



Gulfport Community Update

October 12 - 18, 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.

The Gulfport Historical Society & City of Gulfport celebrated the City's incorporation with the annual **Birthday Bash** on October 11. Trolley rides, kid's vintage games, mullet toss and a tug of war were just some of the happenings throughout the day (photos below). Florida Frontiers offered a loom for patrons purchase a strand and write their thoughts about Gulfport, then weave it into an art piece. Thank you Mayor & Council, Gulfport Historical Society volunteers, CERT, Florida Frontiers, Sea Scouts and City staff for making this year's Bash a success!



The Gulfport Neighborhood Center at 1617 49th Street is a designated **early voting location** for the November 4 General Election. The Neighborhood Center will be open for all Pinellas County voters from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. October 20 through November 2. For more information call 464-6788, visit the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website at www.votepinellas.com or email election@votepinellas.com.

Upcoming Events:

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 15th 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 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, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Join Gulfport Mayor Sam Henderson & St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman for **One Street, Two Cities, One Goal: Community Collaboration Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup** on Saturday, October 25. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. on the corner of 49th Street & Tangerine Avenue. All ages are welcome. The Gulfport Trolley will provide transportation to take volunteers to various work locations. A limited amount of pickers will be available so if you have one please bring it, and wear comfortable footwear and gloves. Water will be provided. This event is presented by the Gulfport Neighbors and cosponsored by the City of Gulfport & the City of St. Petersburg. 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.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and Town Shores will host the **Monster Mash Sock Hop** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Saturday, October 25, 7 - 11 p.m. Tickets: \$12 each, or \$20 per couple, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar or Town Shores Office. For more information call 592-1933.

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, a costume contest, haunted house, tot boo room and Snack Shack. For more information call 893-1068.

Sign up your Gulfport address for the **November 1 Citywide Yard Sale**. Applications are available at Gulfport City Hall and Library or online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. Deadline for registration is October 24, so dig into the garage, closet or shed and get rid of all that stuff you haven't used for a year or more! Someone might be looking for what you don't want. For more information call 893-1118.

Join the Gulfport Historical Society for a bonfire, ghost stories, and a discussion with Skyway Paranormal about local hauntings and legends at the Gulfport Historical Museum, at 5301 28th Avenue during the **Day of the Dead** Saturday, November 1, 6 - 10 p.m. Have a spooky story of your own? Feel free to share! This event is free. Hot dogs & s'mores fixings will be available for

purchase for attendees to cook over the fire. Bring a blanket and get ready to be part of a tradition that's as old as the human race - telling stories around the communal fire. Visit the Gulfport Historical Society Facebook page for more information.

The American Cancer Society is excited to announce the **Gulfport/Stetson University Relay for Life** at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex, 5730 Shore Boulevard 6 p.m. - midnight Friday, November 7. Form a team with your business, group or organization. Stetson University, the City of Gulfport and several other teams have signed up to join the fight and have a lot of fun in the process! Visit www.mygulfport.us upcoming events and join the team of your choice, start a team or to make a donation. For more information call Stephanie Watts at 812-7012 or Jamie Barbetto at 260-3949, or email jamie.barbetto@cancer.org.

The Pinellas County Mobile Collection at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, November 15. The following items will be accepted: household chemicals, automotive fluids, batteries (household or vehicle), cleaners, cooking oil, fertilizers, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fuels (i.e. gasoline, kerosene), fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, paint (latex or oil), paint remover, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, smoke detectors, solvents, wood preservatives, camcorders, CD players, cell phones or smartphones, computers and/or peripherals, copiers, digital cameras, DVD players, fax machines, GPS units, marine depth finders, microwave ovens, pagers, portable players (i.e. MP3, iPod), printer or toner cartridges, radios, stereo equipment, telephones, TVs, VCRs and video game players. The following items will NOT be accepted: AC units, appliances, biological or infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, garbage, gas cylinders larger than one pound (i.e. propane tanks), medicine, radioactive waste and tires. For more information call 464-7500.

Get your family, organization or business in on the fun during **Heroes Weekend**. Participant applications for the Veterans Day Parade scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday, November 9 are available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or online at www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, November 4. Call 893-1118 or email gbiron@mygulfport.us for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	114
Self-initiated calls for service	461
Offenses	32
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	54

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1900 block of 53rd Street reported that his vehicle was burglarized several weeks ago and his GPS was stolen. St. Petersburg Police eventually arrested a subject and recovered the GPS in his possession. The resident did not wish to prosecute.

Employees at Tisdale Construction observed a black male enter the property and ride away with an employee's bike. He was last seen riding down Gulfport Boulevard towards St. Pete.

Daniel Ralston, the victim in the above-mentioned bicycle theft was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear on an open container charge.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 9th Avenue reported that several items, including 2 bicycles and a lawn mower were stolen from his carport.

Officer Wodraska made contact with Richard Barry who was riding a bicycle that Officer Wodraska recognized as possibly being stolen. Barry attempted to run but was caught and arrested. A search revealed that he was carrying a needle and a crack pipe. The bike was determined to be stolen, and Barry was also charged with theft.

Officers were dispatched to a theft in progress at the Dollar General after an unknown black male entered the Dollar General and stole merchandise and a pink backpack which he used to conceal and carry the other items, then fled east to St. Petersburg on a bicycle. Officers circulated the area but were not able to make contact with him.

A visitor reported that his bicycle was stolen from the Gulfport Marina. Officer Lavigne saw the bike on the side of the road while on her way home, and contacted Officer Cavanah who returned it to the owner.

Investigations:

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	3
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	3
Cases still active:	9

Detective Pham completed 6 investigative supplemental reports; closed 3 cases resulting in the arrest of juveniles for GTA and theft, and one adult; delivered a State Attorney Invest notification to an address in Pinellas Park; conducted follow-up investigations in St. Petersburg, and; searched pawn database in an attempt to locate stolen property.

Detective Crowson investigated a late report sexual battery on a child that occurred approximately 10 years ago, and arrested the suspect in the case. The case is ongoing due to other allegations. Detective Crowson also investigated and collected evidence in a credit card fraud case, and completed five investigative supplement reports.

School Resource Officer Motte arrested a student for battering a school board employee, and another for obstruction/resisting arrest without violence; taught 9 Explorers the topic of Baker Act investigations; mentored three students; hosted a club day for the Explorers; spoke with three Driver Ed classes about traffic laws and what to do when pulled over by police officer; and; made arrangements for K9 visits during Homecoming week.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated three reported thefts (bike, wallet, and cellular phone); located students skipping school in the neighborhood; responded to two reports of fights after school; investigated a report of a lewd and lascivious act; assisted SPPD with a student who had probable cause for arrest; responded to two disturbances and one trespasser on campus; escorted a suspended student off campus; responded to a report of two students smoking cigarettes on campus; spoke with a female student about making positive decisions in an attempt to deter a rumored fight; spoke with a male student about taking responsibility for his actions, and another male student about staying on track in school; opened a P.O.P. regarding traffic and lighting concerns near 11th Avenue & 57th Street and conducted traffic control on 11th

Avenue following complaints from school and transportation, resulting in eight traffic stops, and; attended a weapons violation on campus invest, and an explorer post club meeting.

Margaret Palmisano Completed an analysis for Ofc. Mills and assisted Det. Crowson with research for an investigation.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	17
Supplements reviewed:	148
Public records requests:	14
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	21

MARINA

Pumped three thousand two hundred forty one (3,241) gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred twelve (1,112) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty one (131) vessels.

Assisted in twenty three (twenty three) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty five (345) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 46' sailboat, 30' sailboat and a 35' motorboat this week.

Marina maintenance/staff activities:

- Pumped out kayak launch.
- Performed pump out maintenance.
- Inspected and cleaned gas and diesel sump.
- Repaired/secured rogue pylon to courtesy dock.
- Purchased supplies for Ship's Store.

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.
- Distributed Newsletter and November calendar to Tuesday Market vendors.
- 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 control room coverage for October 7 City Council meeting & October 8 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded videos to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Provided photographic coverage for City Birthday Bash.
- Collecting RSVPs for Volunteer Luncheon.
- Met with artist to discuss upcoming exhibit in Theater Lobby.

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.

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 27th Avenue South for more information.

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.

Eckerd College OLLI will present **The Wizard of Menlo Park: Thomas Alva Edison** on Monday November 3 at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we take a look at the life of the incredibly productive and often conflicted individual known as "the man who turned night into day". Attendees **MUST** register prior to event by calling Eckerd College at 864-7600.

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.

Tired of being ignored when your services or benefits get cut? **Family Town Hall Series** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4 at 11 a.m. We want to hear from you. This event is sponsored by For the Family, in Partnership with Neighborly Care Network.

Join us for a free educational seminar presented by the **Professional Speakers Bureau** on Wednesday, November 5 at 2 p.m. Door prizes & refreshments. RSVP at 893-1231.

Check out the great deals at the **First Friday Flea Market** 9 a.m. - noon Friday, November 7. We have jewelry, art, household items, small furniture, knick knacks and more all at bargain prices.

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 November 10. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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!

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' October birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, November 21. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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, October 5 6 p.m. - Ballroom fusion lesson & dance with Swingtime (Turnout 143)

Tuesday, October 7 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)

Wednesday, October 8 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 216)

Thursday, October 9 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 26)

Saturday, October 11 8 p.m. - SPHF Masquerade Ball (Turnout 185)

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 (*upcoming events*):

Friday & Saturday, October 17 & 18, 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, October 18, 2 p.m. - ProjectFREE, the non-profit that provides opportunities for young adults with diverse abilities proudly presents *The Rising STARZ and their adaptation of the musical Mamma Mia*. Tickets: \$15 at the door, or in advance at the Casino. Call 350-5706 or visit www.myprojectfree.org for more information.

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

Sunday, October 5 9 a.m. - Faith International Church bible study (Turnout 36)
2:30 p.m. - RCH Church Dinner (Turnout 69)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, October 6 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 17)

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, October 6 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 28)
Tuesday, October 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)
Wednesday, October 8 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 12)
Friday, October 10 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

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, October 6, 3 p.m. - Science Club for Grades K-5, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
Tuesday, October 7, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners.*
Tuesday, October 7, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*
Wednesday, October 8, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*
Wednesday, October 8, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*
Wednesday, October 8, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
Wednesday, October 8, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*
Thursday, October 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
Thursday, October 9, 11 a.m. - *LGBTQ Collection Committee meeting* facilitated by Dave Mather.
Friday, October 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club.*
Friday, October 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

Friday, November 14, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*: We screen a flick and provide some crunchy munchies. Enjoy an afternoon networking with other fans.

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 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 near the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic October 5 - 11, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,842	618
Sun. 10/5	Library closed	
Mon. 10/6	383	126
Tue. 10/7	277	101
Wed. 10/8	367	104
Thu. 10/9	222	90
Fri. 10/10	273	104
Sat. 10/11	286	77

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 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 one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and 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 three (53) 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, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Gulfport Teen Council meeting on Friday afternoon.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport forth three (43) Gulfport Elementary students and four (4) adults to the Pumpkin Patch in St. Petersburg.

Seven **Teen Councilmembers** were in attendance at the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez hosted. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of the September minutes, Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2014/15 term, upcoming events, old business and new business.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 25 new, 27 closed
- Water payments: 1,003 totaling \$133,111.43
- On-Line Water payments: 173 transactions totaling \$9,701.71
- Bright House payments: 28
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/15/14 1,260
- Payroll 10/10/14: 157 transactions totaling \$174,373.29

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 32 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 2 C.O's
- 2 Plans Review
- 2 Smoke Detectors

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department is participating in a second training class covering patient care documentation language and medical-legal aspects of EMS and documentation, as requested by the agency. This training will be presented by the St. Petersburg College CME program.
- Fire Inspector James Lundh met with Chris from HPI Security to discuss plans for locked gates and gate access/egress around the PYCC marina.
- Firefighter Paramedic Burton and Lt. Huffman manned a Special Rescue for the 5k Run and Doggie Dash on October 10.
- Chief Marenkovic and the State Inspector for Department of Agriculture inspected carnival rides and vendors on October 16 in preparation for the Holy Name Oktoberfest.
- Gulfport Firefighters are participating in Firefighter Survival with Entanglement training and SCBA Donning in a Dark Atmosphere training at the Pinellas County Drill grounds. These quick drills focus on entanglement issues that can occur while wearing SCBA gear and can save lives.
- The Gulfport Fire Department continued their October 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services Continuing Medical Education (CME). This month's topic is Patient and Provider Safety. GFD is also scheduled for IFSTA training this month.
- Every October the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation sponsors a national tribute to firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Sixty four firefighter fatalities have been reported to the United States Fire Administration in 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed annual fire alarm inspection at Library.
- Replaced coil in a/c unit for Police Station break room.
- Stripped & waxed floor at Neighborhood Center and cleaned lamp shields in kitchen & restroom.

- Performed semi-annual inspection and maintenance of all City a/c systems.
- Removed 30 boxes of books from Library.
- Set up rooms for activities and replaced two ballasts in Senior Center lobby.
- Purchased garage parts for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Replaced toilet in Recreation Center ladies room handicap stall.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up tables, barricades and trash/recycling containers in preparation for Mullet 5K Run and Gulfport Birthday Bash, and removed following events.
- Graded beach following heavy rains.
- Replaced hardware on gates at Recreation Center & Caldwell Park.
- Reattached garbage cans on Williams Pier.
- Repaired wind skirt on beach volleyball court.
- Reattached chains & locks on gates at Recreation Center playground.
- Replaced/rekeyed locks at Lum Field.
- Repainted barricades.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Casino, Senior Center grounds & Clymer Park, and hand raked around benches and pavilions.
- Trimmed trees at Clam Bayou.
- Mowed Clymer, Veterans, Tomlinson & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library, Neighborhood Center & Recreation Center grounds, 56th Street medians, Hoyt perimeter, Clymer & Tangerine Greenways and 14th Avenue & Pasadena entrance area.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and performed preventive maintenance on all equipment.
- 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.

- Replaced damaged sign following automobile accident at 58th Street & 9th Avenue.
- Delivered automated trash containers to Holy Name for Oktoberfest Event.
- Repaired asphalt at Town Shores entrance and 20th Avenue between 49th & 51st Streets.
- Repaired asphalt on 51st Street following water break in roadway.

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 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 106 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meters.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired water breaks in 1.5" line on Concordia Court & 27th Avenue.
- Replaced curb stop at 1713 59th 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 6201 14th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Reprogrammed ECU on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Repaired flat tire on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced tires on Toro workman & Kawasaki Mule for Parks Division.
- Repaired throttle advance on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Repaired power outlets on Police Chief's vehicle #91.
- Replaced rear brakes and repaired hour meter on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced battery on Parks Division vehicle #89.
- 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 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 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.

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 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for September was 240 bringing the total number of cases for the close of the 2013-14 fiscal year to 2,463. The number of citizen complaints was 21 for a fiscal year-end total of 221. The ratio of complaints to total number of cases for this fiscal year was 9 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

To review the Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

November 5, 2014 Planning and Zoning Board & December 2, 2014 City Council/CRA:

- C14-02; Two vacant lots south of 5000 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional Use request with Site Plan for a proposed off-street parking lot in connection with a contiguous commercial use.
- C14-03; 5401/5405 Shore Boulevard South; Conditional use application with a site plan for a proposed second floor addition of an existing restaurant with additional outdoor seating.
- Discussion of the Public Information Program Strategy Plan of the Community Rating System (CRS) Program (Planning and Zoning Board only).

November 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-18; 5213 Tangerine Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 16 feet, from 25 feet to 9 feet for the proposed construction of a new covered front entry to the house and handicapped ramp.
- V14-19; 908 60th Street South; Variance request to 1). Reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet; and 2). To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 2.8 feet from 25 feet to 22.2 feet for the proposed construction of a bedroom addition that attaches the house to the currently detached garage.
- V14-20; 6112 Kipp's Colony Drive West; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 16 feet 10 inches, from 50 feet to 16 feet 10 inches to allow for the removal of existing tie-poles, construct a proposed dock extension, and install a proposed new boat lift.