



Gulfport Community Update

December 29, 2013 - January 4, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that new regulations are in effect for the placement of recreational vehicles (RVs). All RVs must have a permit. Permit applications, RV regulations and a flowchart of the permit process are available at www.mygulfport.us. RVs meeting setbacks will receive a green permit window sticker. Owners of RVs not meeting setbacks were to obtain a red permit sticker, which allows for an exemption from regulations to place the RV within setback areas, no later than January 2, 2014. Un-stickered RVs will be removed at owners' expense. 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 t Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079.

Upcoming Events:

The **Fourth Annual JWest Prostate Cancer 5k Walk/Run for Awareness** is 8 a.m. Saturday, January 4. For more information visit www.jwestprostatefoundation.org or call Mike Calimari at 638-2389.

Enjoy the crisp winter air during **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on January 3, 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, January 11 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

The City of Gulfport will celebrate the life of trees and their importance during the annual **Arbor Day** event at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard on Friday, January 17 at 10 a.m. 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. 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. Call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	185
Officer initiated calls for service	312
Offenses	50

Arrests	7
Traffic citations	40

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5200 block of Tangerine Avenue reported on the morning of December 27 that the tires on his vehicle had been damaged. Responding officers observed damage to the valve stems on both driver side tires causing them to go flat. There are no suspects.

Officers were flagged down by a woman in the 5000 block of 11th Avenue who had just arrived from Canada regarding a burglary at her parents' home, which they last visited in October. An unknown subject forced entry through a window. Nothing appeared to be missing or damaged.

A resident in the 3000 block of 49th Street reported on the afternoon of December 28 that she allowed her son to borrow her car the day before and he refused to return it. The suspect also stole a laptop from his brother's room before taking the car.

Officers observed a vehicle parked in the Clam Bayou parking lot after closing time in the early morning hours of December 29, and searched the park for the owner. They observed two subjects on the southern pier, who threw beer bottles into Boca Ciega Bay when they saw officers approaching. Both were issued citations for violating the City's littering ordinance.

A vehicle reported stolen on December 18 was located by Police and returned to the owner after being processed for evidence.

Officers responded to the 1000 block of 55th Street on the afternoon of December 29 after a resident returned from week-long vacation and discovered that someone had broken into their residence. Two flat screen televisions, a red gateway laptop, jewelry, an iPhone in a pink otter case and a 30.06 black savage rifle with scope were missing from the residence.

Officers were dispatched to the 2200 block of Beach Boulevard on the afternoon of December 29 after a dog broke loose from its owner's fenced yard and attacked a woman and her dog as they were walking by. The woman attempted to break up the fight and was bitten on the hand. While police were interviewing the woman the dog returned and attacked the woman's dog again. Officer Randazzo reacted quickly and pulled the attacking dog off of the woman's dog without further injury to the woman or either dog.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 9th Avenue on the evening of December 29 after a woman, apparently angry with her ex-boyfriend for seeing someone else went to his apartment and broke out a window with a baseball bat before fleeing. Police made contact with the woman at her home and she denied the allegation, but since the incident was witnessed by three people, she was charged with misdemeanor criminal mischief and issued a notice to appear.

Officers responded to three reports of vehicle thefts on the morning of December 30: A resident in the 1200 block of Hull Street reported that sometime overnight someone stole her 2005 Dodge Neon from her driveway. A short time later a resident in the 5300 block of 21st Avenue reported that he woke to discover that his 2007 Toyota Yaris missing from his driveway. Both owners left their vehicles unlocked. In the third incident, a resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported that someone stole her 2013 Hyundai Accent from her residence during the night. She left the vehicle unlocked with the valet key inside.

A resident in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the evening of December 30 that she forgot to lock her back door when she left that morning, and someone stole her TV, telescope and jewelry.

Officer Priest arrested Nicole Ross on the morning of December 31 after she forged a check in order to bond her boyfriend out of jail.

A man reported that his cell phone was stolen after he left it on the counter of a business in the 1000 block of 49th Street. The phone was returned the following day but the SIM card was missing.

Officers responded to the area of 49th Street & 26th Avenue on the evening of December 31 after a caller stated 3 males attempted to steal his wallet while he was walking to the marina area. The victim was uninjured and advised he punched the suspects several times. He was able to recover his wallet from the suspects as they fled.

Officers arrested Nicole Burns for hitting her boyfriend over the head with a beer bottle in the early morning hours of January 1. She was also charged with violation of pretrial release after a judge ordered her to have no contact with her boyfriend following another recent battery arrest.

Brandon Williams was arrested on the afternoon of January 1 after Sgt. Marotta attempted to stop him for driving an unregistered car. He ran from the vehicle and was apprehended a short time later by Officer Priest.

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 Sergeant Thomas Woodman, Crime Analyst Margret Palmisano, Officer Jason Motte and Officer Crystal Langston were on leave this week.

Detective Hanh Pham was acting supervisor in CIS while Sergeant Woodman was on vacation. He reviewed 16 new cases and 11 supplements this week, conducted follow-up investigations to his assigned cases, conducted pawn checks for two residential burglary cases in an attempt to locate stolen property and checked jail recorded phone calls for an inmate involved in the burglary and processed the scene for possible latent prints. He also spoke with several witnesses regarding a late reported theft case and showed a photo line-up to the victim of an armed robbery.

Detective Jennifer Crowson attempted to locate a suspect for whom she has probable cause, with no success. She also completed monthly sex offender checks.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	18
Supplements reviewed:	116
Public records requests:	12
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	2

Subpoenas processed: 0
Citizens assisted: 56

MARINA

Pumped one thousand nine hundred fifteen (1,915) gallons of gas, and one thousand eighty one (1,081) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty four (84) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 27' motorboat, 43'cruiser and 20' motorboat this week.

Staff Activities

- Repaired gate on pier five.
- Replaced lines on fuel dock.
- Replaced lights in power pedestals.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Replaced light in men's room.

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.
- Completed Arbor Day program and promotional material.
- Met with Vice President of Gulfport Neighbors to discuss Junk in the Trunk event, and prepared gear list, map layout, and promotion material for event.
- Continued design of Four Fold FAQ brochure.
- Commenced planning and design of February Events/Meetings calendar.
- Updated GTV with January information.

Parks

Repaired bench swings on beach and at pier, and fence at Clam Bayou Park.

Reset bird bath at Veterans Park and landscape boulder at Clymer Park.

Replaced photo cell for flag light at Wood Ibis Park, flag at Veterans Park and air compressor hose in shop.

Painted over graffiti at Skate Park.

Sanded and repainted bike rack at Tomlinson Park.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades and replaced hydraulic line on sand pro, fuel lines on stick edger and throttle cable on line trimmer.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned City complex and Clymer Park; mulched City complex, Beach streetscapes and Casino grounds; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Recreation Center grounds, City complex, Clymer, Tomlinson & Veterans Parks, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Recreation Center grounds, Tangerine Greenway & lakeside and Wood Ibis Park drainage area.

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

Opened & cleaned Skate Park.

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.

Attention Baby Boomers! Thinking about retirement? You're not alone. Take **A Closer Look at Your Social Security Benefits** on Monday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. as we discuss Individual Benefits, Spousal Benefits, and Social Security Maximization Strategies. Learn about full retirement age, taking benefits early, working while collecting social security, taxation of benefits, and more.

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 January 7. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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 January 15 at 2 p.m.

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 22	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hales Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 36)
Thursday, December 26	8 p.m. - Jordan Park holiday party (Turnout 294)
Friday, December 27	5:30 - Wedding reception (Turnout 175)
Saturday, December 28	8 p.m. - Gibbs High School Class of '65 & '66 Reunion (Turnout 400)

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 22	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 23	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)

Wednesday, December 25	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 19)
Thursday, December 26	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, December 27	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

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 23, 3 p.m. - *Gingerbread House craft activity* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, December 23, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, December 24 - *SCORE counseling.*

Tuesday, December 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Thursday, December 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, December 27, 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 22-28, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,635	510
Sun. 12/22	Library closed	
Mon. 12/23	370	112
Tue. 12/24	240	77
Wed. 12/25 - Holiday	Library closed	
Thu. 12/26	367	97
Fri. 12/27	308	111
Sat. 12/28	321	93

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 28 for a Birthday party with 20 in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty seven (47) 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.

Thirteen (13) 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, Gymnastics, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty nine (59) 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. Three (3) FY2013/14 passes have been sold to date.

Staff Activities:

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on December 28.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 10 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 967 totaling \$128,735.23
- On-Line Water payments: 129 transactions totaling \$7,767.51
- Bright House payments: 21
- Accounts Payable 12/27/13: 607 transactions totaling \$ 240,160.92
- Mail processed 12/27/13: 2,788 pieces totaling \$1269.52
- Purchasing Card 12/11/13: 190 transactions totaling \$26832.22

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. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

The CERT Team will assist with route control during the JWest 5K run on January 4.

- The Final Draft of the 2014 Medical Operations Manual is going to print. This final draft incorporates the corrections we have received to date. This version is suitable for training purposes and the final manual will be transmitted once approved by the Medical Control Board in early January.
- Florida's Department of Health launched 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:

- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Installed new ink roll in time clock machine.
- Purchased and set up new refrigerator for City Hall break room.
- Repaired 3 tables at Recreation Center.
- Replaced two ballasts in Room #106 at Senior Center.
- Repaired air conditioner unit at Casino.
- Completed roof repairs at Senior Center.

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.
- Disposed of several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area
- Applied absorbent to roadway on 53rd Street, between 10th & Jersey Avenues.
- Removed & disposed of debris from Beach area, and graded Beach between Casino & Pier.
- Completed asphalt patchwork per direction.
- Removed debris from storm water inlet at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Removed debris from storm drain at Clinton Street & Shore Boulevard.
- Reset storm drain cover on curb at Beach Boulevard & 25th Avenue South following vehicle strike.
- Cleaned and removed debris from parking area and set curb-stops at Wood Ibis Park.

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).
- Disconnected water service at 42 locations for non-payment of service
- Completed 18 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off
- Completed 53 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 5 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 6450 Gulfport Boulevard.

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.
- Replaced centrifugal pump at Lift Station #1.

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 have moved to 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 the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 was 2,336. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year 178, which represented an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.6 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.