



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *October 5 - 11, 2014*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

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

**2014 Hurricane Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic began on June 1 and ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

Nearly 150 residents took the opportunity to get rid of unwanted items, find treasures at the free table, swap plants, donate bags of non-perishable foods for a crepe myrtle to assist the Senior Center Pantry, get a smoke detector and register bikes during **Junk in the Trunk** on October 3 (photos below).

Many thanks go to Gulfport Neighbors; members of the Gulfport Garden & Art Society; City Council member Yolanda Roman and City Manager Jim O'Reilly for making the tree giveaway a reality; Cedar the pantry lady for managing the intake of non-perishable foods for the Senior Center Food Pantry, and; Council member Michael Fridovich who assisted throughout the day.

Thank you also to Gulfport Community Players for the use of their parking for the plant exchange & crepe myrtle giveaway, and to Stella's & Yummy's for donating breakfast & lunch for volunteers. Mark your calendars for the next event on Saturday, February 15, 2015.



### **Upcoming Events:**

Get your volunteer group together for **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, October 11, 9 - 11 a.m. at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4. Visit the Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Hail the Mullet King at the **Gulfport Historical Society Birthday Bash** at the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Saturday, October 11 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The day's activities will include: Mullet Toss with prizes; Trolley tours through Gulfport, cake, crowning of the Mullet King, kids relays, adult games of skill, and a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Gulfport Historical Society. For more information call Miki Vaughan at 321-5705 or email [dreamsfloat@me.com](mailto:dreamsfloat@me.com).

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).

Enjoy rides, games, food & drink, dancing and entertainment during **Oktoberfest**, a local fall festival which has been an annual event in Gulfport for over 30 years, at Holy Name Church, 5800 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Thursday-Saturday, October 16-19. For more information call 344-2744.

Come by land or by water to the **City of Gulfport Fall Coastal Cleanup** at Clam Bayou Nature Park Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. - noon. Bring a kayak to search for items in the bayou or enjoy the park by foot to help pick up the surrounding area. Snacks will be provided. Register the day of event. For more information call 893-1118.

The Gulfport Historical Society presents **Gulfport Under the Stars** on Saturday, October 25, 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy dinner, dancing and music during this beautiful outdoor event Tickets: \$25, available at the Gulfport Casino and Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. Call 656-5420 for more information.

Get scared and have fun during the **City of Gulfport Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard on Friday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. Enjoy carnival games, costume contest, haunted house, tot boo room and Snack Shack. For more information call 893-1068.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	143
Self-initiated calls for service	439
Offenses	30
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	38

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

Officer Ross stopped a car in the 5700 block of Gulfport Boulevard on October 2 for an equipment violation and determined that the driver had a suspended license. She was arrested because she knew of the suspension and had prior charges for the same offense.

A resident in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that his political signs were stolen from the side of the road. The signs were posted in compliance with City ordinances and had not been removed by City personnel.

A manager from McDonald's called police on October 3 to report a trespasser on the property. Officers made contact with Dennis Coble who had been issued a written trespass warning barring him from the restaurant. Coble was arrested for violation of the trespass warning.

The owner of Gulfport Florist reported that a teenager was trespassing in the fenced area behind the shop. Police made contact with the youth who was in an area not open to the public and arrested him for trespassing and possession of marijuana.

The manager of Wells Fargo bank requested GPD trespass a customer who repeatedly enters the bank, sleeps in the lobby and causes a disturbance. Officers made contact with Jerry Albright who ripped up his trespass warning and refused to leave the bank after repeated warnings that he would be arrested. When officers tried to take him into custody he struggled and had to be taken to the ground and handcuffed.

A resident in the 5600 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that an acquaintance battered her. There were no independent witnesses and the suspect denied striking the victim who was transported to the hospital at her request for a bump on her head.

Officers responded to a reported carjacking in the 1800 Block of 54<sup>th</sup> Street after a man walking to his car was approached by a black male who pointed a stick at him and demanded his car keys. The victim refused and began swinging a garbage bag at the suspect. Several witnesses approached and the suspect ran away. The suspect had been speaking with officers just before the incident occurred so they were able to identify him.

Jerry Albright was released from jail on Sunday and returned to Wells Fargo bank Monday morning. He was arrested again for trespass after warning and tried to claim he did not remember being trespassed, but later made statements about the officers and events in Saturday's incident.

Officers responded to the 1700 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street regarding a reported fight involving a knife. When officers arrived 3 people were standing in the street but no one appeared to be fighting. One of the individuals explained that he had an argument over gas money with someone who had given him a ride home, but the other party involved had already left. No one was injured and the people still on scene did not wish to make a police report.

A resident in the 3100 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street summoned police on the morning of October 7 when she found a man sleeping in her boat in her back yard, next to a posted NO TRESPASSING sign. Officers identified the man, but the complainant did not wish to prosecute.

Officers assisted School Resource Officer Motte when a trespasser at Boca Ciega High School ran from him into a nearby neighborhood. The suspect later identified as 20 year-old Samuel Scott, broke into an occupied residence to hide. He soon surrendered to police without further resistance.

Alpha Squad Officers participated in the National Walk to School Day with Gulfport Elementary students on October 8. Students, parents, and school staff walked from Tomlinson Park to Gulfport Elementary School escorted by officers and firefighters.

Alpha Squad Officers directed traffic at intersections along 58<sup>th</sup> Street when a power failure left traffic signals inoperable. Fortunately, the power was restored after a short time.

Officer Hutsko stopped a vehicle for having a headlight out and smelled a faint odor of alcohol on driver Christopher Roebuck. Officers Iwanowski and Petit conducted a field sobriety tasks and Roebuck performed poorly. He was arrested for driving under the influenced.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 8.5 hours this week. Contact was made with 23 boaters; four marine citations and 2 warnings were issued.

**Investigations:**

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	4

Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	6

Detective Pham completed five supplements; closed a grand theft auto case by arrest; interviewed a residential burglary suspect; assisted Detective Crowson in attempting to locate a suspect in Largo; conducted a follow-up retail theft investigation in St. Petersburg; searched the pawn database in an attempt to locate stolen property, and; attended the Gulfport Merchants Association meeting.

Detective Crowson attempted to locate a burglary suspect with negative contact; interviewed and arrested a suspect in a scooter theft case in which the suspect was arrested by SPPD while on the scooter; attended a SAO invest for the arrest of Jason Swoyer for felony petit theft; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail in a stolen jewelry case; attempted to locate a suspect in a fraudulent check case with negative contact; assisted Det. Pham in locating a burglary suspect, and; completed seven supplements.

School Resource Officer Motte hosted an explorer post open house; mentored two students; arrested an adult for trespassing on school grounds, resisting without violence and occupied residential burglary; arrested a student for battering a school board employee, and; arranged for Department of Juvenile Justice participation in the Gulfport Neighbors Beach Clean-up.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a report of a bike theft, four disturbances, a report of a fight in progress, two trespass calls and a weapons violation in which an arrest was made. She also conducted traffic control on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and initiated three traffic stops for violations observed; responded to two students smoking cigarettes on campus; attempted to locate a missing juvenile at the school; responded to a crash in front of the school; spoke with a number of students she observed in the hallways skipping class; provided security at a varsity football game, and; attended Officer Mott's explorer post open house meeting.

Margaret Palmisano completed an analysis on thefts of equipment from pick-up truck beds and trailers; completed the end of year Pinellas County Sheriff's Office crime scene call out report; submitted quarterly seat belt violation data to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; conducted pawn checks on 11 cases with a known serial number or a named suspect and set up alerts on 7 serial numbers/suspects, and; created and distributed the open case lists.

The Special Enforcement Team conducted a 2 hour training block on building clearing and assisted BCHS SRO's with the explorer open house presentation.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	16
Supplements reviewed:	46
Public records requests:	10
Background checks:	19
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	14
Citizens assisted:	31

## **Policy Review and Development**

The following policies are in the review process: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 114 - Firearms Procedures; 405 - Missing Persons Investigations, and; 511 - School Resource Officer. Policy 421 - Homicide Investigations is awaiting Chief Vincent's final approval

Lt. Stone reviewed standards related to investigations, evidence, property, forfeitures, infectious diseases and civil process. He is also scheduling the mock accreditation assessment and contacting assessors for their assistance. The mock assessment is tentatively scheduled for November 12 & 13 and for the 14<sup>th</sup> if the assessors require additional time.

## **Training**

Lt. Stone is coordinating training Firearms Training, Basic First Aid Refresher, and Bloodborne Pathogens Refresher.

Officer Iwanowski attended a 16 hour, breath test operator course during this reporting period.

## **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand four hundred eighty eight (1,488) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred (1,600) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty one (61) vessels.

Assisted in twenty one (21) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifty six (356) gallons of waste.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 45' motorboat, 23' motorboat, 27' motorboat and a 34' motorboat this week.

## **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.
- Distributed Newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Continued preparation of November calendar.
- Continued collecting applications and addresses for November 1 Citywide Yard Sale map and participant registration forms for Veterans Parade.
- Updated Recreation Center & Senior Center information and events on City Website.
- Provided photographic coverage for Junk in the Trunk event.

### **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 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 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, 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.

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 October 13. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Everyone is invited to learn about the future of public transportation at **How to Use Public Transportation** on Monday, October 13 at 2:30 pm.

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

Take **Gulfport Getaways to the Tampa Bay Senior Expo and Mazzaro's Italian Market** at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 14. Experience exhibits, entertainment, giveaways, seminars, helpful tips, & fun! GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7. Call 893-2242 for more information.

Check out **Medication Safety Tips** with the Florida Poison Information Center on Wednesday October 15 at 2 p.m. Learn tips for grandparents, how herbal products interact with prescription medicines, & examples of calls made to the Poison Control Center.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate Senior Center members' October birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, October 17. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

Join guest speaker Jenifer Slocum at 3 p.m. Monday, October 20 for **A Journey Through the Eyes of a Caregiver** as she shares new ideas & perspectives about Alzheimer's through her own experiences as a caregiver.

Know what changes to look out for in Medicare? **Understanding Your Medicare Open Enrollment Options** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 at 2 p.m.

Join us at 10 a.m. Monday, October 27 for our monthly **HCA Health Talk** when Dr. Rafat Nashed will update attendees on hip, knee and other joint replacements.

Join us at 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 29 for **Hurricanes: Decision Making Realities**. This well researched & colorful presentation covers the history of local hurricanes & tropical storms and what you should know when a storm threatens.

Don't miss our **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** on Thursday, October 30 for blood pressure, vein, vision, hearing, medicine review, HIV, balance, & memory screenings. Offerings vary month to month, depending on availability.

The Senior Center will host a showing of **HBO's Alzheimer's Project** documentary series on Friday, October 31 at 10 a.m. Take a look at the faces behind the disease and the forces leading us to a cure.

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

Visit the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center **First Friday Flea Market** on November 7, 9 a.m. - noon to find your perfect item. We have jewelry, art, household items, small furniture, knick knacks and more all at bargain prices.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is November 13.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13.

Join in the fun with **Puzzle Pages Puzzle Party** on Friday, November 14 at 11 a.m. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more! From the Puzzle Pages!

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

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 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 rides 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, September 28	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 20)
Monday, September 29	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 79)

Tuesday, September 30      Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 20)  
    7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 62)

Wednesday, October 1      6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 188)

Thursday, October 2      6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 31)

Saturday, October 4      5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 107)

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

Every Sunday      6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time  
    7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion 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 (*last week's events*):**

Friday, October 3      6 p.m. - *Gulfport Yesterday & Today* photo exhibit and reception  
    (Turnout 50)

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

Sunday, September 28      9 a.m. - Faith International Church bible study (Turnout 11)  
    6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, September 30      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Thursday, October 2      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 6)  
    2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 35)

**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

Every Tuesday & Thursday      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

**Scout Hall (*last week's events*)**

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

Monday, September 29      11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 22)

Tuesday, September 30      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

Wednesday, October 1      10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 7)

Friday, October 3      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

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

Every Monday      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, September 29, 3 p.m. - Science Club for Grades K-5, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, September 29, 5:30 p.m. - *Intro to Edible Landscape Design by Growing Greener* facilitated by Crea Egan.

Tuesday, September 30, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting.*

Tuesday, September 30 - *Computer class for beginners.*

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

Wednesday, October 1, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 1, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, October 1, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 1, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 2, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, October 2, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop.*

Thursday, October 2, 5:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Women's Center meeting.*

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

Saturday, October 4, 11 a.m. - *Gulfport Fruit Trees: A Guide for Success Post-Tour Review.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Thursday, October 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of selected chapters from The Koran over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.*

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 8931074 for movie titles.

Thursday, October 23, 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.

Monday, October 27, 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.

Thursday, Oct. 30, 5 p.m. - Meet Author Rasheedah Sharif for a discussion of her inspirational novel *Don't Come Down From the Chinaberry Tree*. For more information about her work, visit [www.rasheedahsharif.com](http://www.rasheedahsharif.com).

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

Thursday, November 6, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop*: Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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 September 28 - October 4, 2014:**  
**Items Circulated   Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,904	587
Sun. 9/28	Library closed	
Mon. 9/29	319	111
Tue. 9/30	434	121
Wed. 10/1	342	91
Thu. 10/2	288	98
Fri. 10/3	225	84
Sat. 10/4	280	68

**Recreation Center**

**Upcoming Events**

The game room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 18 for a birthday party.

Ready to get into the spooky spirit? With Halloween just around the corner we're looking for some scary decorated homes, haunted houses or businesses to enter this year's **Halloween Decorations Contest**. No one knows when the hearse will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6:30 p.m. on Monday October 20. Deadline to enter the contest is 12 p.m. on October 20. There are three theme categories: General for single homes; haunted

house for single haunted houses, and; commercial for single business or professional locations, including home occupations. Stop by the Gulfport Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up an application, or visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) and click on events to download a copy. A plaque and certificate will be presented to winners during the City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 18.

### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Twenty seven (27) 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 (20) 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 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.

Fifty one (51) 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:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 33 new, 47 closed
- Water payments: 1,285 totaling \$226,835.10
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/08/2014: 1,261
- Bright House: 12
- On-Line Water payments: 170 transactions totaling \$9,216.25
- Accounts Payable 10/03/2014: 450 transactions totaling \$437,079.00
- Mail processed: 539 pieces totaling \$374.31

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 36 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest
- 1 Gas Leak

#### **Life Safety:**

- 3 Fire Inspections

- 1 Plans Review
- 14 Smoke Detectors

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, October 16 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- GFD continues hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.
- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector James Lundh performed a walked through with the Harbor Master at Pasadena Yacht and Country Club on October 9 to discuss plans for locked gates and gate access/egress around the marina.
- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the International Walk and Bike to School Day with Gulfport Elementary students on October 8. They walked from 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- The Gulfport Fire Department has begun their October 2014 St. Petersburg College Continuing Medical Education (CME). Patient and Provider Safety is this month's topic. GFD will also participate in IFSTA Training this month.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced filters on all City building a/c units.
- Painted several interior walls at Neighborhood Center.
- Purchased parts for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Assisted with morning and evening set-ups for Senior Center activities.
- Inspected exterior lights on all City buildings.
- Replaced 36 lamps and 2 ballasts at Library and "emergency" light at Casino.
- Disconnected old alarm system in Police Department evidence room.
- Repaired laminating machine at Recreation Center.
- Repaired toilet in Police Department break room.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Graded and filled in holes on beach following heavy rains
- Closed small dog park for maintenance.
- Loaded tents, sound system, cones and barricades for Junk in the Trunk event, and delivered crape myrtle trees to event site.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned City complex, Public Works building, Scout Hall and Chase Block, and hand raked around benches and pavilions.
- Trimmed trees at Neighborhood Center & Clam Bayou.
- Mowed City Complex, Marina & Lions Club grounds, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, Beach green spaces, Recreation Center grounds, Veterans Park, Chase block and dog park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired chainsaw, line trimmer & mower.
- 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 throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Added riprap to stormwater outfall at Shore & Beach Boulevards.
- Replaced stop sign at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue per City Council request.
- Removed debris from the roadway at 2218 51<sup>st</sup> Street per Code Enforcement request.
- Completed roadway work at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 17 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 105 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired 3 water breaks in 1.5" line on Tangerine Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Replaced 100' of 1.5" galvanized water line and 1.5" tee with poly water line at 1513 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.

- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Televised sewer line at Gulfport Boulevard & 59<sup>th</sup> Street South and discovered broken sewer mainline. Soliciting quotes from contractors for repair.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced front tires and speed sensor on Streets vehicle #71.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #9, Streets vehicle #35 and Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced front tires on Sanitation Vehicle #42.
- Repaired door handle on Building Maintenance vehicle #24.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various 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 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

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).

#### **October 8, 2014 Board of Adjustment Results:**

- V14-16; 5401 Shore Boulevard South; Variance Application to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 14 spaces from 14 to zero off-street parking spaces for additional outdoor seating associated with a proposed second floor addition of an existing restaurant. APPROVED
- V14-17; 5949 Seabird Drive South; Variance Application to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 15.5 feet, from 26.67 feet to 11.17 feet to allow for the removal of an existing boat lift and installation of a proposed new boat lift. APPROVED.