



## Gulfport Community Update September 28-October 4, 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.

Many thanks to the seventy two brightly dressed and surprisingly awake participants in the **Keep Gulfport Weird Triathlon** (photos below) A big thank you to our volunteers, CERT, Gulfport Police & Fire Departments and City Staff for keeping everyone safe, and to Stacey Dunn from Maui Jim for donating a free sunglass certificate. Many thanks also to the Gulfport Historical Society for donating free entries to their October 10 5k Mullet Race and Doggie Dash.



So49 hosted two days of live music during the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tangerine Bluesfest** last weekend. With vendors, food, cars and rides for the kids, the festival offered a little bit of everything (photos below).



## Upcoming Events:

October is Gulfport History month, and in honor of the occasion the Gulfport Historical Society will host a reception and **Gulfport Yesterday and Today** photo exhibit at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 6 p.m. Friday, October 3. Call 893-1118 for more information.

It's time again for **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk/Truck**. Gulfport residents can get rid of their stuff or trade it for other stuff at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center on Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Extra plants? Bring them to the plant exchange. The Police Department will be on hand to register bicycles for residents. Call 893-1118 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 every Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

Take a run through history on Friday, October 10, and catch a glimpse of coastal Florida the way it used to be - and in Gulfport, the way things still are. Gulfport offers runners a chance to run through vintage Florida neighborhoods during the **Flying Mullet 5K and One-Mile Doggie Dash 5K** run through downtown's Historic Waterfront District, and past the reigning Mullet King's home. Many fishermen, including our reigning King once earned their living netting mullet, a vegetarian fish that's quite the oddity in the fish world. Both events begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For more information call 656-5420.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand four hundred seventy two (1,472) gallons of gas and one thousand nine hundred fourteen (1,914) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy seven (77) vessels.

Assisted in twenty six (26) pump outs evacuating five hundred forty (540) gallons of waste.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 40' motorboat and a 34' motorboat this week.

### **Staff activities:**

- Read and calculated electrical readings.
- Replaced line holders on pier two, slip 26.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Continued bilge pump maintenance on pier 3, slip 34.
- Pumped out bilge of houseboat on pier #3.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Distributed Newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Continued preparation of November calendar.
- Provided photo coverage and technical assistance for Keep Gulfport Weird Triathlon and Blues Fest.
- Attended Recreation Marketing Resource Group meeting at Largo Recreation Center.
- Collecting applications and addresses for November 1 Citywide Yard Sale map.
- Updated GTV615 with October information, and Recreation Center & Senior Center information and events on City Website.

### **Multipurpose Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or

bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Join Eckerd College OLLI for **The Titanic in Popular Culture** on Monday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m. as we examine the unique circumstances that have kept the Titanic tragedy fresh in the minds of the public while other even more disastrous events have long faded from public consciousness. Register prior to event by calling Eckerd College at 864-7600. Admission: \$5.

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 October 7. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Blood Analyst Debi McArthur will analyze a drop of blood to show what different cells look like and what they mean during **Life is in the Blood** on Wednesday, October 8 at 2 p.m.

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 October 9.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, October 9.

Join in the fun with **Puzzle Pages Puzzle Party** on Friday, October 10 at 11 a.m. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more! From the Puzzle Pages!

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is October 13. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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

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

Take **Gulfport Getaways to the Tampa Bay Senior Expo** on Tuesday, October 14 at 2:30 p.m. Experience exhibits, entertainment, giveaways, seminars, helpful tips, & fun! GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7. Call 893-2242 no later than October 8 to reserve your seat.

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

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

The Senior Center offers a free **Mini Health Fair** at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Blood pressure checks are provided by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center, and vein screenings by Premier Vein Institute. The next screening is October 30.

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

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

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

**SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)** is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

**Recycle** your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall**

#### **Casino (*last week's events*):**

Sunday, September 21	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, September 23	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 27) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 49)
Wednesday, September 24	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 201)
Thursday, September 25	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 100)

#### **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 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*)**

Sunday, September 21 3 p.m. - O Som Do Jazz concert (Turnout 25)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)**

Sunday, September 21 6 p.m. - Gulfport: Then and Now Photo Exhibit and Reception. Free admission. Light refreshments & cash bar.

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

Sunday, September 21 9 a.m. - Faith International Church services (Turnout 38)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, September 23 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Thursday, September 24 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 4)

Friday, September 26 4 p.m. - Private dinner party (Turnout 64)

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting  
Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

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

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

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

Monday, September 22 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, September 23 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Wednesday, September 24 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 112)

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

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday            10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday                11 a.m. - Line dancing

## **LIBRARY**

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, September 22, 11 a.m. - *Gulfport Elementary Kindergarten Library tour*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, September 22, 3 p.m. - Science Club for Grades K-5, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, September 22, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session*.

Tuesday, September 23 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, September 23 - *Computer class for beginners*.

Tuesday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, September 24, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, September 24, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class*.

Wednesday, September 24, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, September 24, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, September 25, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, September 25, 3 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 2-4 year-olds* facilitated by Cailey Klasson

Thursday, September 25, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga 5-10 year-olds* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, September 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, August 27, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Rain Barrels* presented by UF/IFAS Extension of Pinellas County.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Friday, October 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*: We screen a flick and provide some crunchy munchies. Enjoy an afternoon networking with other fans.

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

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 Author for a discussion of her inspirational novel *Don't Come Down From the Chinaberry Tree*. For more information about her work, visit [www.rasheedahsharif.com](http://www.rasheedahsharif.com) .

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

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [riddell@gmail.com](mailto:riddell@gmail.com).

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair near the Easy books.

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

#### **Library Services/Statistic September 21-27, 2014:**

##### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,927	568
Sun. 9/21	Library closed	
Mon. 9/22	283	92
Tue. 9/23	368	109
Wed. 9/24	447	120
Thu. 9/25	353	95
Fri. 9/26	258	77
Sat. 9/27	215	86

#### **Recreation Center**

The game room was rented 2:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 27 for a baby shower with forty five (45) in attendance.

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

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

Twenty six (26) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty (20) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Forty eight (48) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

### **Staff Activities**

John Lapham used the school bus to transport the Tot Time/VPK program to Weedon Island on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez, John Lapham, Nicole Latragna and Alton Hooker worked the Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon on Saturday morning.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 34 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,176 totaling \$176,068.07
- On-Line Water payments: 162 transactions totaling \$8,552.24
- Bright House payments: 15
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/01/14 0
- Payroll 09/26/2014: 158 transactions totaling \$165,105.04

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 27 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Gas Leak
- 2 Single Engine Responses

#### **Life Safety:**

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 1 Plans Review
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com). CERT will provide safety and crowd control during the Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon on September 27, and for the October 4 Junk in the Trunk event.

- Gulfport Fire Department EMTs and Paramedics continued renewal of their State of Florida Department of Health Certifications. The deadline is December 1.
- GFD continues hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association on October 2. The Chiefs are preparing for a collaborative effort on building a 5-year Strategic plan.
- GFD is participating in a special training class covering patient care documentation language and medical-legal aspects of EMS and documentation, as requested by the agency.
- Firefighter/Paramedics Fernandez and Burton manned a Special Rescue during the Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon. The CERT team provided public safety/crowd control during the event.
- Chief Marenkovic conducted Fire Inspection on all BluesFest vendors. There were minor violations, all corrected on scene prior to the start of the event.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Extracted water from Senior Center carpeting and flooring following indoor flooding incident; and dried out affected areas.
- Relocated furniture in Senior Center Room #106 in preparation for carpet cleaning.
- Replaced baseboards in hall and snack bar area at Senior Center.
- Completed construction of aluminum canopy behind Fire Station for CERT vehicle and electric carts.
- Mounted projection board in Finance Director's office.
- Repaired toilet in ladies locker room and a/c unit in break room in Police Department.
- Boarded up windows at a vacant residence per Police Department request.
- Removed and disposed of arcade game from Recreation Center.
- Cleared blockage in urinal in Men's Restroom at beach.
- Set up Senior Center dining room for Health Fair.
- Replaced two ballasts in Theater dressing area.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Set up fencing, barricades, cones and electrical outlets in preparation for Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon & Bluesfest, and removed following events.
- Reinstalled bench and trashcan on Tangerine greenway.
- Removed past event banners.
- Installed reflective tape to poles on vehicle shelter at Fire Station.
- Removed graffiti from picnic tables at Recreation Center.
- Trimmed trees at Recreation Center, Clam Bayou & Tangerine Lake area.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Neighborhood Center and City Complex, and hand raked around benches and pavilions.
- Mowed Senior Center & Library grounds.
- Turned off City irrigation systems due to heavy rains.
- Greased mowers & sharpened/replaced blades.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- 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.
- Removed glass in roadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Applied fly bait to several commercial trash containers.
- Delivered trash and recycling containers to BluesFest event area.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach area between Casino and Pier.
- Graded sand along beachfront.
- Removed debris and retrieved trash containers following “BluesFest” Event.
- Cut new storm water swale at Casino outfall to increase drainage.
- Delivered trash containers to pier for underwater and surface debris cleanup.
- Removed and reset storm drain lid at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile at Neighborhood Center.
- Added fill and graded alleyway on 58<sup>th</sup> Street between 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenues.

### **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).
- Disconnected water service at 63 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 107 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meters.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired water break in alley on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 59<sup>th</sup> & Gray Streets.
- Repaired water break at 2717 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Replaced broken backflow and meter at 3102 50<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **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.

- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 1207 Gray Street, 6319 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 6149 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Monitored lift stations during high sewer flows caused by heavy rains.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired flashers and directional signals on Water vehicle #20.
- Replaced winch cable on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced front tires and repaired lights on Building Maintenance vehicle #65.
- Replaced upper ball joint and repaired headlights on Building Department vehicle #3.
- Replaced thermostat housing and thermostat on Police Chief vehicle #C17.
- Replaced rear tires on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Repaired flat tire on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Repaired flat tire on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at [www.pced.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

**Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

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

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

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

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

V14-16; 5401 Shore Boulevard South; Variance Application to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 14 spaces from 14 to zero off-street parking spaces for additional outdoor seating associated with a proposed second floor addition of an existing restaurant.

V14-17; 5949 Seabird Drive South; Variance Application to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 15.5 feet, from 26.67 feet to 11.17 feet to allow for the removal of an existing boat lift and installation of a proposed new boat lift.