



Gulfport Community Update

November 9-15, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 in observance of **Thanksgiving Day**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, November 26, Friday's pickup will remain on schedule, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind residents that **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.

For twenty three years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting cash, unwrapped toys and gift cards for needy children living in the City, and is again asking for help. Call 893-1097 for more information or to make a donation.

Several Veterans' groups, local businesses and friends celebrated **Heroes Weekend** on November 9 with a home town parade emceed by Vice Mayor Christine Brown. Councilmember Daniel Liedtke welcomed players and spectators to the Third Annual VETsports Volleyball Open. VETsports is a 501c3 organization helping veterans achieve better physical, mental, and emotional health through sports, physical activity, and community involvement (photos below).



Upcoming Events:

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 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.

Everyone is welcome at the **Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park on the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards on Monday, December 1 at 7 p.m. Bundle up for an evening of festive music with songs performed by children from the Tot Time/VPK & School Year Child Care programs. Join Mayor Henderson, City Council and Yvonne Johnson for caroling. There will be refreshments and festive cheer as the Mayor lights the tree for another holiday season. The big man in red will be there to listen to the little ones' holiday wishes. This is a free admission event and all are welcome! For more information call 893-1118.

Enjoy live music while perusing original art and craft vendors during **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on December 5, 6 - 10 p.m. Then stay for dinner at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants. For more information call 322-5217.

Get your group, family and friends together for a great outdoor activity at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, December 13, 9 - 11 a.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4. Email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com or visit Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Feeling Scrooge-y? Don't get your Tinsel in a Tangle! It's time to get your holiday cheer in gear, and fun-filled festival will do the trick. Support small business by shopping local during the Gulfport Merchants Association's annual **Holiday Hoopla** on Saturday, December 13. The festival will provide shoppers with one-of-a-kind gifts that cannot be found anywhere else, and all of your holiday shopping can be done in one place! Visitors will be enchanted by a variety of festive and fun holiday-themed music, holiday carolers, dance performances, and roving street performers. The Gulfport Merchant's Association gives back to the community all year. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Santa and Gulfport families in need, and new unwrapped toys, gift cards, etc. will be collected for Operation Santa, the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will accept nonperishable food & toiletries for their pantry, and Gulfport's Get Rescued group will collect pet food & cat litter. Donations can be dropped off at the Gulfport Police Department and the Gulfport Area Chamber of commerce prior to the event. This event is sponsored by Bright House Networks, Tampa Bay Times and the City of Gulfport. Visit www.gulfportma.com for more information.

The Holiday spirit continues on the evening on December 13 with the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Boat Parade** along Gulfport Beach at 6 p.m. Sail and power boats are welcome! Entry fee: Two

or more unwrapped toys for Operation Santa. Sign up at BCYC, 4600 Tifton Drive South, or visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information.

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 381-8548 or email GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com.

On January 17, 2015 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S., stepping up as volunteers during our inaugural **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. In partnership with Gulfport Neighbors, the Day of Service will leverage the strength of our community through a variety of service-oriented projects. Now is the time to identify a community service project and form a team. Visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	164
Self-initiated calls for service	402
Offenses	40
Arrests	14
Traffic citations	47

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Priest and the Gulfport Fire Department were dispatched to a reported fire in the alleyway in the 5400 block of 19th Avenue on November 6 and discovered the fence of a residence completely burned down. The siding on the home across the alley was also damaged. It was determined that Sean Simpson built a bonfire and went inside without extinguishing it. He was issued an ordinance violation for open burning and ordered to vacate the house, which had no running water.

A vehicle heading west on 25th Avenue failed to yield the right of way to a southbound motorcycle on 52nd Street, and drove over him. The motorcycle rider was taken to Bayfront Hospital with a compound fracture to his leg. The vehicle driver stated her dog tried to jump out of the window and she tried to grab him and did not see the motorcycle.

A resident 5000 block of Newton Avenue reported that someone entered his vehicle and stole his prescription medication.

Officers responded to the 1500 block of 55th Street on November 7 after the mother of a deceased resident reported she went to his home to retrieve his property, and discovered that a woman who was housesitting for her son had taken his car and two guns. The woman had someone leave the car at a gas station but has not provided information on one of the two guns.

A resident in the 700 block of 60th Street reported that a Hispanic male came by his house to try to sell him a roof treatment. The male took an envelope with \$70 cash from a bedside table after being invited inside, and was last seen leaving the area in a white truck.

A woman reported early November 8 that she was attacked by another woman on a boat docked at the Casino. The victim stated that the other woman struck her over the head with a glass bottle assaulted her with a knife after finding her boyfriend with the victim. Tabitha Mays was arrested on November 10 after she admitted post-Miranda to hitting the victim with a copper mug.

Officers performed a welfare check at a residence in the 4700 block of Coronado Way on November 9 after neighbors reported that their elderly neighbors had not been seen in weeks, and newspapers were stacking up in the driveway. They discovered two decomposed bodies in the house, and the investigation revealed that the man shot the woman with a handgun then took his own.

A resident in the 5400 block of 18th Avenue reported on November 10 that her ex-boyfriend stole the license plate from her vehicle. He left the area before police were called.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 13th Avenue after a caller observed five subjects breaking into a house. The burglars attempted to flee when officers arrived but were apprehended. All were juveniles, two of whom had outstanding warrants. Two were on probation, and one was listed as a runaway.

A resident reported he was walking in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard when a vehicle stopped in the roadway and a black male exited and pointed a gun at him. The suspect took \$200 in cash and a set of keys, then returned to the vehicle and fled on Gulfport Boulevard. The victim was unharmed.

Primitivo Garcia was in the checkout line at Save-A-Lot when the manager noticed he had blocks of cheese stuffed in his back pockets. She called police after he became hostile when she confronted him. After searching his backpack, officers discovered a bottle of cooking oil and horseradish. Garcia was transported to PCJ.

Officers responded to Gulfport Liquors after a caller reported that an employee was intoxicated and threatening customers. Upon arrival they discovered the employee passed out on the floor behind the counter. He was extremely intoxicated and belligerent. The owner responded with another manager and advised that the employee would be fired. The employee's mother and fiancée took him home.

Sgt. Marotta stopped a car in the 1700 Block of 58th Street for an equipment violation. There was a strong odor of marijuana in the car, and a subsequent search revealed a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Driver Dana Nichols admitted the items were his. He was given 2 notices to appear for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Officers responded to the 1200 block of 52nd Street after a caller reported a woman attempting to break into a house. The woman, later identified as Lynette Youngren ran when confronted by an officer, but was captured and arrested. Youngren had a hammer and crowbar with her, and was charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools and resisting an officer without violence.

An unknown subject removed a fence slat to gain entry to a backyard in the 1400 block of 52nd Street on November 12. A garage window was smashed, and the doorknob on the door from the garage to the inside of the home was removed, but the home was not entered.

A caller reported that two young black males in a white car stopped in the 5300 block of 15th Avenue and one of the two approached her with what appeared to be a silver handgun, demanding her purse. She resisted and the suspects fled eastbound on 15th Avenue.

The owner of a sailboat reported it was stolen from Boca Ciega Bay near the Casino Pier. The boat was last seen on November 10.

Officer Petit stopped a car in the 4900 Block of Gulfport Boulevard for an equipment violation. There was a strong odor of marijuana in the car. Driver Anik Islam refused to get out of the car. He was then physically removed from the car and arrested. Officers found a tin containing

marijuana, cash, a scale, ziplock bags and drug paraphernalia in the car. Islam was charged with resisting an officer without violence and possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

Investigations:

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	3

Records Section

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	29
Public records requests:	3
Reports disseminated:	25
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	2
Citizens assisted:	24

Professional Standards Section

Lt. Stone oversaw a mock accreditation assessment this week. Three assessors reviewed files and interviewed employees in preparation for the actual assessment, which will take place in March 2015. All indications are that we are well prepared.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand two hundred seventy (2,270) gallons of gas and seven hundred fifty nine (759) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy two (72) vessels.

Assisted in twenty (20) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty five (345) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 42' sailboat, a 48' powerboat and a 30'sailboat this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Repaired locks & gates on piers 7 (BCYC) and 6.
- Disassembled aluminum shed for expansion.
- Removed restraining poles from kayak platform.
- Installed latches on three fire hose boxes.

- Mounted line hanger on pier 3-20.

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.
- Provided A/V coverage for Gulfport Gabber reception, Relay for Life, Veteran's Parade and Volleyball Open.
- Provided control room coverage for November 5 Planning & Zoning meeting, rebroadcast on GTV616 and uploaded video to City website.
- Updated meeting schedules and Recreation Center, Senior Center & Teen Council information 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, 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.

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.

Enjoy a **Day of Pampering** with Mary Kay on Tuesday, November 25 at 11 a.m.

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 December 1. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Check out the great deals at the **First Friday Flea Market** 9 a.m. - noon on December 5. Find 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 December 8. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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 December 11.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 11.

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 transportation 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, November 2 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church bible study (Turnout 55)
6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with the Royal Blue band (Turnout 51)

Tuesday, November 4 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 25)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 51)

Wednesday, November 5 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 208)

Thursday, November 6 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 31)

Friday, November 7 7 p.m. - PARC Employee Appreciation party (Turnout 155)

Saturday, November 8 7 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 120)

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

Friday, November 14 6:30 p.m. - The Impacs Band & dance Admission \$15

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

Thursday, November 6 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Cat and the Canary* (Turnout 30)

Friday, November 7 5 p.m. - *Front Page News: The Gabber Covers Gulfport* art exhibit reception (Turnout 65)
8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Cat and the Canary* (Turnout 39)

Saturday, November 8 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Cat and the Canary* (Turnout 70)

Catherine Hickman Theater (last upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, November 13-15, 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 16, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Cat and the Canary*: A 1920's melodrama in three acts by John Willard. Enjoy a "campy" old dark house "let's-scare-the-heroine-to death" chiller! Tickets: \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org and at the door one hour before performance.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Thursday, November 6 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 26)

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)

Sunday, November 2 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Monday, November 3 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 37)

Tuesday, November 4 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 6)

Wednesday, November 5 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)

Thursday, November 6 10:30 am - Dance Fusion (Turnout 12)

Friday, November 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (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, November 3, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, November 4, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners.*

Tuesday, November 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 5, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, November 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, November 5, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, November 6, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, November 6, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop.*

Friday, November 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy two newly released movies 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, November 20, 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!

Monday, October 24, 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.

Tuesday, November 25 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, December 4, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop:* Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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 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 near the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic November 2-8, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,906	622
Sun. 11/2	Library closed	
Mon. 11/3	345	119
Tue. 11/4	366	115
Wed. 11/5	327	91
Thu. 11/6	305	106
Fri. 11/7	244	81
Sat. 11/8	279	86

Recreation Center

Upcoming Events

The multi-purpose room was rented 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, November 8 for a Memorial service with approximately fifty (50) in attendance.

The multi-purpose room is reserved 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday November 29 for a baby shower.

Tot Time Stone Soup Social is Friday, November 22. The children will perform plays and sing songs for their parents, and bring different types of vegetables to make stone soup.

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 five (55) 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

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday morning.

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Taryn Spence walked in the Veteran's Day Parade and assisted with the VETSports Volleyball event on Sunday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 15 new, 16 closed

- Water payments: 1,169 totaling \$164,983.68
- Utility Bills Mailed 11/12/14: 1,254
- Bright House: 12
- On-Line Water payments: 175 transactions totaling 10,043.62
- Payroll 11/07/2014: 159 transactions totaling \$172, 291.38

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Single Engine

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 6 Re-Inspections
- 1 Fire Investigation
- 2 Smoke Detectors

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. The CERT Team's Annual Dinner is November 17 at 6 p.m. at Scout Hall.

- GFD has three new portable radios in service. The APX6000 P-25 radios are designed to make firefighters safer while fighting fires inside a structure, with the features such as larger knobs. The universal push-to-talk buttons with enhanced grooves are easy to find by touch; an innovative T-grip design provides a secure grip and better control; the high-contrast color display is easy-to-read in all kinds of light, and the loudspeaker ensures messages are intelligible, even in high noise environments.
- GFD's annual training topic this month is NFPA 1002. Every driver and operator of a fire apparatus needs to be uniquely qualified to meet specific demands based on the influences of the response area. Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications specifies the job performance requirements for fire fighters and fire brigade personnel who drive and operate fire apparatus, in both emergency and non-emergency situations.
- GFD Paramedics and EMTs continued with their November 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Services Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topic is Patient and Provider Safety - Part 2.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired tables at Recreation Center.
- Rewired light at Library.
- Delivered goods from Senior Center to Goodwill.
- Repaired handicap toilet in men's restroom at beach.
- Assisted with room set-ups for Senior Center events.

- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Dismantled Recreation Center haunted house and returned to storage area.
- Removed graffiti from Gulfport Beach playground equipment.
- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Repaired benches at Clymer Park and tennis courts.
- Closed docks at Clam Bayou for repairs.
- Seeded all ball fields.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center grounds and Dog Park, planted flowers at Library & Senior Center, and hand raked around benches & pavilions.
- Mowed Recreation Center & beach green spaces, Chase Block, Dog Park and City Complex.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced throttle cable on line trimmer, and performed preventive maintenance on all equipment.
- Repaired irrigation main on Chase Block.
- 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 and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Completed installation of new sidewalks throughout city.
- Replaced street signs at 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Cleaned up vehicle fluid spill in roadway inside Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.
- Palletized electronics and shrink-wrapped for pick-up.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Delivered millings and removed debris at 59th Street & 20th Avenue.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 14 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- 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.
- Collected Quarterly TTHM's and HAA5's samples on water distribution system.
- Continued bi-annual flushing of water system.
- Repaired water meter lids in Vista Verde.
- Repaired 6" water breaks at 56th Street & 31st Avenue and at 59th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Repaired 1.5" water break at 6217 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

- Replaced lower control arms on GEMS vehicle #3.
- Replaced tires on police vehicles #09 & 116.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

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.pccclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in 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.

The number of code enforcement cases for October was 219. The number of citizen complaints was 23. The ratio of complaints to total number of cases for October was 10.5 percent. The total number of cases for the close of the 2013-14 fiscal year was 2,463, compared to 2,336 cases last fiscal year. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year-end was 221. The ratio of complaints to total number of cases for the 2013-14 fiscal year was 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.

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. RECOMMEND APPROVAL 3-2.
- 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. RECOMMEND APPROVAL 5-0.

November 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment results:

- 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. APPROVED 5-0
- 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. APPROVED 5-0