Cut and removed tree limb alley obstructions in long alleys.
- Continued Christmas tree pick-up for recycling.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Removed and disposed of debris collected during automated street sweeping.
- Set up for *Caring and Sharing/Junk-in-the-Trunk* event at Gulfport Neighborhood Center.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at 53rd Street & 8th Avenue, and 52nd Street & 8th Avenue.
- Cut areas of asphalt in preparation for paving at Dupont Street & 29th Avenue.
- Removed storm drain lid and prepped asphalt for paving at 59th Street & 30th Avenue.
- Removed debris and tires from City Garage.
- Disposed of debris collected during *Caring and Sharing/Junk-in-the-Trunk* event.
- Removed illegal dumping at Osgood Point.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33, & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 95 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 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.
- Repaired water break at 5610 15th Avenue.
- 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced rear brakes on Police Department vehicle #102 and Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced right rear taillight on Police Department vehicle #111.
- Replaced brake switch on Police Department vehicle #18.
- Replaced tailgate seal on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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, 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:

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.

February 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-01; 6141 8th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 3 feet, from 15 feet to 12 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 10' x 10' accessory structure.
- V14-02; 5522 17th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 7 feet, from 15 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 14' x 14' accessory structure.