



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *October 13 - 19, 2013*

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

**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 Gulfport City Hall, Library or online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](http://www.mygulfport.us/yardsale). Applicants can also email addresses to [jshea@mygulfport.us](mailto: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.

It was a beautiful day for the **103<sup>rd</sup> Gulfport Birthday Bash** on October 12 (photos below). Event goers enjoyed the famous mullet toss, trolley tour, pet parade, first annual photo contest, crowning of the Mullet King, and cake.



The evening was perfect for the Gulfport Historical Society's **Gulfport: Under the Stars** on October 12 (photos below). This sit-down catered dinner celebrating the City's heritage featured live entertainment and dancing with Pete Gallagher, the Florida Boys, and T.C. Carr. Mayor Henderson emceed and provided music in the later hours of this event. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success.



The City of Gulfport Public Works Department hosts the **We're Talking Trash Birthday Party** every quarter for one lucky winner. This quarter's winner Patrick S. and his friends experienced a one of a kind birthday party with the Sanitation truck (photos below).



### Upcoming Events:

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

Join the **Gulfport Neighbors Day of Caring & Sharing: Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> 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 **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. - noon. Clam Bayou Nature Park is located at the corner of 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com).

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 **12<sup>th</sup> 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 **Gulfport Recreation Center Halloween Bash** 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.

The City of Gulfport will host a **Flood Insurance Community Forum** at the Gulfport Casino on Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m. Pinellas County Property Appraiser Pam Dubov, and insurance and real estate professionals will discuss the 2012 Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform act and answer questions from the audience concerning the implications of the flood insurance rate hike and how it will affect Gulfport Residents.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	181
Officer initiated calls for service	325
Offenses	52
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	34

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

The owner of a business in the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the afternoon of October 10 that someone had punched a hole through the plywood wall in the back of the building and stole a Craftsman generator and car buffer. There are no witnesses

Bravo squad arrested Tyrone Taylor at his parents' residence on the morning of October 11 for stealing his mother's debit card and withdrawing over \$1200 from an ATM. Taylor also admitted to stealing his mother's wedding rings and pawning them. Unfortunately when officers accompanied the victim to the pawn shop they discovered the wedding rings had already been sold or destroyed for scrap.

Officers made contact with two juveniles in Tomlinson Park after hours. One was listed as a runaway by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the other was in possession of marijuana. Both were transported to the Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center.

An intoxicated woman in possession of an open beer was stopped by officers in front of Boca Ciega High School. She provided two false names before police determined her real name was Melanie Barton. She was arrested and charged with the open container ordinance, giving a false name to police, and an outstanding warrant out of Hillsborough County.

Officer Obrart attempted to stop a vehicle in the 6400 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of October 12. The driver attempted to flee the vehicle as it was still moving, and was detained by PSCO K9 units with assistance from a PCSO helicopter.

A resident in the 1300 block of Hull Street reported on the afternoon of October 12 that someone entered her home through an unlocked porch door and removed a satchel containing her medications. There are no witnesses.

Officers were dispatched to the Gulfport Marina on the evening of October 12 regarding an out of state vehicle that had been parked there for several hours with a male inside. The man stated his roommates were fighting and he left home for some quiet time.

Officers were dispatched to the Tomlinson Park area on the evening of October 12 after a caller reported that her husband saw a large group of juveniles attempting to open their vehicle doors. The complainant advised that her husband yelled at the group and they ran away. She could not identify the juveniles.

Officer Davis ran the license number of a car in the 5100 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and discovered the registered owner, who was also the driver, had an outstanding warrant for Forgery. She was arrested.

A resident in the 5200 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue was notified by a neighbor that juveniles had thrown rocks at her front door, shattering a stained glass window. The neighbor could not identify the males but said they ran away after the rock was thrown.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of October 14 after a caller reported that 3 juveniles were possibly attempting to break into a house, and when confronted one dropped a screwdriver. Officer Davis and Chief Vincent located 2 of them in the 4600 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They were released to family members.

Officers made contact with two females in Clymer Park after a complainant reported they had been under a pavilion for several days and appeared to be homeless. An identification check revealed that Mary Byrnes had an outstanding warrant and she was taken to Pinellas County Jail. Arrangements were made for the other female to stay elsewhere for the evening.

Officers responded to McDonalds on Gulfport Boulevard on the afternoon of October 15 after a caller reported that a black male teenager accompanied by two 10 year old black males stole his gray beach cruiser with orange pin stripes while he was inside the restaurant. The investigation is ongoing.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	15
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	7
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements Received:	24
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	8
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	3
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	10

Detective Pham conducted a follow-up at a pawn shop regarding a recovered stolen firearm. During the investigation he learned that Lisa Velazquez, who sold the firearm to the shop, was on felony probation. Detective Pham recovered the firearm and made contact with Velazquez at her work place. Velazquez stated she obtained the firearm from her boyfriend, who bought it from the victim's former roommate. She was arrested for Violation of Probation and Violation of Injunction. Detective Pham also investigated a credit card fraud in which the complainant claimed that her Regions bank debit card was stolen and compromised. During the investigation he discovered the complainant was in possession of her debit card and allowed a friend to use it. Additionally, Detective Pham investigated a theft of social security benefits. Because the crime did not occur in Gulfport, he forwarded the report to the Office of Inspector General for follow-up.

Detective Embry assisted Detective Pham in arresting Lisa Velasquez for Violation of Probation for Possession of a Firearm and investigated an alleged Sexual Battery involving a child. The incident was unfounded. He also investigated assigned cases.

Officer Motte mentored several students and completed a Baker Act evaluation, but the student didn't meet the criteria. He also assisted Officer Langston with a theft investigation and a VOP investigation in which the subject was arrested.

Officer Langston spoke with a number of parents at school, mentored students and responded to several campus disturbances, and assisted with a threat assessment, providing the school with information regarding a threat of violence made by a student. Officer Langston also counseled a student who was alleged to have made threats to harm others; investigated a threat of a fight that was supposed to happen after school and mediated with the three students involved, preventing the fight; interviewed the parties involved in an investigation of possible underage sexual activity; assisted a day shift unit with an investigation related to a possible theft of a bicycle from the school, and; several allegations of thefts on campus. One of the suspects was in violation of court-ordered home detention.

Analyst Palmisano completed open case lists, a review of domestic violence follow-ups, review of property entered into FCIC and the PCSO call out report. She also conducted pawn checks on 18 reports with a named suspect or searchable property, conducted a statistical analysis of crashes for the annual red light camera survey, an analysis for Officer Mills regarding shoplifting reports at Family Dollar and for Officer Mills regarding burglaries at storage facilities in Gulfport.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	28
Supplements reviewed:	62
Public records requests:	44
Background checks:	00
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	24
Citizens assisted:	32

### **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand four hundred fifty four (2,454) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred thirty three (1,433) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twelve (112) vessels.

### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed 46' sailboat and a 30' sailboat this week.

### **Staff Activities:**

- Finished concrete work at pier two gate.
- Repaired dock box on pier six, slip eight.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Pumped out boats on piers five & three.
- Installed sea grass buoy at Gulfport beach.

### **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). 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.
- Provided event support for Historical Society Birthday Bash, Gulfport: Under the Stars, and We're Talking Trash Birthday party.
- Continued Citywide Yard Sale preparations and brochure updates.
- Completed *Welcome* packages for Gulfport Neighbors Event.
- Discussed event preparation and logistics for November 7 Flood Insurance Community Forum and November 26 Water Conservation Seminar with IT Director.
- Provided control coverage for October 15 City Council Meeting and uploaded video to website.
- Provided A/V technical set up at Theater for Director and Supervisor meeting.
- Commenced preparation for video shoot with Mayor.
- Continued Heroes Weekend preparations and sent invites for Veterans Day parade.
- Continued preparations for Volunteer Luncheon and Boca Ciega Homecoming Parade.

## **Parks**

Set up tables, chairs and waste/recycling containers in preparation for Gulfport Birthday Bash & Gulfport Under the Stars, and removed following events.

Cleaned little league restrooms.

Installed trolley stop sign on Historical Museum bench, and keyboard holders at police station and in City Clerk's office.

Assembled plan filing box for City Manager.

Replaced water fountain at beach restrooms.

Replaced reflective tape on barricade and repainted barricades at Tomlinson Park.

Installed four new electrical outlets at Chase Park, and flex sticks, puck retainers & pins at Wood Ibis Park.

Spread fresh shell at Dog Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades.

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

Mowed beach green spaces, Recreation Center grounds & Veterans Park.

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 Senior Center celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 9. Party goers were caught doing the Electric Slide, Congo, YMCA, and much more while others had fun snapping pictures in the photo booth (photos below).



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](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 lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

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.

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Join HCA Breast Center Supervisor Maureen Barone, ARRT (R)(M) at 2:30 p.m. Monday October 21 for an interactive discussion and demonstration on Mammography and Breast Self-Exam. Next month's topic: HEART HEALTH.

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 Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry of Edward Jones will present **Building Your Investment Income Foundation** on Wednesday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m. Income during retirement can be unpredictable, but even during the ups and downs, your income needs don't stop. How do you make sure you have enough regular income to help meet your needs? And, how can you make your income more consistent? We'll discuss strategies to help you create a stream of income that you can use for your expected and unexpected life events during retirement.

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

Visit the **First Friday Flea Market** on November 1, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for a special *Holiday Gift Boutique*, featuring antiques, collectibles, framed artwork, sports memorabilia, vintage Christmas decorations, jewelry & more. All items are priced well below retail/EBay prices. Don't miss out on these great deals!

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** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday, October 31. Join us if you dare! Prizes for the best costume.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Celebrate November birthdays with cake & ice cream for everyone on Tuesday, November 19 at 12 p.m. Sponsored by Wellcare.

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 49<sup>th</sup> 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, October 6	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 100)
Tuesday, October 8	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 17) 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 9	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 10	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 34)
Saturday, October 12	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 125)

**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

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

Sunday, October 6	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 15) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, October 10	2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 35)

**Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
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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, October 7	10 a.m. - Yoga Chair (Turnout 6) 11 a.m. - Yoga Chair (Turnout 15)
Thursday, October 10	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, October 11	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, October 7, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, October 8, 9 a.m. - *Community Outreach.*

Tuesday, October 8, 4 p.m. - *Manatees in Florida.*

Tuesday, October 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, October 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 9, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 9, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

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

Friday, October 11, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, October 12, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest.*

**Upcoming Events:**

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](mailto: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 October 6 - 12, 2013:

#### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,005	605
Sun. 10/6	Library closed	
Mon. 10/7	402	105
Tue. 10/8	369	108
Wed. 10/9	282	101
Thu. 10/10	290	94
Fri. 10/11	289	90
Sat. 10/12	366	93

### 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 businesses to enter 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 be presented to winners during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 5 at 7 p.m.

### **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. Twelve (12) Tot Time/VPK participants and seven (7) adults visited the Clearview United Methodist Church Pumpkin Patch in St. Petersburg on Friday.

**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**

John Lapham used the school bus to transport twelve (12) Tot Time/VPK participants to the Clearview United Methodist Pumpkin Patch Church in St. Petersburg on Friday morning.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

Account Activity (Water and/or Marina):	20 new, 0 closed
Water payments:	1079 totaling \$125,522.38
On-Line Water payments:	68 transactions totaling \$7,320.80
Bright House payments:	20
Utility Bills Mailed 10/16/13:	1269
Payroll 10/11/13:	161 transactions totaling \$169,196.00

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 51 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires

- 1 Gas Leaks
- 1 Wires Down
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

#### **Life Safety:**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, November 21 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](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

#### **Staff Activities:**

- 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 Gulfport Fire Department hosted a station tour for Tiger Cub Troop #285 on October 15. The group viewed the equipment and learned about fire safety.
- Chief Marenkovic and Supervisors attended "Progressive Discipline" training presented by the City Attorney and Human Resources Officer.
- Inspector Vento performed a walk thru of a new business and found them operating and serving customers without a C.O. on file. They also had installation of equipment being performed without proper permits. The Building Official and Code Enforcement Officer were notified.
- Inspector Vento and Chief Marenkovic inspected vendor tents and overall fire safety in preparation for the Most Holy Home Oktoberfest event. Carnival workers had tapped into the main breaker panel, which was unsafe. Staff notified the Building Official, and an Electrical Contractor resolved the issue.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance:**

- Rearranged computer keyboard stands and drawers on detectives' desks.
- Straightened and re-taped barricade at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Completed annual fire alarm inspection at Library.
- Cleared blocked toilets in Public Services Building ladies restroom & City Hall ladies employee restroom.
- Repaired cabinet shelving in Senior Center snack bar.
- Rebuilt water faucet in mop closet at Library.
- Repaired air conditioning in Library Friends' room.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- 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.
- Installed new sidewalk at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street & 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Completed work orders generated by City Hall.
- Cleared storm drains at Beach Boulevard & Essex Avenue, Beach & Shore Boulevards and 55<sup>th</sup> Street & Jersey Avenue.
- Set barricades at Pasadena Place.
- Cleaned and removed illegal dumping at mulch bin and Osgood Point.
- Set up and hosted Public Works Department *We're Talking Trash* birthday event.
- Removed debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area, and beach area around outfall.
- Cleaned glass from the roadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Graded Beach area from Pier to Casino.
- Removed garbage and recycling bins following Scout Hall birthday event.
- Reinstalled "No Parking" signs following Bluesfest.
- Installed *No Parking* signs and delivered extra garbage containers to Holy Name in preparation for Oktoberfest.
- Added fill to manhole cover and graded roadway at 1225 Hull Street.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at several locations.

#### **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 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 107 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- 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.
- Repaired water breaks at 2630 Quincy Street and 1409 14<sup>th</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.
- Replaced LC 150 motor controller at Lift Station #2.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired coolant leak in Fire Truck #E17.
- Replaced lower control arms on Police Vehicle #111 and Police Vehicle #102.
- Replaced purge solenoid on fuel system of Police Vehicle #12.
- 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.

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.

The following was put together by the Pinellas Council Communications Department and contains some very good information when looking for qualified contractors:

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

**WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:**

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://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 continue in Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).