



Gulfport Community Update

October 6 - 12, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Experience a traditional Gulfport event at the **103rd Gulfport Birthday Bash** at the Gulfport Historical Museum, 5301 28th Avenue South on Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy our famous mullet toss, trolley tour, pet parade, photo contest, and free cake! For more information call 893-1118.

Enjoy an evening of **Gulfport: Under the Stars** with the Gulfport Historical Society at the Gulfport Historical Museum on Saturday, October 12 at 6 p.m. This sit-down dinner celebrating the City's heritage will feature live entertainment and dancing. For more information, email dreamsfloat@me.com.

2013 Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic basin ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

Sign up your Gulfport address for the **Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Applications are available at City Hall, Gulfport Library or online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. Applicants can also email addresses to jshea@mygulfport.us. A confirmation email will be sent. Deadline for registration is October 25. For more information call 893-1118. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application.

Upcoming Events:

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, October 12 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made art and crafts, bath, body and 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 each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.GulfportMA.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

The **Most Holy Name Oktoberfest** is scheduled for Thursday - Sunday, October 17 - 20, at 5800 15th Avenue. Enjoy rides, games, food & drink, dancing and entertainment. Call 344-2744 for more information.

Get your golfers duds ready for the **Duffers Ball** at the Gulfport Casino on Friday, October 18, 7 - 11 p.m. Enjoy a *Duffers Duds* costume contest, live music by *Double M Band*, 3-hole golf putting contest, fun and prizes. Tickets: \$20, available at the Senior Center and Beach Bazaar. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation. For more information call 592-1933.

Join the **Gulfport Neighbors Day of Caring & Sharing: Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday October 19, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring gently used items to swap, sell, give away or junk. Enjoy a cup of coffee during "Java with Josh" (Lt. Joshua Stone), and register you or your child's bike with the Gulfport Police Department. For more information call 893-1118.

Volunteer at the **City of Gulfport Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. - noon. Clam Bayou Nature Park is located at the corner of 29th Avenue & Miriam Street. For more information call 893-1066 or 893-1118.

Find that perfect conversation piece at **Third Saturday Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on October 19, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Join Boca Ciega High School for the annual **Homecoming Parade** along Shore & Beach Boulevards on Wednesday, October 23 at 5 p.m.

Get in the spirit of the season during the **12th Annual Gulfport Casino Swing Night Halloween Costume Ball** on Wednesday, October 30. Learn the Shim Sham with Zombie Styling at 7 p.m. then dance the night away with Halloween-themed music until midnight. Costume Parade and Contest, loads of chocolates, candy, Trick-or-Treats, door prizes and full cash bar. Admission: \$8. All ages welcome! Call 813-840-3715 for more information.

Put on your best costume and take the kids to the **Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center for carnival games, a costume contest, haunted house & Tot Boo Room, snack shack and more on Thursday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. For more information call 893-1068.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	170
Officer initiated calls for service	345
Offenses	39
Arrests	12
Traffic citations	26

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Davis stopped a car on the morning of October 3 in an area where several burglaries had occurred. Driver Chad Gingrich did not have a valid license, and passenger Anthony Van Nostran had a warrant for driving on a suspended license in Hillsborough County. While searching Van Nostran Officer Davis found a syringe in his pants pocket. The residue tested positive for methamphetamine. Another syringe and a straw that also tested positive for methamphetamine were discovered in Gingrich's backpack. Both were arrested.

On the evening of October 3 officers observed a man fall to the ground in the drive thru of the Walgreens pharmacy. The man advised he was having severe chest pains. Officers provided aid and summoned paramedics who transported the man to the hospital.

Officers on routine patrol discovered a woman passed out in the grass at the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 52nd street on the evening of October 3. She was awakened, but could not provide an address or the name of family or friends to contact for help. The woman was taken into custody under the Marchman Act.

Officers were dispatched to the area of 58th Street & 9th Avenue early October 4th regarding three males acting suspiciously. Three male juveniles dressed in black fled the area when police arrived. A PCSO K9 responded and two of the subjects were located in a fenced backyard in the 700 block of Fremont Street. One was armed with a knife. The third was located exiting a backyard in the 5800 block of 7th Avenue. All three were arrested.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 9th Avenue on the afternoon of October 4 after a caller reported the theft of a lawn mower from a shed. The door handle had been broken off to gain access to the shed. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the Beachway Mobile Home Park on the afternoon of October 5 after a resident reported a suspicious male walking up and down the streets in the park, entering driveways and looking at houses. Officer Nicita made contact with Willie King near the

clubhouse. King could not explain why he was in the park. A check of his criminal history showed multiple prior burglary and theft charges. He was arrested for loitering and prowling.

William Vincent was arrested for careless driving, leaving the scene of a crash, and driving under the influence after he crashed his 2012 Chevrolet Cruze into the rear of a 2008 Honda CRV on Gulfport Boulevard, causing major damage to both vehicles. Vincent fled the scene and was apprehended in St. Petersburg.

Officers responded to O'Maddys on the evening of October 5 after a bartender reported a female with marijuana. Officer Obrart observed the woman dropping a marijuana cigarette while she was in the restroom. She was given a notice to appear for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. While investigating the narcotics call, a patron in the bar grabbed Officer Obrart without her permission. The suspect was warned earlier that evening to keep her hands to herself. She was arrested for battery on a law enforcement officer.

An intoxicated female entered an acquaintance's home in the 900 block of 51st Street early October 6 after having been issued a written trespass warning in June. The resident escorted her outside but she would not leave the fenced yard and armed herself with a brick, threatening to damage the car in the driveway. The resident did not wish to prosecute.

Officers responded to the 2800 block of Dupont Street after a resident reported that someone threw a brick through the back window of her vehicle. She suspects an ex-boyfriend was responsible but there were no witnesses.

Officers assisted a Pinellas County deputy who called out over the radio that he was with a woman threatening to jump off the Skyway Bridge. Officer Parks responded and the woman was pulled to safety. Officer Parks remained on-scene to control vehicle traffic while the woman was transported to the hospital under the Baker Act and her car towed.

Officer Parks developed probable cause for the arrest of Lisa Marshall who stole a staff member's purse from the Gulfport Elementary School cafeteria during an afterschool event. Marshall was located at her home in St. Petersburg and taken into custody.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of Quincy Street early October 8 after a caller reported that a neighbor, William Poling was playing loud music and shining a light into the neighbor's window. When officers arrived Poling was sitting on his roof listening to music. He did turn the music down but refused to speak with officers. An officer made contact with him later in the day and issued a notice to appear for disorderly conduct.

Officers responded to the 5000 block of 28th Avenue in the early morning hours of October 9 regarding a white male walking up the side of a duplex and looking into a window. The neighbor yelled at the male who ran away. Officers were unable to locate him in the area.

Officers monitored the intersection of 59th Street & 30th Avenue on the evening of October 9 after residents complained of drivers running the stop signs. No violations were observed.

A traffic stop was attempted on a gray Pontiac G6 in the early morning hours of October 10 for a nonworking passenger side head light. The vehicle fled the City at a high rate of speed and the St. Petersburg Police Department was notified.

Investigations:

New Cases:	19
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0

Supplements Received:	15
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest	7
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	3

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a Grand Theft case in which several fishing poles, jewelry and a Playstation 3 video game console were taken from a residence in Gulfport. He determined that several of the fishing poles were pawned at the Value Pawn store in the 300 block of 34th Street by Kacey Breazeale who is a friend of the victim. Detective Pham arrested Breazeale and charged her with Grand Theft & Dealing in Stolen Property. He also conducted follow-up investigations to other assigned cases.

Detective Embry arrested Erik Jones for burglary to a vehicle. He is also trying to locate another suspect involved in a grand theft, and continues to follow up on assigned cases.

Officer Motte mentored two students and mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring. During one mediation session a student refused to calm down and vowed to fight the other individual. Later in the day when the students saw one another, the student that vowed to fight the other became extremely disorderly and was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest without violence. Additionally, Officer Motte completed a Baker Act evaluation on a student; however the student didn't meet the criteria so he arranged a meeting between the student and school therapist. He also worked at a football game between Boca Ciega High and Lakewood High School and attended the Pinellas Multi-Jurisdictional Gang meeting hosted by the State Attorney's office, and a class on documenting a gang member in the County database.

Officer Langston assisted in dismantling a number of on campus disturbances, deterring fights from occurring and responded to several on campus fights and investigated an allegation of a sexual battery made by a student. The student later recanted. Officer Langston also investigated a cell phone theft, provided off duty security coverage at a varsity football home game, assisted a citizen regarding a burglary that occurred in St Petersburg, and mentored students regarding making better behavioral decisions, future goals, and being positive role models. She has been contacting teachers in hopes of obtaining the names of students who might qualify as mentors for the peer to peer mentoring program, and is contacting teachers to act as sponsors.

Analyst Palmisano attended training with Officer Motte to learn more about gang records management program. She also started compiling crash data statistics for the annual DHSMV red light survey.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	22
Supplements reviewed:	49
Reports disseminated:	15
Public records requests:	3
Background checks:	00
Bike registrations:	02
Fingerprints:	00
Subpoenas processed:	10
Citizens assisted:	30

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are currently in the staff-review process: 114 - Firearms Procedures; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 310 - Mutual Aid Agreements; 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence; 509 - Investigative Files; 101A - Intermediate Weapons; 204 - Mission Statement, 317 - Light Duty Assignments; 412 - Rotation Wreckers, and ; 645 - Traffic, Boating, DUI and Parking Tickets. Officers Merriam and Marshall successfully completed field training and are now assigned to squads.

Four applicants are in the screening process and are scheduled to take or have already taken a polygraph examination. Two applicants are waiting to be scheduled for oral boards.

Officer McLaughlin is conducting background investigations on the four applicants in the polygraph phase of the screening process.

Other Activities

Lt. Stone met with Officers Priest & Mills to plan activities for the October 19 Gulfport Neighbors event. He also set up the Operation Medicine Cabinet drop off container and published a special order regarding the collection of discarded items and met with newly appointed Community Resource Officer Zach Mills to discuss goals for the year.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand seven hundred ninety three (2,793) gallons of gas, and two thousand one (2,001) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty four (124) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

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

Staff Activities:

- Repaired fuel dock pump-out.
- Removed dirt and gravel from pier two gate.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Pumped out derelict boats on piers three & five.
- Cleaned diesel and gas sumps.

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. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updating and enhancements to City calendar, latest news, departmental pages, mobile website, Leisure Services Rec. Center & Library sub-site resources & employee Intranet, and maintained mygulfport.us domain.
- Uploaded GTV programming schedule to website.

- Continued preparations for Historical Society Birthday Bash, Gulfport Under the Stars & Gulfport Neighbors events.
- Continued Citywide Yard Sale preparations and brochure updates.
- Completed November Events/Meetings Calendar and sent to printer.
- Met with Mayor and City Manager to draft a press release on the BW12 reform act.
- Met with City Manager & IT Director to discuss logistics of November 7 Community Forum.
- Sent City Brochure to printer in preparation for October 19 event.
- Provided control room coverage for October 9 Board of Adjustment meeting and uploaded video to City website.
- Set up A/V equipment for Senior Center movie day.
- Continued planning and preparation of Tree City USA recertification.

Parks

Repaired lights on flag & fountain at Wood Ibis Park,

Replaced trash receptacles on Beach Boulevard, flag on pier, 3 trashcan holders at Veterans Park, fence rail at Clam Bayou and water fountain at Beach restrooms.

Lowered flags to half-mast for fallen firefighters memorial.

Cleaned beach restrooms and ladies restroom at Police Department following sewage backups.

Repaired & relocated 3 partitions at Police Department.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced clutch on line trimmer and adjusted carburetors on blowers.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Chase Block, Scout Hall grounds, Library & Senior Center; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed Senior Center/Theater grounds, Library grounds, Marina area, Recreation Center field, Chase Block, Dog Park, Clymer Greenway & Park, Lions Club grounds, 49th Street & York Street termini, 14th Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Caldwell Parks and trail spur.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevard 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 needed 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 Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 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 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 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 over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. 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. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

Happy Birthday to You! Celebrate this month's birthdays with cake & ice cream for everyone on Tuesday, October 15 at 12 p.m. Sponsored by Wellcare.

HCA Health will host a **Breast Cancer Awareness Month discussion** at 2:30 p.m. Monday October 21, 2:30 p.m.

Safely dispose of your outdated and unused medication during **Prescription Drop off Day** at the Senior Center on Tuesday, October 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It's **Save for Retirement Week** and open discussion is provided by Scott O'Berry from Edward Jones on Wednesday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m.

The **Blood Pressure Clinic** will offer free screenings in the Theater lobby on Thursday, October 31, 10 a.m. - noon.

Calling all Ghosts, Ghouls, and Creatures of the Night, it's time to dress up and give folks a fright during the **Halloween Masquerade Parade** on Thursday, October 31, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Join us if you dare! Prizes for the best costume.

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.

The **Coffee Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

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.

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a call? 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, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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, September 29	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with John 7 p.m. - Voices of Jazz & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 41)
Monday, September 30	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 133)
Tuesday, October 1	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 19) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 10) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 36)
Wednesday, October 2	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 206)
Thursday, October 3	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 34)

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	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
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Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Wednesday, October 16, 10 a.m. - City Supervisor training

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, September 29	6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, October 3	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

Scout Hall (Last week's events):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, September 30	10 a.m. - Yoga Chair (Turnout 18)
Thursday, October 3	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, October 4	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
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, September 30, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, October 1 - *Community Outreach.*

Tuesday, October 1, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, October 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 2, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 2, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 3, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, October 3, 1 p.m. - *Medicare/ACA Q&A session*.

Friday, October 4, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Saturday, October 5, 2 p.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera workshop*.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Turn of the Screw* by Henry James 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.

Thursday, October 17, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Garden & Bird Club presentation*: Master Gardener Jude Bagatti presents facts, figures, and photos about the world, and shares her photographic works with a display in our meeting room through October. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 19 - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two movies with popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends beginning at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Tuesday, October 22 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Tuesday, October 22, 10 a.m. - *Community Law National Pro Bono Week*: Local lawyers will discuss access to courts and justice, and provide guidance and information on referral to legal resources for attendees.

Thursday, October 24, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners workshop*: Learn to use & enjoy your new technology. Each session is limited to 15 participants. Call 893-1073 to reserve your seat.

Thursday, October 24, 7 p.m. - *Paranormal Tools & Techniques with Bonnie Korniak*: Channel a spooky mood and learn how paranormal researchers investigate the unknown. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, October 26, 2 p.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera Workshop*: Build on skills from the Beginner's class. Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to register.

Tuesday, November 5, 9 a.m. - *Community Outreach*: A staff member from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's office will provide information and solicit questions and concerns from the public.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*: New activity 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, 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*. Free and open to the public. 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.

Every Saturday, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Participants in grades 1-12 will attend workshops and have the opportunity to create a book. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents welcome to attend. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic September 29 - October 5, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,870	610
Sun. 9/29	Library closed	
Mon. 9/30	348	122
Tue. 10/1	352	103
Wed. 10/2	296	103
Thu. 10/3	384	115
Fri. 10/4	290	95
Sat. 10/5	192	56

Recreation Center

Ready to get into the spooky spirit? With Halloween just around the corner we're looking for some scary decorated homes, haunted houses or business' to enter into this year's **Halloween Decorations Contest**. No one knows what time the hearse will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6:30 p.m. Deadline to enter the contest is 12 p.m. Monday, October 21. 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 to enter. A plaque and certificate will presented to winners during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 5 at 7 p.m.

The game room was rented Saturday, October 5, 1 - 5 p.m. for a baby shower with forty (40) attendees.

The game room is reserved Saturday, October 12, 1 - 5 p.m. for a birthday party.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty three (43) 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 non-residents. 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.

Twelve (12) 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, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty four (54) 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.

Staff Activities

Asaph Graham worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Bob Williams, Mike Yakes and Maddy Guenther on Tuesday morning to further discuss fundraiser/family event.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 24 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1318 totaling \$206,961.89
- On-Line Water payments: 179 transactions totaling \$8463.37
- Bright House payments: 25
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/9/13: 0
- Accounts Payable 10/04/13: 587 transactions totaling \$447,342.42
- Mail processed 10/4/13: 808 pieces totaling \$611.04

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 8 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, October 17 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.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic renewed the American Heart Association Training Center Agreement for 2014. This new process moves from the former paper-based TC Agreement Renewal to a web-based tool on the Instructor Network. The main benefit of this process is that it improves transparency of renewal.
- The 2013/14 influenza season has begun! The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, Epidemiology Program monitors multiple surveillance systems in order to track influenza activity around Pinellas County. Get your flu vaccines early.

- The “A” Shift participated in the Stetson Law College Health Fair on October 8.
- The Gulfport Fire Department & Police Department joined Mayor Henderson for **National Walk to School** day with Gulfport Montessori students on October 9.
- GFD also hosted **Fire Prevention Week** activities with Gulfport Montessori Pre-K & first graders. Prevent Kitchen Fires was the message for this year's theme. More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Always have smoke detectors near sleeping quarters and a proper extinguisher nearby.
- Inspector Vento reviewed plans for Fire Alarm (FACP) upgrade at 2775 Kipps Colony Drive Condominiums.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced grease trap in Casino Kitchen.
- Cleared floor drain in Library employee restroom.
- Completed semi-annual preventive maintenance on City a/c units.
- Cleared main line stoppage inside wall and reattached sink to wall at Beach restrooms.
- Cleared blocked toilets in Police Department ladies locker room and ladies restroom in Public Services building.
- Reassembled office cubicle for Police Department.
- Replaced drinking fountain outside Beach restrooms.
- Replaced thermostat in the main conference area at Coast Guard Station.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Replaced traffic control device hit by vehicle.
- Removed palm tree obstruction from roadway.
- Removed and disposed of old tires from City Garage.
- Cleaned and cleared debris from storm grates at 18th Avenue & 51st Street, and along Tangerine greenway.
- Delivered automated recycling bins to City Hall.
- Cleared debris from Beach area storm grates.
- Completed City Hall/City Manager generated pick-up work orders.
- Filled and graded alleyways at 57th Street between 20th & 21st Avenues and Gray Street between 11th & 12th Avenues.
- Removed several loads of debris from the 49th Street holding area.
- Cleared debris from the roadways at 17th Avenue & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Reset storm lid at 11th Avenue & 54th Street.
- Cleaned roadside storm grates on Shore Boulevard.

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 #9, #10, #11 and #12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 75 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 107 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced 2 old water meter with new style meter.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 2 backflow devices due in October.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Installed new service and backflows at 1219 61st Street & 1219½ 61st Street.
- Repaired water break at 1841 59th Street South.

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 sewer laterals at 4921 24th Avenue & 6132 9th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced cab latch support brackets on Fire Truck #P17.
- Replaced front end sway bar links and hood support lift cylinders on Fire Chief Vehicle #C17.
- Replaced starter on Parks Department Vehicle #51.
- Replaced transmission shift cable on Streets Department Truck #38.
- Replaced A/C blower motor on Police Vehicle #09.
- Replaced faulty brake switch on Police Vehicle #16.
- Replaced ABS modules on Recycle Truck #40& Code Enforcement Vehicle #55.
- Removed both large hydraulic cylinders for packing blade repair on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself projects.

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 check their website at www.pcclb.com.

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 beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

Business Licenses are good October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If a license is not renewed by October 1, a 10 percent penalty will be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets South.

The number of code enforcement cases for September was 273 for a fiscal year to date total of 2,336 cases. The number of citizen complaints for September was 16 for a fiscal year to date total of 178. This represents 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.

October 9, 2013 Board of Adjustment results:

- Variance Request V13-14; 1737 49th Street South, 1743 49th Street South, and adjacent vacant lot; Variance request to reduce the parking requirement by 16 spaces from 46 to 30 for the construction of a discount retail store. APPROVED
- Variance Request V13-15; 6111 Pasadena Point Boulevard; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 8' 4" from 25' to 16' 8" for proposed construction of uncovered lower landing and stairs which are part of the front entry into the proposed single family house. APPROVED