



# *Gulfport Community Update*

*September 29 - October 5, 2013*

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Seventy participants enjoyed a one mile run, 3 mile bike, and quarter mile swim during the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon** on September 28 (photos below). Thank you to the CERT Team, volunteers and sponsor Maui Jim. Esae Samarah was the first person to cross the finish line with a time of 20 minutes.



Thousands grabbed their chairs and headed down to the greenway for some of the best blues in Pinellas County during the **Tangerine Blues Fest** on September 28 (photos below). Three bluegrass bands, four blues bands, and Emcee Mayor Henderson provided entertainment for the crowd. There were carnival games, a bounces house and mini Ferris wheel for the kids. A portion of the proceeds benefit All Children's Hospital.



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

Sign up your Gulfport address for the **Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Applications are available at City Hall, Gulfport Library or online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](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.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The next First Friday Art-Walk is scheduled for October 4. Stroll Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district from 6 - 10 p.m. and enjoy local authors, entertainers and talented independent artists. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Eat all you can at the **Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner** at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive on Saturday, October 5, at 4 p.m. Admission \$7 at the door. For more information call 321-5717.

The Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made art and crafts, bath, body and wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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.

Join Boca Ciega High School for their annual parade down Shore & Beach Boulevards in celebration of **Homecoming** 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 **Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center for carnival games, a costume contest, haunted house & Tot Boo Room, snack shack and more on Thursday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. For more information call 893-1068.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	187
Officer initiated calls for service	278
Offenses	41
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	34

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

Officers responded to the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of September 26 after a man reported that a black female entered his open storage unit, snatched a gold chain from his neck and fled the area on a bicycle. They circulated the area but did not locate the suspect.

Dale Wanella Conner was issued a notice to appear for retail theft after the manager of the Gulfport Family Dollar store observed her loading packages of deodorant into her purse, and attempting leave without paying. The manager took a cell phone video of the suspect's face as she was fleeing, and the car she left in. Police identified Conner through the video.

A business owner in the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of September 27 reported that a firearm had been stolen from an unsecured desk drawer. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Library on the afternoon of September 27 after a caller reported that he chained his black 10 speed Huffy bike to the handicapped parking sign at the Library and went inside. When he returned about an hour later the bike and chain were gone.

While police were investigating a domestic argument in the 2500 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street early September 28, Daniel McClinton, one of the parties involved began screaming and cursing in the street. He then opened the door to a patrol car and reached inside. McClinton was arrested on the spot for disorderly conduct and trespassing in a conveyance.

Officers were dispatched to 5400 block of Shore Boulevard early September 28 regarding a possible fight in progress. The subjects were being removed from a restaurant when they arrived. Suspect Robert Medley attempted to flee during the investigation. He was arrested for simple battery and resisting without violence.

Officers responded to the 3100 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the morning of September 29 regarding a vehicle partially over the seawall. Driver Grace Dorsey had left the scene, and was located at McDonald's. Dorsey admitted she was driving the SUV when it went over the seawall, and stated she did so because the owner was sleeping with her boyfriend. The SUV had been reported stolen from an address in Tampa a few hours earlier and Dorsey was arrested for grand theft auto.

A resident in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the afternoon of September 29 that a black male came to his door asking if he could mow the lawn. The home owner told him

no and thought he had left. However, when he checked the garage he discovered his bicycle missing. The suspect rode the bike to the 2600 block of 48<sup>th</sup> Street where he left it and stole another more expensive bike.

Officers were dispatched to Salty's Bar on the afternoon of September 29 regarding a noise complaint, the second of the day and the third in 30 days. Officers measured the sound level, which ranged between 68 & 89 decibels. The owner was aware of the prior complaints, and shown the readings from the property behind the bar. A COV will be issued.

While officers were investigating the noise complaint at Salty's they were approached about a fight inside the bar. Five people involved were removed from the bar, and each wanted to prosecute the others. The primary aggressor was not located, and no arrests were made.

Two young black males were passing by a vehicle parked on the street in the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue with the windows open when one leaned into the vehicle and took a wallet from the center console. A neighbor witnessed the incident and followed them to the area of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 47<sup>th</sup> Street, but lost sight of them.

Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of September 29 regarding a theft in progress. The caller advised that the suspects stole a mini refrigerator, and transported it to 1005 49<sup>th</sup> Street where they attempted to sell it for \$20 dollars. Howard Liverpool, a registered sex offender and Andar Deville were arrested.

A complainant from Utah called the Police Department on the evening of September 30 to report that someone had used his personal information to open a Bright House cable account for a residence in Gulfport. The complainant also filed a report with his local police agency.

Officers responded to the 700 block of Gray Street on the afternoon of October 2 after neighbors witnessed a man walking down the street with his roommate's television. He was located that evening and placed under arrest for grand theft.

Several complaints have been made regarding a male driver in a beige vehicle speeding in the area of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 60<sup>th</sup> Street. An officer was speaking with a victim in another case when he witnessed the vehicle run a stop sign and speed down 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The driver was issued three traffic citations (Running a stop sign, speeding, and failure to wear a seatbelt).

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	14
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	6
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements Received:	15
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
"Previously" Cleared With Arrest	5
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	7

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a credit card fraud incident in which the complainant reported that her Regions Bank debit card was stolen and compromised at the Gulfport branch and several St. Petersburg locations. Detective Pham obtained surveillance video footage from the bank and discovered the complainant using the card. He interviewed her and learned that

she had given a friend permission to use her card. Bank security cameras showed the complainant giving her card to a male who made several ATM withdrawals. During the interview, the complainant gave inconsistent and conflicting statements regarding when or how she lost the card. Detective Pham determined the case is unfounded and informed the complainant that she could be arrested for filing a false police report.

Detective Embry assisted with a death investigation that was ruled a suicide. He is attempting to locate a suspect involved in a burglary case, and continued to investigate other assigned cases.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated several altercations and broke up several fights, referring the parties to the school for consequences. He also arrested a school board employee for stealing and pawning school board property, and a female student for stealing property belonging to several students from a classroom.

School Resource Officer Langston provided mediation, counseling, and mentoring to several people, and investigated a number of criminal acts and campus disturbances, including an incident involving a student who verbally threatened a teacher. She spoke with the student and advised her of possible criminal repercussions she could face for her actions. The issue was ultimately resolved by the school. Officer Langston investigated several reports of possible students with guns on campus, but no weapons were recovered. She spoke with Principal Vigue about the possible usage of metal detectors due to the many recent weapons complaints, and investigated a report of a theft from two school employees, identifying and arresting the juvenile suspect. She also responded to a fight in progress after school off campus; responded to two fights and several campus disturbances throughout the week; assisted in an AOA investigation regarding an alleged sexual battery that occurred out of Gulfport's jurisdiction; investigated a theft of a cell phone, recovering the phone and counseling the student offender. The student received school consequences. Officer Langston is currently investigating a possible narcotics violation involving numerous students on campus; she met with Principal Vigue regarding the peer to peer mentoring program at the school, and provided security coverage at BCHS varsity football away game versus St. Petersburg High School. During the game she was able to deter several unwelcome students.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis of vehicle burglaries that occurred between September 18 & 24; updated the Sexual Predator and Offender display in the police lobby adding a new offender who recently moved into Gulfport; completed pawn checks for 16 cases with a named suspect or searchable property, locating one item reported stolen; conducted a review of items listed in ACISS as stolen with a known serial number for entry into FCIC, and created and distributed lists of recently stolen bicycles and open cases.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	13
Supplements reviewed:	123
Public records requests:	39
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	41

### **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand five hundred forty one (1,541) gallons of gas, and seven hundred seventy one (771) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty six (56) vessels.

Assisted with twenty six (26) pump-outs evacuating five hundred forty (540) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

## **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed 40' motorboat, 34' motorboat, 37' motorboat & 36' motorboat this week.

## **Staff Activities:**

- Completed Pump out maintenance.
- Installed dock box on pier six, slip four.
- Cleaned fish cleaning table.
- Cleaned and rearranged storage room.
- Replaced water handle on pier six, slip thirteen.
- Cut hole in concrete for water shut off.

## **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.
- Met with Gulfport CERT team and volunteers to discuss positioning for Triathlon.
- Continued preparations for Historical Society Birthday Bash & Gulfport Under the Stars events.
- Met with Gulfport Neighbors regarding logistics for upcoming event.
- Commenced preparation of November Events/Meetings Calendar.
- Attended Safety Committee & Accident Review meeting on Wednesday.
- Provided control room coverage for October 1 City Council meeting, October 2 Planning & Zoning meeting and October 3 City Council Workshop. Uploaded video to website and made DVD copies for City Clerk.

### **Parks**

Replaced 2 GFCI outlets on Tangerine Greenway and one at Beach pavilion #6; fence rails at Clam Bayou, Wood Ibis Park & Tangerine Greenway; bench slats at Little League complex, and; sign light at Wood Ibis Park.

Reset Skate park light timer.

Cleared fountain drain at Pier.

Removed beach volleyball practice court net and poles.

Cleaned beach pavilion tables and replaced bolts in preparation for sanding and clear coating.

Clear coated new bocce box.

Repaired storage closet door at Hoyt field.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Chase Block, Scout Hal grounds, Tonkin Park & Dog Park; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed Senior Center/Theater grounds, Library grounds, Neighborhood Center grounds, 38<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Recreation Center field, Chase Block, Clymer Greenway, City complex, Dog Park, Veterans, Clymer & Tomlinson Parks, 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area & green spaces at beach.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park.

Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for needed repairs.

#### **Other Activities:**

- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

#### **GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)**

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

#### **Multipurpose Center**

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

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation has ordered 10 Toshiba laptop computers equipped with Windows 7 and the MS Office Suite. The new computers will be network-ready, providing access for email and web browsing and will be used exclusively for the Center's monthly **Basic and Intermediate Computer Training Courses**. Both courses are curriculum based and offer the student a "real world" Windows-based learning experience. Classes will begin in September. We are pleased to have former NASA Headquarters Chief Computer Systems Engineer Anne Marie Pemberton as our instructor. Classes are open to adults 50 and older. Gulfport residents pay \$40 for a series of 4 weekly classes, and the nonresident fee is \$50; beginner classes are on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and Intermediate classes are on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Proof of age and residency is required at enrollment time. September classes are full, and there are no classes scheduled for October. Call 893-2237 for more information.

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.

The **Eden Homecare Partnership Caregiver Workshop** will offer a 4 week course at the Senior Center every Friday in October, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., assisting care partners including family, friends, neighbors, volunteers and home care professionals. See aging, care, and living with different abilities through new eyes. The workbook for the course is \$20. For more information or to register, call Mel Coppola at 547-7000.

Bongo Bob will perform **Songs for the Pantry** on Monday, October 7 at 2:30 p.m. Bob will entertain you with great music and bongos, all for the price of items or a small grocery gift card for the Center Pantry.

**Movie Day at the Snack Bar** is Tuesday, October 8 at 11:30 a.m. Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$3.00!

**Celebrate with us!** It's the **Senior Center's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday** and we're celebrating with a sock hop, photo booth and munchies provided by Brentwood on Wednesday, October 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Test your skills and challenge your mind at the **Puzzle Pages** at 11 a.m. Friday, October 11. Learn how to play Sudoku, Binairo and so much more! Prizes provided. From the Puzzle Pages!

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 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, September 22	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with John 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 41)
Tuesday, September 24	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 13) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 4) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 30)
Wednesday, September 25	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 206)
Thursday, September 26	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 32)
Saturday, September 28	5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 60)

**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

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

Thursday, September 26, 8 pm. - Comic Magic Show featuring Cesar Domico (Turnout 59)

Friday, September 27, 6 p.m. - Italian Night (Turnout 115)

There are no events scheduled for the **Catherine Hickman Theater** next week.

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

Sunday, September 22	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l 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, September 23	10 a.m. - Yoga Chair (Turnout 14)
Tuesday, September 24	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)
Wednesday, September 25	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 10)
Friday, September 27	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

Visit the Circle of Friends Book Shop during Library hours.

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, September 23, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, September 24 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, September 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, September 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, September 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, September 25, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Friday, September 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, September 28, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

### Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, October 8, 4 p.m. - *Manatees in Florida*: Informational program presented by Save the Manatee Club of Maitland. For all ages. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Turn of the Screw* by Henry James over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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, 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 September 22 - 28, 2013: Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,021	612
Sun. 9/22	Library closed	
Mon. 9/23	321	105
Tue. 9/24	345	98
Wed. 9/25	341	109

Thu. 9/26	343	110
Fri. 9/27	401	103
Sat. 9/28	265	80

### **Recreation Center**

The game room was rented Saturday, September 28, 1 - 6 p.m. for a baby shower with fifteen (15) attendees.

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

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

Forty (40) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Twelve (12) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty four(54) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Skaters & bicyclists wishing to use the Skate Park are required to register with the Recreation Center. To date no **FY2013/14 Skate Park** registrations have taken place.

### **Staff Activities**

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

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport Tot Time participants to the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg on Monday.

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 37 new, 0 closed

- Water payments: 1252 totaling \$169,521.93
- On-Line Water payments: 80 transactions totaling \$9910.51
- Bright House payments: 12
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/2/13: 1261
- Payroll 9/27/13: 159 transactions totaling \$162,253.31
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 10 totaling \$18679.86

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Wires Down
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Fire Inspection
- 1 C.O.'s

**CERT** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

### **Staff Activities:**

- Pinellas County conducted a countywide inventory of narcotics maintained by Fire Departments on October 1.
- Chief Marenkovic attended a Safety Committee meeting and Accident Review Committee with Human Resources Director Mercedes Perez and other City Staff members on October 2.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Replaced ceiling tiles in Theater lobby ladies restroom.
- Completed walkthroughs and background checks on new janitorial crew.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Repaired sink in Senior Center kitchen.
- Assembled two chairs for Human Resources Office.
- Cleared grease trap & floor drain in Casino kitchen.
- Completed monthly A/C filter replacements on all City A/C units.
- Picked up City vehicle in Tampa following repairs for Garage Supervisor.
- 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.
- Recovered 2 storm drain covers on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Recovered and repaired storm drain cover on Tangerine Avenue.
- Cleaned and cleared storm drains on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Delivered/set up 90 gallon & 300 gallon trash containers and recycling bins on Tangerine Greenway in preparation for BluesFest, and removed following event.
- Trimmed trees obstructing roadways throughout City.
- Delivered recycling containers to Little League & Skate Park.
- Realigned storm drain cover at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 19<sup>th</sup> 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).
- Disconnected water service at 75 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 107 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 7 backflow devices due in September.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.

#### **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 main line sewer at 1530 54<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Televised sewer main line in alley at 5005 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; hole and sand in line.
- Monitored and ran lift stations manually during heavy rain in effort to avoid sewer overflow.
- Replaced pump #1 at Lift Station #1.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired back up camera system on Recycle Truck #40.
- Repaired DPF exhaust system on Sanitation Truck #31.
- Repaired coolant leak on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Reprogrammed/flushed computer on Parks Department Vehicle #85.

- Replaced struts for suspension system on front end of Police Vehicle #54.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

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

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

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at [www.pcclb.com](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 from 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 shall be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid.

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

The number of Code Enforcement cases for August was 328 for a fiscal year to date total of 2,063 cases. The number of citizen complaints for July was 13 for a fiscal year to date total of 162. This represents an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.9 percent.

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

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

**October 2, 2013 Planning & Zoning Board and October 15, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting Results:**

Review of an ordinance allowing for package liquor stores with restrictions, as conditional uses in the Waterfront Redevelopment District. P&Z RECOMMENDED DENIAL OF THE ORDINANCE.

**October 9, 2013 Board of Adjustment:**

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