



Gulfport Community Update

October 20 - 26, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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, implications of the flood insurance rate hike and how it will affect Gulfport Residents.

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. 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.

The **Gulfport Neighbors Day of Caring & Sharing: Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event on Saturday October 19 was a huge success (photos below). Gulfport Residents brought gently used items to swap, sell, give away or junk. The Gulfport Police Department registered three (3) bikes and residents enjoyed a cup of coffee with Gulfport Police Lieutenant Joshua Stone during *Java with Josh*.



Upcoming Events:

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 or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

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 **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.

Stroll Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district during **First Friday Art-Walk** on November 1, 6 - 10 p.m. and enjoy local authors, entertainers and talented independent artists. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Boca Ciega Yacht Club will host the **One Design Championships** in beautiful Boca Ciega Bay November 9 & 10. Visit www.sailbcyc.org or call Race Chair Mark Rother at 535-2602 for more information.

The **Hero's Weekend Veterans Parade** is scheduled for Sunday, November 10 at noon. The parade begins at 28th Avenue & Beach Boulevard and travels south on Beach, then west on Shore Boulevard. To register, visit www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend. Stick around to cheer on the VETSports Wounded Warrior non-profit organization and the Gulfport Public Safety Beach Volleyball team during the **2nd Annual Beach Volleyball benefit** beginning at 1 p.m. In addition to high-energy action-packed beach volleyball, enjoy live music by Brigid's Cross, VETSports merchandise, food & drinks courtside. The beach volleyball courts are located at 5500 Shore Boulevard.

Don't wait for the holidays when you can shop at **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach in the Waterfront District on November 16, 6- 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	160
Officer initiated calls for service	294
Offenses	47
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	25

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the area of 11th Avenue & 54th Street on the morning of October 17 after a juvenile reported that two other juveniles hit him and stole his iPhone 5. Officer Priest located several witnesses who identified both suspects. He arrested one of the two on October 22, and the second on October 23, and recovered the phone.

A school bus driver reported on the morning of October 17 a fight in progress between several middle school students on the bus. Three juveniles were removed from the bus after it was determined they were involved. Two were released to parents and the parent of the third requested he be taken to the hospital to be checked. He had no obvious injuries.

Officers were dispatched to a business in in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the afternoon of October regarding an unruly customer. The customer was trespassed from the property per the owner's request.

Officers responded to the 1800 block of 51st Street on the afternoon of October 17 regarding a late-reported burglary to a residence. Someone reached through a window that had been boarded up after a prior burglary, and unlocked the back door. A storage door padlock was also cut off. Nothing was missing, but a bed appeared to have been slept in.

A resident in the 2700 block of 45th Street reported on the evening of October 18 that two unknown suspects attempted to gain entry into an RV, but ran away after the victim turned on the panic alarm.

An officer on patrol early October 19 discovered an unsecured storage unit at Southwest Pinellas Storage. A male subject inside the unit was advised he could not live there.

Officer Novak conducted a business check at L & K Sandwich Shop early October 19 and discovered several broken windows. The business has been closed for a while and it is unknown when the damage occurred.

Officers responded to the 4800 block of Tradewinds Drive early October 22 after a caller reported two subjects attempting to break into vehicles. Witnesses saw the suspects flee east along the seawall and a Pinellas County Sheriff's Office K-9 assisted with apprehending both in the 4800 block of Baywood Point. They attempted to enter 6 vehicles total.

A business owner in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the morning of October 22 that a sub-contractor took a cell phone to fix it and returned a much cheaper phone. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers were dispatched to O'Maddys bar early October 23 regarding several patrons arguing. The individuals separated and went their separate ways before police arrived.

Officers responded to a residence in the 5700 block of 15th Avenue regarding an intoxicated male. He left the residence prior to police arrival and was located in the 5700 block of 15th Avenue. He refused to go to Safe Harbor and advised he would continue to St. Petersburg.

An officer tried to stop a vehicle driving with no head lights on the evening of October 23, but the driver refused to stop and fled eastbound on 11th Avenue at a high rate of speed. A follow-up has been conducted with the St Petersburg Police Department.

Officers were dispatched to the alley south of the 5700 block of 25th Avenue on the evening of October 23 regarding a suspicious brush fire. An empty gas can and a small full oil can were located on the property just north of the fire, but it did not appear they were used to start the fire. There was no property damage.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 10 hours this week.

Investigations:

New Cases:	14
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	9
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0

Supplements Received:	14
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest	0
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	11

Detective Hanh Pham conducted a follow-up investigation to a residential burglary and interviewed a female juvenile who provided him with new leads. He also investigated assigned cases and obtained a few leads.

School Resource Officer Langston received a parent complaint that students were smoking on the school bus, and possibly huffing an unknown substance. She and an administrator spoke with the students involved and found an electronic cigarette. The students received school consequences. She also spoke with three students who wrote racial slurs referencing the KKK on a school assignment; investigated a harassing phone calls complaint; investigated a threat of a fight occurring at the school and notified the school of the incident; investigated a bullying and possible cyber-stalking incident that occurred in St Petersburg and spoke with the parent of the victim, providing her with direction on how to pursue criminal charges; assisted Officer Priest with a robbery investigation, and; worked security for two football games and a talent show at the school.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, Baker-Acted a student, and covered an off duty football game between Boca Ciega High and Gibbs. He also took a report for narcotics found in a classroom, and exhausted all leads without locating a suspect. Additionally, Officer Motte arrested a student for disorderly conduct. During the arrest the student resisted with violence. Officer Motte was not injured and the arrestee was taken into custody.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis on subjects possibly living in storage units at Southwest Pinellas Storage. She also completed an analysis for Lt. Farrand regarding calls for service and started an analysis of traffic crashes on 49th Street for Officer Mills, and updated the sex offender PowerPoint in the police lobby, removing an offender who moved out of Gulfport

Detective Embry arrested Daysha Delima for Grand Theft Auto after Delima admitted Post Miranda to taking the vehicle. He also investigated a late reported Lewd and Lascivious Conduct case involving a 12 year old male on a 7 year old female. The mother of the victim did not wish to prosecute. He also continued investigating assigned cases.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	31
Supplements reviewed:	157
Public records requests:	29
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	6
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	28

MARINA

Pumped one thousand six hundred fifty three (1,653) gallons of gas, and two thousand five hundred ten (2,510) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred six (106) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed 30' sailboat and a 34' powerboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced remote and transmitter in south pump-out.
- Read and calculated electoral readings.
- Repaired pedestal on pier four, slip twenty one.
- Repaired gate G on pier six.

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 updates 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.
- Provided support for Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck event, and met with Gulfport Neighbors and staff for a post event briefing.
- Continued Citywide Yard Sale preparations and brochure updates.
- Provided audio training to Senior Center Coordinator for upcoming events.
- Completed video shoot with Mayor & Recreation Center Halloween Bash promotional video and uploaded both to website.
- Continued preparations for Flood Insurance Community Forum, Heroes Weekend Veterans Day parade and Volunteer Luncheon.
- Attended County Public Information meeting on Wednesday and G291 Public Information training on Thursday.

Parks

Set up check-in area, water station and trash & recycling containers in preparation for Clam Bayou cleanup, and removed following event.

Ordered: benches & picnic tables for beach & Greenway Park; cigarette disposal urns for Beach shelters and various parks, and; Tennis court roller for Chase Park Court.

Commenced setup of Recreation Center Halloween haunted house & Boo Room, and repaired two tables.

Repaired electrical outlets on Little League maintenance building, cleaned restrooms and repaired water leak in first floor men's restroom.

Installed electrical source & lighting at volleyball courts.

Repaired PVC fence at marina.

Replaced keyboard tray in CM Administrative Assistant's office.

Reset light breaker at Wood Ibis Park.

Inspected all parks for repairs, and repaired Beach playground gates.

Cleared blocked drains at Fire Department.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Casino & Senior Center grounds and beach streetscapes; cleared excess vegetation from Tangerine Lake, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed City complex, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Caldwell, Veterans & Clymer Parks, 14th Avenue medians & Pasadena entrance area.

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 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)

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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 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 27th Avenue South.

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

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!

Join us on November 4 at 2:30 p.m. for **Medicare Made Clear**, an informational seminar discussing the differences between Medicare plans, choosing the right one, understanding enrollment windows and timing, and finding Medicare resources.

Want to eat healthy but don't have the time? Join Heidi Crockett from Aging Care Advocates, Inc. for **Quick Healthy Eating Tips for Busy People & Singles** on Wednesday, November 6 at 1:30 p.m. Heidi will discuss which power bar, frozen dinner, and fast food meals are better and why. Don't be fooled, it is possible to eat healthy with little time or effort.

The Senior Center is planning a special trip to Sam's Club for participants on Tuesday, November 12. Enjoy all the benefits of being a member for the day: Optical, Hearing Aid Center, Pharmacy, Home, Auto, Grocery, Bakery and more. Senior Center members will receive a gift card for signing up for a new Sam's Club membership or renewing an existing membership. SPACE IS LIMITED. GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$8 round trip. Be on the look-out for future Gulfport Getaways.

The holiday season can be a time of contrasting emotions. Getting together with family and friends can be both joyful and stressful. Join Master Life Coach Kathy Lane for **Creating a Better Holiday** on Wednesday, November 13.

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

Want to learn to use your Smartphone, downloading Apps, take pictures, add contacts or adjust your phone settings? Tony and Christine from The Cell Phone Solution will answer your questions during the **Cell Phone class** at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 14.

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, October 13	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 43)
Tuesday, October 15	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 16) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 9) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 33)
Wednesday, October 16	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 222)
Friday, October 18	7 p.m. - Duffer's Ball (Turnout 80)
Saturday, October 19	7 p.m. - Lakewood High School Homecoming (Turnout 180)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Monday, October 28	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Admission: members \$5; nonmembers \$7
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

Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events)

Wednesday, October 16, 10 a.m. - City Supervisory Training.

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Thursday-Saturday, November 7-9 & 14-16, 8 p.m., & Sunday, November 10 & 17, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *The Cooley Girls*, a dramatic comedy by Brad Stephens. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Beach Bazaar & Couture'd Resale Boutique, or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, October 13	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 18) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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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, October 14	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 6) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 18)
Thursday, October 17	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, October 18	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 14, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, October 14, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, October 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, October 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, October 16, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 16, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

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

Thursday, October 17, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Garden & Bird Club* presentation facilitated by Master Gardener Jude Bagatti. Photographic works on display in our meeting room through October.

Friday, October 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 19 - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Saturday, October 19, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Saturday, November 16, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Thursday, November 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Rabbit Run* by John Updike over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victims 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 October 13-19, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,941	610
Sun. 10/13	Library closed	
Mon. 10/14	422	113
Tue. 10/15	310	104
Wed. 10/16	293	101
Thu. 10/17	350	108

Fri. 10/18	274	95
Sat. 10/19	271	76

Recreation Center

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, 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

Marivel Gutierrez and Joanne McRoberts attended an Early Learning Coalition Town Hall meeting in St. Petersburg on Thursday evening.

Nicole Latragna, Asaph Graham, Ariel Storch and Shanoah Washington worked on the haunted house on Saturday morning.

John Lapham and three (3) Teen Night Program participants judged the homes entered in the **Halloween Decorations Contest**. There were five (5) entries in the General Theme category.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 13 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 827 totaling \$144,426.41
- On-Line Water payments: 149 transactions totaling \$9981.62
- Bright House payments: 23
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/23/13: 1639
- Accounts Payable 10/18/13: 787 transactions totaling \$965,258.84
- Mail processed 10/18/13: 947 pieces totaling \$753.60
- Purchasing Card 191 transactions totaling \$28,746.07

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Outside Fire
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Electrical Hazards
- 1 Traffic Incident
- 1 Fire Alarm

Life Safety:

- 1 Annual Inspection
- 5 CO Inspections
- 1 Occupant Load calculation

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th 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.

Staff Activities:

- Lt. Adam Poirrier is serving as Acting Fire Chief while Chief Marenkovic on leave.
- Lt. Huffman and shift personnel are evaluating Thermal Imaging Cameras to replace the one on Engine 17 which is due for replacement based on NFPA standards. The Thermal Imaging Camera is one of the most critical tools for firefighters allowing them to locate victims, hidden fires and many other important functions.
- A-shift personnel provided stand-by coverage for the Boca Ciega High School football game on October 17.
- All crews continued Fourth Quarter Fire training based on the schedule designed by the Pinellas County Training Officers Group. This training ensures consistency between fire departments throughout Pinellas County.
- A-shift personnel participated in the annual Boca Ciega High School Homecoming Parade on October 23.
- All personnel continue to utilize the new ePCR computer system which allows Paramedics to complete Patient Care Reports (PCR's) on a computer in the field, replacing the previous paper reporting system.
- FF/PM Burford completed his State of Florida Fire Marshal Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Fire Officer 2 certification. This advanced certification will assist FF/PM Burford in his role as Acting Lieutenant and prepare him for future advancement opportunities.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Cleared floor drain in ladies shower at Fire Station.
- Installed new flapper on toilet in Little League men's restroom.
- Repaired door mechanism and front door at City Hall.

- Replaced hose bib in Dog Park men's restroom.
- Cleared blocked urinal in Fire Department men's restroom.
- Delivered popcorn machine from Recreation Center to Library in preparation for Family Movie Day.
- Rebuilt faucet for art sink in Recreation Center B-Room.
- Replaced toilet seat in men's restroom at Hoyt Field.
- Completed monthly pest control at all City Buildings.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.
- Repaired water line on toilet in Little League upstairs meeting room.
- 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.
- Removed barricades and opened sidewalk at Town Shores.
- Added millings and graded alleyways at 3005 57th Street and 58th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Removed, cleaned, and reset storm drain lid at 58th Street & 19th Avenue.
- Removed debris in roadway at 59th Street and 28th & 29th Avenues.
- Cut swale for drainage at 59th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Removed granite curbing at 55th Street & Beach Boulevard.
- Reset storm lid and cleared box at 23rd Avenue & Beach Boulevard, and installed concrete bollard.
- Removed debris from curb at 56th Street & 27th Avenue and drained area.
- Removed and disposed of debris at City Yard.
- Removed containers following Gulfport Birthday event.
- Delivered commercial trash containers for Coastal Cleanup event.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at Town Shores.
- Collected and disposed of items brought to Gulfport Neighbors Caring & Sharing event.
- Trimmed tree obstruction in alleyway at 58th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Added fill and removed hazard in alleyway at 52nd Street & 19th Avenue.
- Completed pothole repair at 64th Street & 9th Avenue.
- Removed commercial containers and temporary "No Parking" signs following Most Holy Name Oktoberfest event.
- Returned shopping carts abandoned in roadway.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Reset "Stop" sign at 51st Street & 11th Avenue.
- Replaced vandalized stop sign and pole at 51st Street & 11th Avenue.
- Cleared debris from storm drain at 59th Street & 27th Avenue.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.

- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 98 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 2 backflow devices due in October.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired water break at 5616 27th 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 sewer lateral at 5925 Tangerine Avenue.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage on Essex Avenue.
- Filled hole in roadway, installed steel road plates, and barricaded area over storm drain & sidewalks at Pasadena Place South.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced coolant hose on Fire Truck #E17.
- Repaired fan clutch on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Installed packing blade hydraulic cylinders in Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced winch cable on rear of Sanitation Truck #45.
- Replaced brakes on Police Vehicle #156.
- 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.

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.

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 west 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.

Beginning in November Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries. 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.