



Gulfport Community Update

October 26 - November 1, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 2 and the Gulfport Fire Department would like to remind residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors while setting clocks back. Smoke detectors are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 in observance of **Veterans Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

More than 125 volunteers from Gulfport & St. Petersburg participated in the first ever **Mayors cleanup** on October 25 (photos below). Four teams along both sides of 49th Street collected 250 pounds of trash in a matter of hours and new friendships were forged. Thank you to everyone who participated.



The Gulfport Historical Society hosted their annual **Gulfport Under the Stars** on October 25 (photos below). O'Maddy's, Pia's and Stella's provided the food while the Jazz Phools entertained.



Over 100 attendees enjoyed scary yet fun festivities at the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation **Monster Mash Ball** on October 25 (photos below). Councilmember Michael Fridovich helped judge the costume contest.



Upcoming Events:

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

The **Citywide Yard Sale** is Saturday, November 1. Brochure maps are available online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale, all City facilities through Friday, and the Library, 5501 28th Avenue the day of the sale.

Join the Gulfport Historical Society for a bonfire, ghost stories, and a discussion with Skyway Paranormal about local hauntings and legends at the Gulfport Historical Museum, at 5301 28th Avenue during the **Day of the Dead** Saturday, November 1, 6 - 10 p.m. Have a spooky story of your own? Feel free to share! This event is free. Hot dogs & s'mores fixings will be available for purchase for attendees to cook over the fire. Bring a blanket and get ready to be part of a tradition that's as old as the human race - telling stories around the communal fire. Visit the Gulfport Historical Society Facebook page for more information.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Want to learn more about our community newspaper? Visit the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, November 7, 5 - 7 p.m. for a **reception featuring covers from over four decades of the Gabber newspaper**. Meet the publishers and staff and see a bit of the Gulfport area's history reflected through local headlines. The Gabber printed its first edition in November 1968. Then known as the Gulfport Gabber, the paper was a resource for everything from City government to yard sales - and proudly remains so to this day. While the editions have grown in size and circulation (distribution now averages 13,000 papers in Gulfport, South Pasadena, parts of St. Petersburg and the Gulf beaches) the Gabber has never lost its passion for community and the lives of its readers. "Front Page News: The Gabber Covers Gulfport" will be on display in the Theater lobby through November. For more information call 893-1118.

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

Get your volunteer group together for **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, November 8 at 9 a.m. at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4. Make a difference, and get outdoors and meet interesting people while reducing pollution in our waterways and litter in our community. Bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. Email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com for more information.

Get your family, organization or business in on the fun during **Heroes Weekend**. Participant applications for the **Veterans Day Parade** scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday, November 9 are available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or online at www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, November 4. Stay for the **Third Annual VETSports Beach Volleyball** benefit at Gulfport Beach. Food, drinks and items for purchase will be available

courtside. All proceeds benefit VETSports Inc., a 501 (c) 3, tax exempt, wounded warrior non-profit organization. VETSports partner charity for the event is the Major David G. Taylor Scholarship Fund benefitting Major Taylor's son Jake. For more information call 893-1118 or visit www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend.

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

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a **New Year's Eve celebration** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom like none before. *Glitz, Glamour & Glitter* will feature a variety of entertainment and surprises on December 31. Enjoy dancing and live music by the popular party band *Daydreams*, D.J. dance music, party favors, commemorative photo booth, roaming magician and balloon artist, sumptuous decorations, full cash bar, and a midnight ball drop with complimentary champagne toast. Guests are encouraged to dine at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants prior to the event. Late-night tapas will be served after 10 p.m. Tickets: \$35 per person, available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. A limited number of exclusive "VIP Party Rooms," including personal concierge service are available for \$200 each. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the celebration will continue until 1 a.m. For more information visit *Glitz, Glamour & Glitter* on Facebook, call the Beach Bazaar Box Office at 381-8548, or email GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	202
Self-initiated calls for service	371
Offenses	23
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	29

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A boat owner called from out of state on October 24 to report that he was notified by a mechanic that someone was living aboard his sailboat in the Gulfport Marina without permission. The investigation is on-going.

While attempting to serve an arrest warrant in the 5000 block of 29th Avenue on October 25, officers learned that the residents fled the area days before and abandoned their two dogs in the house without food or water. The dogs were turned over to Pinellas County Animal Services, and the owner is being sought for animal neglect charges.

A resident in the 1400 block of York Street came home to find that someone tried to pry open several windows on their home. Entry was not made to the residence.

Officers responded to the 5000 block of 14th Avenue after a resident reported that her scooter was stolen. St. Petersburg Police stopped a 14 year-old in possession of the scooter and arrested him for grand theft auto.

Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the area of 54th Street & Dellett Avenue on October 27 and discovered that one of the participants had an outstanding warrant. Theresa Weaver was arrested for failure to appear for an open container summons.

Eric Balmonte was arrested on felony battery charges early October 27 after he struck a 65 year old man who told him he could not sleep in Veterans Park.

An officer was dispatched to the 5400 block of 17th Avenue after a resident reported that someone ripped a small hole in a screen to again entry to a patio and stole a bicycle valued at \$600. There are no suspects, and the investigation continues.

A resident in the 1700 block of 59th Street reported that a lawn mower and weed eater were stolen from her yard by two white males. A neighbor saw the males in the yard and the victim believes she may know subject who was doing work for her. Later the same day the resident reported that someone entered her home and took a Walther P22 semi-automatic handgun from a dresser.

Officer Nicita made contact with 3 people behind a closed business in the 2200 Block of 49th Street late October 28. One of them, identified as Aaron Labidie had an outstanding warrant for roadway solicitation from Pasco County. He was arrested.

Investigations:

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	3
Cases still active:	4

Records Section

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public records requests:	6
Reports disseminated:	17
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	2
Citizens assisted:	34

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are currently undergoing review: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 114 - Firearms Procedures; 405 - Missing Persons Investigations; 421 - Homicide Investigations, and; 511 - School Resource Officer

A mock accreditation assessment has been scheduled for second week of November. Lt. Stone is updating the files with required proofs of compliance.

Lt. Stone is coordinating training for Firearms Training, Basic First Aid Refresher and Bloodborne Pathogens Refresher.

Officers Lavigne, Marshall and Wodraska are attending a 24 hour training course on Documentation, Report Writing and Courtroom Testimony.

Detective Mclaughlin is attending a 40 hour course on Crisis Intervention Team Training.

Four police officer applicants are undergoing the background investigation process.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand six hundred thirty six (2,636) gallons of gas and eight hundred ninety (890) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred three (103) vessels.

Assisted in twenty seven (27) pump outs evacuating three hundred ninety five (395) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 34' motorboat and a 27' motorboat this week.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Distributed Newsletter and November calendar to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Continued collecting Veterans Parade participant registration forms and Volunteer luncheon RSVPs.
- Updated Recreation Center, events and meeting information on City Website.
- Provided photographic coverage for Mayors Cleanup and Gulfport Under the Stars.
- Sent Yard Sale brochure to printer & Gulfport Gabber, linked to newsletter and uploaded to City website.
- Commenced preparation of Volunteer Luncheon program.

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, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

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

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

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

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

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is November 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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

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

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

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is November 10. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday, November 10 for our monthly **HCA Health Talk: Understanding COPD**. Symptoms are sometimes dismissed as a "smoker's cough." The more you know about the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, & treatment, the better your chances of preventing & treating COPD.

How can changing your outlook to one of appreciation affect your life? Learn how being grateful can bring other positive things into your life with **Law of Attraction: Creating an Attitude of Gratitude** on Wednesday, November 12 at 1:30 pm.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is November 13.

Bring your cell phone to the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 13 when Tony & Christine from **The Cell Phone Solution** will answer your questions about your cell phone.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13.

HBO's **The Alzheimer's Project Documentary Series** continues on Friday, November 14 at 10 a.m. This film highlights the challenges & successes of those who experience a loved one's gradual descent into dementia. Provided by The Alzheimer's Association.

Join in the fun with **Puzzle Pages Puzzle Party** on Friday, November 14 at 11 a.m. Learn to play Sudoku, Binauro and much more! From the Puzzle Pages!

Laughter, Yoga & exercise reduce stress! Learn FUN stress reduction techniques during **Healthy Aging with Heidi Crockett** on Monday November 17 at 2:30 p.m.

Our next **Gulfport Getaways** takes us to Robert's Christmas Wonderland on Tuesday, November 18. Explore the magical holiday forest at one of the largest & most beautiful Christmas & collectibles stores in America. GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8. Call GEMS at 893-2242 no later than November 12 to reserve a seat.

Discover how preplanning works best for you and your loved ones with the **National Cremation Society's That's My Wish** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 19. Discuss 10 things everyone should know about planning cremation services.

The Senior Center's annual **Thanksgiving Dinner & Vaudeville Variety Show** is Thursday November 20. Dinner will be served at 4 p.m. and the show begins at 6 p.m. Join your friends & family for good times, good food, & good company. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE. Tickets MUST be purchased PRIOR to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, October 19 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church bible study (Turnout 49)
6 p.m. - Ballroom fusion lesson & dance with Swingtime (Turnout 89)

Tuesday, October 21 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 18)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 46)

Wednesday, October 22 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 213)

Thursday, October 23 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 25)

Saturday, October 25 7 p.m. - Monster Mash Sock Hop (Turnout 100)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

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

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

Sunday, October 19 1:30 p.m. - The Rising STARZ present *Mamma Mia* (Turnout 170)

Saturday, October 25 7:30 p.m. - The Rising STARZ present *Mamma Mia* (Turnout 43)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

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

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

Scout Hall (last week's events)

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

Monday, October 20 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 11)
11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 28)

Tuesday, October 21 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 4)

Wednesday, October 22 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 20, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, October 21, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners*.

Tuesday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, October 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 22, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class*.

Wednesday, October 22, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 22, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 23, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, October 23, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, October 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 25, noon - *Sunshine Theater auditions*.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, November 6, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop*: Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Friday, November 14, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*: We screen a flick and provide some crunchy

munchies. Enjoy an afternoon networking with other fans.

Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Thursday, November 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Tao te Ching* 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.

Thursday, October 23, 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. Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more info. Space is limited so sign up early!

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.

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

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

Library Services/Statistic October 19 - 25, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,001	592
Sun. 10/19	Library closed	
Mon. 10/20	372	102
Tue. 10/21	360	116
Wed. 10/22	379	99
Thu. 10/23	293	95
Fri. 10/24	270	88
Sat. 10/25	279	82

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty Six (36) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for

children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Fifty four (54) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

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

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport: twenty eight (28) Gulfport Elementary students and two (2) adults to the Pumpkin Patch in St. Petersburg on Wednesday; fifty three (53) Gulfport Elementary students and three (3) adults to the Mahaffey Theater on Thursday, and; twenty eight (28) Tot Time/VPK participants and two (2) adults to Hunsader Farms in Bradenton on Tuesday.

Marivel Gutierrez, Nicole Latragna, Alton Hooker, Joanne McRoberts, Kimberly Titara and Shanoah Washington helped build the Halloween Bash haunted house and Tot Boo room.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 21 new, 9 closed
- Water payments: 821 totaling \$166,467.55
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/29/14: 1,309
- Bright House: 18
- On-Line Water payments: 157 transactions totaling \$10,511.81
- Payroll 10/24/14 158 transactions totaling \$179,890.21

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fire
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crashes
- 4 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 3 C.O's
- 1 Fire Investigation

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com. CERT will assist with traffic & crowd control during the Recreation Center's Spooktacular Halloween Bash.

- Chief Marenkovic hosted the annual officer meeting this week with the three Lieutenants. Discussions included Fire Union negotiations, daily operations, apparatus maintenance and training, PPE and equipment delivered from the County.
- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector/Investigator James Lundh investigated a fire outside a structure on October 29. The St. Petersburg Police Department was also notified.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blockage in beach men's room urinal.
- Repaired vent in Casino men's restroom.
- Assisted in relocating office furniture and equipment at City Hall.
- Transported filing cabinet from City Hall to Casino.
- Upgraded automatic door lock system at beach restrooms.
- Replaced battery in automatic door control at Dog Park.
- Assisted with room set-ups for Senior Center events.
- Delivered Halloween decorations & supplies to Recreation Center.
- Transported 8 tables to City Council Chambers from Scout Hall.
- Relocated filing cabinet at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up tables, chairs etc. for Mayors Cleanup & Gulfport Under the Stars, and removed following events.
- Cleaned Williams Pier and repaired garbage can.
- Continued set-up of Recreation Center haunted house.
- Shelled path at Clam Bayou.
- Repaired lights outside Parks Department building, cigarette butt can outposts at beach pavilions, tree lights at Gulfport Historical Museum, gate at Caldwell Park, and benches at Clam Bayou & Clymer Park.
- Oiled locks on gates at Hoyt Ball Field.
- Set poles for sign markers at Clam Bayou & Tomlinson Park.
- Removed graffiti from beach playground and playground equipment from Tonkin Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Clymer Park, Senior Center grounds, Gulfport signage areas, Recreation Center exercise area & 49th Streetscapes, and hand raked around benches & pavilions.
- Mowed Clymer & Veterans Parks, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center grounds, 28th Street signage area, 56th Street drainage area, Marina green spaces & City complex.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor and adjusted valves on line trimmer, replaced chain bar and chain on pole saw, and performed preventive maintenance on all equipment.
- Repaired irrigation at 49th Streetscapes, Senior Center and Library.
- 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 palm tree and backfilled holes at 49th Street & 27th Avenue and at 54th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Disposed of old tires from City garage.
- Disposed of debris following 49th Street clean-up.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Placed caution tape around bee hive at 5521 16th Avenue.
- Cleared sight obstruction blocking signage at 57th Street & 16th Avenue.
- Delivered (2) 300-gallon sized trash containers for 49th Street Mayor's Cleanup.
- Delivered garbage and recycling containers for Under the Stars event.
- Removed and disposed of playground equipment and concrete pad at Tonkin Park.

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 #45, 46, 47 and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 74 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 6 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.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired leaking backflow at Town Shores Dover building.
- Repaired broken service line at 5925 Gulfport Boulevard.

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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Patched tire on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced window motor on Building Department vehicle #13.
- Performed preventative maintenance on Fire Department vehicles E17 & D17.
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Delivered Sanitation vehicle #30 to Autoway Ford for diagnosis/repair of engine noise.
- Delivered Sanitation vehicle #45 to Florida Fuel Injection for repair of broken turbocharger.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced brakes on Sanitation vehicle #88, and removed “claw” to repair leaking seals.
- Rewired headlight harness and replaced corner marker lamp on Building Department vehicle #3.
- Removed damaged steel rail in hopper of Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Performed various small repairs to City vehicles, and shop maintenance procedures.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

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 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

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

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

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

November 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-18; 5213 Tangerine Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 16 feet, from 25 feet to 9 feet for the proposed construction of a new covered front entry to the house and handicapped ramp.
- V14-19; 908 60th Street South; Variance request to 1). reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet; and 2). reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 2.8 feet from 25 feet to 22.2 feet for the proposed construction of a bedroom addition that attaches the house to the currently detached garage.
- V14-20; 6112 Kipp's Colony Drive West; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 16 feet 10 inches, from 50 feet to 33 feet 2 inches to allow for the removal of existing tie-poles, construct a proposed dock extension, and install a proposed new boat lift.