



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *November 10 - 16, 2013*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 in observance of **Thanksgiving**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday's schedule will not be affected. There will be no yard waste pickup.

More than twenty community organizations participated in the **Veteran's Parade** on Beach Boulevard on November 10. Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful event (photos below).



Immediately following the parade VETSports took on Gulfport Police & Fire during the Second Annual Beach Volleyball on Gulfport Beach. Vice Mayor Dan Liedtke and his wife Michelle spearheaded this epic event which brought hundreds to Gulfport Beach (photo below).



In appreciation of the volunteers who dedicate their time serving City facilities, the City of Gulfport hosted a **Volunteer luncheon** at the Casino on November 13 (photos below). Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers.



**Upcoming Events:**

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the **Pink Flamingo Trolley Tour of Homes** on Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration and parking will be available at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex, 5730 Shore Boulevard. For more information visit [www.pinkflamingohometour.com](http://www.pinkflamingohometour.com) or email [PinkFlamingoHomeTour@gmail.com](mailto:PinkFlamingoHomeTour@gmail.com).

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

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com). For more information call 366-4086

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Administration**

***Calls for Service:***

Dispatch calls for service	158
Officer initiated calls for service	343

Offenses	36
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	32

**Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Officer Horning arrested Daniel Oyster on the morning of November 7 on 3 warrants for violation of probation.

Officers responded to a vehicle accident at the intersection of Royal Palm Drive & Robin Road on the morning of November 7 after a vehicle struck the wall of a home. The car was imbedded in the wall and had to be towed. The driver was cited for driving too fast for conditions and investigated for driving a vehicle while under the influence.

Officers were dispatched to the area of 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of November 8 regarding several females on the ground. When officers arrived they discovered two juvenile females who had been exposed to mace. They stated they stopped to watch a fight between several other females in vehicles who were unknown to them. At some point during the fight one of the involved females sprayed a can of mace and the girls, who were standing downwind, caught some of the spray. They were released to an adult brother.

A seven year old boy riding a skateboard in the 5000 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue was bitten by a dog walking on a leash on the morning of November 9. The boy went to the hospital and Animal Services investigated. While speaking with Ida Newsome about the incident officers discovered she had an outstanding warrant for grand theft auto. She was arrested.

Officers responded to a report of a possible person down at Tomlinson Skate Park on the evening of November 9. Upon arrival they discovered a transient who had fallen asleep in the park. The man was advised that he could not sleep there and he left the area.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard on the evening of November 9 regarding a dispute over a recovered stolen skateboard. An adult female snatched a skateboard from a juvenile, stating it was her son's stolen skateboard. She was able to provide proof of ownership and the board was returned. The parent of the juvenile said the child was hit by the woman when she took the board. There were no independent witnesses and no injuries.

Officer Davis checked on a car parked in a parking lot in the 700 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on the afternoon of November 11. The car had been reported stolen to the St Petersburg Police Department. The owner was contacted and she advised that her aunt took the car. The suspect was located later in the day but denied stealing the car, saying that she was given permission to use it by her niece. SPPD was notified.

A business owner in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard requested police assistance on the evening of November 11 to trespass a patron from the property due to ongoing problems. The male was trespassed and left the business.

Officer Davis stopped Michael Bergbrieter-Piazza in the 4700 block of Emerson Avenue on the morning of November 11 for driving with an expired tag. After speaking with Officer Davis, Bergbrieter-Piazza ran away. The vehicle he was driving was impounded and he faces felony charges of driving while license suspended and resisting an officer without violence. There were also possible narcotics found in the vehicle which were sent to the lab for testing.

Officers contacted a complainant in the 1000 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street on the evening of November 11 regarding an unknown subject threatening to post nude photographs of him on Facebook. It was determined that the complainant took nude photographs of himself and sent them to the subject via Facebook. The subject is threatening to post the photographs publicly.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Warrant Unit requested GPD's assistance with the arrest of a subject for multiple felony warrants on the evening of November 12. During transport, he started kicking the interior of the vehicle. PCSO units restrained him further, and when he

continued behaving in a hostile manner, they deployed a TASER. The suspect was medically cleared by St. Petersburg Fire Rescue and transported by PCSO to the county jail.

Officers responded to Little Tommy's Tiki after the owner reported a rowdy customer. While officers were investigating, Robert Carmichael tried to run away. After a foot chase, Carmichael was apprehended and charged with resisting an officer without violence.

A resident in the 5000 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the afternoon of November 13 that sometime in the last week his bike was stolen from the shed in his back yard. There are no suspects.

While a resident in the 2000 block of Grey Street was out for the evening, someone pried the jalousie windows near the side door of his house to reach in and unlock the door. The burglar made off with a laptop computer and other items.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 5.5 hours this week. Officer Cavanah assisted a man who had fallen from his kayak.

### **Investigations:**

New Cases:	23
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	4
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	9
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements Received:	20
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	5
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	12

Sergeant Woodman exceptionally cleared a case after extradition was declined for a warrant he issued on a person who resides out of state. The warrant was for filing a false police report on a robbery case that was initially cleared with arrest and then discovered to be unfounded. He also exceptionally cleared a domestic battery case due to lack of prosecution by victim.

Detective Hanh Pham arrested Tyler Shields for stealing a bicycle. During the encounter, Detective Pham discovered Tyler had just stolen a Go-ped from a residence in Gulfport. He took Tyler into custody and returned the Go-ped to the owner.

Detective Embry attempted to locate a suspect involved in a credit card fraud case. He also received DNA results from a gun theft case that eliminated the suspect, and is wrapping up assigned cases prior to being transferred back to patrol.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated an altercation preventing a fight from occurring, completed a Baker Act evaluation, and escorted two students off campus after they were suspended from school. He also arrested a student for disorderly conduct and the student was taken to PJAC without incident. Additionally, Officer Motte covered a football game between Boca Ciega and Clearwater High.

School Resource Officer Langston spoke with a student regarding the theft of a cell phone. The phone was not recovered and the student did not wish to make a police report. She also spoke with a concerned parent regarding ROTC students, assisted SPPD with the recovery of a missing/runaway student, assisted investigators on two separate child neglect/abuse cases,

spoke with several students caught skipping class regarding making better decisions, assisted a day shift patrol unit on a runaway juvenile investigation, investigated an allegation of a sex crime that occurred at school, and responded to several campus disruptions throughout the school week.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis for Officer Mills regarding traffic crashes for the calendar year 2013 occurring on 49<sup>th</sup> Street between the Pinellas Trail & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and on Gulfport Boulevard between 49<sup>th</sup> & 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets, completed an analysis for Sgt. Woodman regarding vehicle burglaries occurring since September 1, created and distributed the open case lists, and distributed the PCSO case agent evidence review forms.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	100
Reports disseminated:	27
Public records requests:	0
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	27

### **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand one hundred thirty seven (2,137) gallons of gas, and two thousand one hundred seventy one (2,171) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty two (82) vessels.

#### **Staff activities:**

- Cleaned and disinfected shrimp tank.
- Cleaned dock and decking around piers.
- Rearranged and cleaned food & drink coolers.
- Cleaned and disinfected floors in office and ship store.
- Replaced/retied dock lines on fuel piers and replaced fuel line hoses.
- Marina Staff certified as CLASS A/B Operators of Underground Fueling Tanks (UFT) in Compliance with Federal AET Requirements.

#### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 42' sailboat, 2 30' sailboats, a 19' sailboat and a 37' powerboat this week.

### **LEISURE SERVICES**

#### **Technical Events**

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Commenced post-production of Flood Insurance Community Forum video.

- Provided photographic coverage and event support for Heroes Weekend & Volunteer Luncheon.
- Met with Councilmember Brown to discuss press release.
- Provided control room coverage for November 13 Board of Adjustment meeting and uploaded video to website.
- Continued planning and preparation of Tree City USA recertification.
- Completed design and updates of December Events/Meetings calendar.

## **Parks**

Graded volleyball courts; set up tables, coolers, tents, trash/recycling containers, beer garden & reserved parking areas in preparation for Veteran's Weekend and removed following event.

Repaired and cleaned bird bath at Veterans Park and bench swing behind Recreation Center.

Cleaned graffiti from pavilion picnic tables at beach and Tonkin Park.

Continued replacement of broken picnic tables at beach area.

Replaced bench at Coast Guard station.

Continued installation of Cigarette disposal urns at Beach shelters.

Reset breaker on east fountain light at Wood Ibis Park.

Ordered seed for ball fields and parks.

Inspected irrigation in all City parks and along Streetscapes.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Veterans Park & 49<sup>th</sup> streetscapes; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library & Scout Hall grounds, Chase block, Dog Park, City Complex and 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park.

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

## **Other Activities:**

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

## **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 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.

**HCA Health Talks** return Monday, November 18 at 2:30 pm. Join the experts from HCA as they discuss this month's topic, Heart Health.

Tuesday, November 19 is **National Memory Screening Day** and the Gulfport Senior Center will be offering free, confidential memory screenings 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. National Memory Screening Day is an initiative of Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

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

**Whistling Tom** the Prince of Pucker is coming to the Gulfport Senior Center on Wednesday, November 20 at 2:30 p.m. Tom has whistled his way across Europe, performing in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, & Austria. He began as a child whistling to pass the time away and has perfected an almost unheard of "3 octave range" as a pucker whistler. Come listen to his red hot pucker power and support the Senior Center Food Pantry. Price of admission is a non-perishable food item or small grocery store gift card.

Join your Gulfport Senior Center friends and family for good times, good food, and good company during our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** with all the fixings at noon on Tuesday, November 26. Entertainment provided by The Woodwind Ensemble of the Horizon Band at Eckerd College and dinner generously provided by Brentwood of St. Pete. Tickets: \$6 with proceeds benefitting the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

**Community Resource Partnership (CRP)** is an alliance of health care industry professionals whose mission is to provide support and information on aging and lifetime health care issues to families and individuals. They are committed to educating the community about available resources on aging and health-related issues, including Affording the Retirement Lifestyle you Need, Financial Planning/Insurance, Government/Public Benefits (Medicaid, VA Benefits), Health Care, Legal & Estate Planning, Nutrition & Wellness, and Senior Housing. Join them for an informative presentation at the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 4

You never know what treasures you might find at the **First Friday Flea Market** on December 6, 9 a.m. - noon.

Here's your chance to get som holiday shopping done, grab a bite to eat, or catch a matinee with your Senior Center friends during the **Gulfport Getaway to the Shops at Park Place** on Tuesday, December 10. Stores include: Target, Fashion Bug, Pet Co. and many, many more, plus BJ's Brewhouse, Starbucks, Cold Stone Creamery, Regal Movie Theater! Call 893-2242 before Wednesday, December 4 to reserve a seat. GEMS members; \$6, nonmembers; \$10.

Watch a free movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 10.

Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader Jaclyn Moore will conduct an **I-Pad Workshop** on Thursday, December 12 at 4 p.m. Jaclyn will cover basic functions of the Apple iPad.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every second Thursday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is December 12. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry. Coffee and doughnuts are provided.

Learn how to play Sudoku, Binairo and so much more during **Fun with Puzzle Pages** on Friday, December 13 at 11 a.m.

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.

**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.

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.

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, November 3	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 42)
Tuesday, November 5	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 17) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 3) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing

	6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 41)
Wednesday, November 6	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 239)
Thursday, November 7	6 p.m. - Flood Insurance Seminar (Turnout 145)
Friday, November 8	6 p.m. - Family dinner (Turnout 50)
Saturday, November 9	9:30 a.m. - Bar Mitzvah Service & luncheon 7:30 p.m. - Bar Mitzvah (Turnout 220)

### Casino (Upcoming Events):

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
Thursday, November 21	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
Sunday, November 24	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7

### Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events)

Sunday, November 3	Noon - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) stage setup & rehearsal
Monday, November 4	6 p.m. - GCP stage setup & rehearsal
Tuesday, November 5	6 p.m. - GCP stage setup & rehearsal
Wednesday, November 6	6 p.m. - GCP stage setup & rehearsal
Thursday, November 7	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Cooley Girls</i> (Turnout 37)
Friday, November 8	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Cooley Girls</i> (Turnout 50)
Saturday, November 9	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Cooley Girls</i> (Turnout 62)

### Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

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

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

Sunday, November 3	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 14) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, November 5	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)
Thursday, November 7	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 9) 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare board meeting (Turnout 31)

**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, November 4	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)
Wednesday, November 6	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 14)
Thursday, November 7	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 7)
Friday, November 8	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

**LIBRARY**

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

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

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, November 4, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, November 4, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, November 5, 9 a.m. - *Community Outreach*.

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

Wednesday, November 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, November 6, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

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

Thursday, November 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, November 7, 3:30 - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog*.

Friday, November 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, November 9, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Saturday, November 9, 4 p.m. - *National Novel Writing Month group meeting*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

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

Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. - *International Games Day*: Enjoy a variety of games. Fun for all ages. For more information call Cailey or Sheri at 893-1133.

Tuesday, November 26 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for 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*. 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 November 3 - 9, 2013: Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,0091	627
Sun. 11/3	Library closed	
Mon. 11/4	402	115
Tue. 11/5	353	108
Wed. 11/6	330	118
Thu. 11/7	282	87
Fri. 11/8	334	97
Sat. 11/9	286	86

## Recreation Center

### Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty three (43) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

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

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

Fifty five (55) 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.

**Teen Council** members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Savannah Roderick and Taryn Spence carried the Chamber of Commerce banner during the Veteran's Parade on Sunday.

### Staff Activities

John Lapham worked the Veteran's Day Parade and Volleyball Game on Sunday.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 15 new, 10 closed
- Water payments: 1249 totaling \$194,916.72
- On-Line Water payments: 158 transactions totaling \$9,261.48
- Bright House payments: 24
- Utility Bills Mailed 11/13/13: 1211
- Payroll 11/08/13: 159 transactions totaling \$165,694.40

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### **Calls for Service:**

- 55 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms

- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 2 Water Recues
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

#### **Life Safety:**

- 8 Fire Inspection
- 7 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 1 Plans Review

The **CERT Team** will host their annual member dinner on Wednesday, November 20 at 6 p.m. at Scout Hall. 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:**

- The Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association met with Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration on November 7 to start discussions and identify areas to improve processes, collaboration, gaps in services, and areas of efficiency to address in next service agreements for a five year agreement contract. They also reviewed all ALS First Responder (ALSFR) and Fire Protection (FP) Agreements to ensure they reflect current operations.
- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in Florida Gas Propane Emergencies training hosted by Pinellas Park Fire Department. Every aspect of installation, storage, and tank filling is considered to ensure worry-free operation. The strict safety codes mandated by the propane industry are further enhanced by propane's naturally safe features.
- The Division of State Fire Marshal Offices presented the Fire Department with a Certificate of Appreciation for 100% compliance on the (NFIRS) reporting for 2012. GFD has received this award every year since 2007.
- Inspector Vento made contact with a new occupant who failed to submit for Business Tax Licensing and advised them of specific direction to obtain and submit to the City's Community Development Department.
- Inspector Vento Reviewed the County Excel Spreadsheet for Gulfport Caution Notes. The county requested revisions/deletions to aid countywide review.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance:**

- Replaced 6 florescent bulbs at Fire Station, snaked and degreased main drain line from kitchen through restrooms, removed scale build up in men's restroom drain line, replaced parts in 3 toilet tanks, re-plumbed kitchen drain trap, and replaced rusted strainer and tail pieces.
- Replaced urinal seal at Library.
- Removed and stored remaining Halloween decorations at Recreation Center.
- Painted 2 interior walls at Neighborhood Center.
- Reattached drain line and faucet on girl's restroom sink in at Recreation Center.
- 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 leaf 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.
- Graded and filled alleyway at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Filled hole and graded parking lot at Veterans Park.
- Graded Beach parking lot.
- Removed debris from Tangerine Avenue storm grates.
- Continued curbside automated street sweeping.
- Completed requests for service per City Manager direction.
- Disposed of mirror from Recreation Center.
- Replaced crosswalk signs and cones at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Reset “No Parking” signs on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile at Neighborhood Center.
- Reset storm drain lid at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed debris from the storm drain at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed chains, locks, and cones at school crossings.
- Installed “Do Not Enter” signs at Ohio Court and at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Beach Boulevard.

## **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 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 81 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Installed remote antenna on 30 water meters.
- Replaced 1 water meter that was stuck and not recording usage.

## **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.
- Inspected sewer lateral at 2732 Beach Boulevard.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced power steering cooler on Police Vehicle #02.
- Replaced water pump and thermostat on Police Vehicle #54.
- Welded pin into place and replaced hopper packing blade assembly pin shoe on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Adjusted slack adjusters for brakes on Sanitation Truck #41.
- Repaired front loader bucket assembly on Parks Department Tractor #73.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

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

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

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

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for October was 243. The number of citizen complaints was 12, for a ratio (complaints to total number of cases) of 4.9 percent.

The number of code enforcement cases for the last fiscal year, ending September 30, 2013, was 2,336 cases. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year 178, which represented an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.6 percent.

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

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).

**November 13, 2013 Board of Adjustment results:**

V13-08; 4737 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South: Variance request to reduce the front setback requirement by 10 feet from 25 feet to 15 feet for the proposed construction of an open raised deck. APPROVED.