



# *Gulfport Community Update*

*October 27 - November 2, 2013*

## **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

The Gulfport Recreation Center hosted the **Spooktacular Halloween Bash** on Halloween Night. This annual event provides a great opportunity for families in our community to have a safe and fun Halloween (photos below).



**Daylight Savings Time** ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 3 and the Gulfport Fire Department would like to remind everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors while setting clocks back.

Gulfport City Hall will be closed Monday, November 11 in observation of **Veterans Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

## **Upcoming Events:**

The City of Gulfport will host a **Flood Insurance Community Forum** at the Gulfport Casino on Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m. Pinellas County Property Appraiser Pam Dubov, and insurance and real estate professionals will discuss the 2012 Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform act, implications of the flood insurance rate hike and how it will affect Gulfport Residents.

The **Citywide Yard Sale** is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Brochure maps are available online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](http://www.mygulfport.us/yardsale), all City facilities through Friday, and the Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue the day of the sale.

Stroll Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district during **First Friday Art-Walk** on November 1, 6 - 10 p.m. and enjoy local authors, entertainers and talented independent artists. Call 322-5217 for more information.

**Poe's House of Horrors** continues through Saturday, November 2, 7 - 10 p.m. at the City of Imagination Gulfport Arts Center, 2726 54<sup>th</sup> Street South. Set your imagination loose if you dare, as visitors are treated to 10 dioramic art exhibits of Poe's most popular horror stories produced by scenic artist Dean Wick. Due to the nature of the material and Poe's precision and poignancy in description some of the displays are not for the faint of heart. Admission: \$10. For more information call 259-8734.

Stop by for a good meal at the **Lions Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, November 2, 7 a.m. at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. Admission: \$5 at the door. Call 321-5717 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). Give some and get some at the Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA during Gulfport Fresh Market Tuesday, November 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 366-4086

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

Boca Ciega Yacht Club will host the **One Design Championships** in beautiful Boca Ciega Bay November 9 & 10. Visit [www.sailbcyc.org](http://www.sailbcyc.org) or call Race Chair Mark Rother at 535-2602 for more information.

The **Hero's Weekend Veterans Parade** is scheduled for Sunday, November 10 at noon. The parade begins at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Beach Boulevard and travels south on Beach, then west on Shore Boulevard. To register, visit [www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend](http://www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend). Stick around to cheer on the VETSports Wounded Warrior non-profit organization and the Gulfport Public Safety Beach Volleyball team during the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beach Volleyball benefit** beginning at 1 p.m. In addition to high-energy action-packed beach volleyball, enjoy live music by Brigid's Cross, VETSports merchandise, food & drinks courtside. The beach volleyball courts are located at 5500 Shore Boulevard.

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 19, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	180
Officer initiated calls for service	338
Offenses	39
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	37

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

A resident in the 900 block of 62<sup>nd</sup> Street reported on the morning of October 24 that both of his unlocked vehicles had been burglarized overnight. Nothing was missing from either vehicle.

A short time later a resident in the 6100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his unlocked vehicle had been burglarized overnight. Nothing was missing.

Officers responded to the 5500 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of October 24 after a resident reported that her beach cruiser was stolen from her backyard. She was able to provide the serial number for the bicycle.

Officers responded to the 1300 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of October 25 after a resident reported that he returned home to find a black male in his early 50s exiting his front yard. He then discovered that someone had attempted unsuccessfully to enter his home through the back door.

A resident in the 2300 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street reported in the early morning hours of October 26 that he returned from work to discover his outdoor storage room pried open. A lawnmower was taken, and his classic which was car parked in the carport had been tampered with.

Officers stopped a vehicle in the 5800 block of Gulfport Boulevard for a nonworking headlight after the driver failed to maintain his lane. It was determined the driver was impaired by alcohol. He was arrested after providing two breath samples which resulted in a .176 and .171, more than twice the legal limit of .08.

Officer Merriam attempted to stop a dark blue Volkswagen Beetle after smelling a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car. When he activated his emergency lights the car fled and was last seen heading eastbound on Gulfport Boulevard.

Officer Merriam ran the tag on a Nissan Altima and discovered it was reported stolen out of St Petersburg. The driver fled into St Petersburg and Officer Merriam lost sight of the car.

An officer observed a transient attempting to panhandle in front of a business in the 1600 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of October 27. The man was advised that he was not allowed to panhandle and released after providing the officer with his Florida identification card.

Officers responded to a late reported theft in the 2600 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Way on the evening of October 27 after a resident advised that a friend may have stolen a laptop computer and \$1000 cash during a recent visit. An investigation determined that the laptop was pawned at a local pawn shop by the friend.

While police were investigating the laptop theft, a resident in the 2600 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street reported that a television was stolen from their home. Police suspect the same subject is responsible for both crimes.

A caller reported that sometime between October 25 & October 28, someone scratched the letter B on the trunk of her car and flattened one the tires while it was parked in the 5100 block of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are no suspects.

A business owner in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard reported on the morning of October 28 that someone had cut four strands of lights that she used to decorate a bike chained to a tree in front of the business. There are no suspects.

Police charged a woman with child abuse after she got into an argument with her younger brother in the front yard of their grandmother's home. The boy threw a cup of koolaid on his sister, and she responded by throwing bleach on him. The woman then went into the house and returned with a knife, threatening to stab her brother. The grandmother and the brother refused to cooperate in the investigation.

Officers arrested Mark Fulton on an outstanding arrest warrant for four counts of felony probation violation. Fulton managed to avoid capture for over a year and a half. He was located by police at Town Shores.

Employees of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard requested a welfare check on a woman, later identified as Lisa St. Romain who acting strangely in the store. Paramedics responded to check St. Romain and determined she did not need to, or want to, go to the hospital. While she looked through her purse in front of officers, illegal narcotics came into plain view. St. Romain was arrested for possession of controlled substances.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	10
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	5
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements Received:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	8

Detective Pham was acting CIS supervisor while Sgt. Woodman was on vacation. He also conducted follow-up investigations on assigned cases this week and obtained good leads for several of those cases.

Detective Embry attempted to locate a suspect involved in an aggravated battery case and a suspect involved in a grand theft auto case, both with negative results. He will continue to try to locate both suspects and follow up on assigned cases.

School Resource Officer Motte assisted SPPD with three truants attempting to steal a bicycle in St. Petersburg. They attended Boca Ciega High School and were identified when one of the three attempted to return to school after the attempted theft. He was detained until SPPD arrived and was released to their custody without issue. SRO Mott also covered a football game between Boca Ciega High and Dunedin High with Boca Ciega winning the game.

Officer Langston assisted with the day shift on October 25 while school was closed for a Staff Development day. She also assisted a child protection investigator regarding an allegation of parental neglect/abuse; met with parents and a student regarding an ongoing bullying issue occurring on and off campus; responded to a disturbance after school and investigated the alleged theft of a cell phone. The phone was later determined to have been taken for safe keeping by a friend who returned it to the complainant student. Additionally, Officer Langston

assisted SPPD on a separate call involving students who were observed off campus in St. Petersburg and investigated an allegation that a student was cutting herself. An evaluation conducted by Officer Langston and the guidance counselor determined that the student did not meet the criteria for a Baker Act. She also worked two assignments providing security coverage for the homecoming game and dance.

Analyst Palmisano updated a previous analysis of burglaries to vehicles occurring in the area west of 58<sup>th</sup> Street between 11<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenues. There have been 13 vehicle burglaries and one grand theft auto that appear to be related since September 18. In all cases the vehicles were left unlocked. Analyst Palmisano also attended training on the new pawn database that Pinellas County is transitioning to, and commenced setting up user accounts for detectives and officers and training them in how to use the new system. While viewing data in the Pinellas County crime viewer website she noted anomalies and determined that the data was not 100% accurate, and contacted PCSO who determined that there was error in how the data was being coded when being moved from the records database to Crime Viewer. This problem has been forwarded to the appropriate department to be resolved. She also created and distributed an Attempt to ID bulletin for Det. Pham regarding a credit card fraud.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	30
Supplements reviewed:	117
Public records requests:	34
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	20

### **Professional Standards**

The following Policies are in the review process: 105 - Arrest and Transport Procedures; 114 - Firearms Procedures; 120 - Infectious Diseases, and; 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence.

The following Policies were updated and distributed this week: 310 - Mutual Aid Agreement and 645 - Traffic, Boating, DUI and Parking Tickets

Officer Mclaughlin attended a two-hour background investigator training seminar.

Crime Analyst Palmisano is coordinating training on the new pawn database used for investigations.

Two Police Officer applicants have been given conditional offers of employment. GPD has 11 additional applications on file.

Officer Mclaughlin conducted a recruitment presentation at the Polk State College Criminal Justice Academy in Winter Haven. He also attended Background Investigator training in Kissimmee on October 24 and a Law Enforcement Job Fair at Hillsborough Community College on October 25, distributing more than 50 recruitment packages.

### **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand eight hundred sixteen (1,816) gallons of gas, and one thousand one hundred forty four (1,144) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred six (106) vessels.

### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed 31' sailboat and a 20' motorboat this week.

## **Staff Activities:**

- Replaced diesel hose and 30 micron fuel filter on pump one.
- Repaired gate locks on pier one and pier six, gate G.
- Cleaned and inspected spill buckets parking lot.

## **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.
- Continued Citywide Yard Sale preparations and delivered brochure to all City facilities.
- Continued event preparation for November 7 Flood Insurance Community Forum & November 26 Water Conservation Seminar.
- Called neighboring Public Information Officers to discuss Flood Insurance Seminar. Distributed Flyer & Press Release to Countywide PIO group and Kathleen Peters Office.
- Continued Heroes Weekend & Volunteer Luncheon event preparations.
- Met Bob Williams & Chamber to discuss Pink Flaming Trolley Tour. Contacted trolley drivers and confirmed times.
- Met with Ward 4 Councilmember Michael Fridovich at the Neighborhood Center on Monday for photo shoot.

### **Parks**

Continued lake cleanup at Wood Ibis & Tomlinson Parks.

Commenced replacement of picnic tables at beach area.

Installed cigarette disposal urns at beach shelters, and tennis court benches at Chase Park.

Continued setup of Recreation Center Halloween haunted house and Boo Room.

Inspected all parks for repairs, and repaired electrical outlets on concession stand at Little League, PVC fence at marina and Beach playground gates.

Cleaned little league restrooms.

Transported popcorn machine from Library to Recreation center.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Senior Center grounds, Veterans Park and beach & 49<sup>th</sup> streetscapes; cleared excess vegetation from Tangerine Lake, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, Caldwell & Tomlinson Parks and Tangerine Greenway & lakeside.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevard 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:**

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

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

**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.

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.

Join us on November 4 at 2:30 p.m. for **Medicare Made Clear**, an informational seminar discussing the differences between Medicare plans, choosing the right one, understanding enrollment windows, and finding Medicare resources.

Want to eat healthy but don't have the time? Join Heidi Crockett from Aging Care Advocates, Inc. for **Quick Healthy Eating Tips for Busy People & Singles** on Wednesday, November 6 at 1:30 p.m. Heidi will discuss which power bar, frozen dinner, and fast food meals are better and why. Don't be fooled, it is possible to eat healthy with little time or effort.

The Senior Center is planning a **special trip to Sam's Club** for participants on Tuesday, November 12. Enjoy all the benefits of being a member for the day: Optical, Hearing Aid Center, Pharmacy, Home, Auto, Grocery, Bakery and more. Senior Center members will receive a gift card for signing up for a new Sam's Club membership or renewing an existing membership. GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$8 round trip. Be on the lookout for future Gulfport Getaways.

The holiday season can be a time of contrasting emotions. Getting together with family and friends can be both joyful and stressful. Join Master Life Coach Kathy Lane for **Creating a Better Holiday** on Wednesday, November 13.

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

Want to learn to use your Smartphone, downloading Apps, take pictures, add contacts or adjust your phone settings? Tony and Christine from The Cell Phone Solution will answer your questions during the **Cell Phone class** at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 14.

**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 are \$6.00 with proceeds benefitting the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

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

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

The **Coffee Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

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

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a call? Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

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

**Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center**

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

Sunday, October 20	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 49)
Tuesday, October 22	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 12) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 7) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 32)
Wednesday, October 23	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 188)
Thursday, October 24	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsaween Costume party & dance (Turnout 36)
Saturday, October 26	7 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 150)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
Every Thursday	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Thursday-Saturday, November 7-9 & 14-16, 8 p.m., & Sunday, November 10 & 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, October 20	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 37) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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**Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):**

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

Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study
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**Scout Hall (Last week's events):**

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, October 21	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 8) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)
Thursday, October 24	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, October 25	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

**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, October 21, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, October 21, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, October 22 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, October 22, 10 a.m. - *Community Law National Pro Bono Week* discussion of access to courts and legal resources.

Tuesday, October 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, October 23, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, October 23, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 23, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 24, 8 a.m. - *Senior Center Foundation Board meeting*.

Thursday, October 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, October 24, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Turn of the Screw* by Henry James.

Thursday, October 24, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners workshop*.

Thursday, October 24, 7 p.m. - *Paranormal Tools & Techniques with Bonnie Korniak*.

Friday, October 25, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Saturday, October 26, 2 p.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera Workshop* facilitated by Cathy Salustri.

### Upcoming Events:

Saturday, November 2 & 9, 4 p.m. - *National Novel Writing Month*: create that masterpiece of literature you've been putting off. For more information call Sheri at 893-1074.

Thursday, November 7, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop*: Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited, stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to preregister.

Thursday, November 7, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog*: Boost your young reader's confidence while enjoying a short favorite with a gorgeous Golden Retriever. For more information call 893-1133.

Saturday, November 9, 1:30 p.m. - *Crafts Club for All Ages*: Pat returns with ideas for Veterans Day and fall crafts using recycled materials. Call 893-1133 for more information.

Thursday, November 14, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera Workshop*: Build on skills learned in the Beginning class. Space is limited, stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to preregister.

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.

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*. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto:rriddell@gmail.com).

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

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

Every Saturday, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Participants in grades 1-12 will attend workshops and have the opportunity to create a book. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents welcome to attend. For more information call 893-1073.

### Library Services/Statistic October 20 - 26, 2013:

#### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,926	599
Sun. 10/20	Library closed	
Mon. 10/21	326	104
Tue. 10/22	295	101

Wed. 10/23	333	99
Thu. 10/24	312	98
Fri. 10/25	331	102
Sat. 10/26	297	84

## **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.

### **Staff Activities**

John Lapham used the school bus on Wednesday afternoon to transport Boca Ciega High School Homecoming Parade participant to the starting point.

Staff set up the Recreation Center for the Annual Halloween Bash this week.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Outside Fire
- 1 Structure Fire (Working Fire)
- 1 Unconfirmed Structure Fire
- 1 Traffic Incident
- 1 Fire Alarm

### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Annual Inspection

- 7 Re-inspections
- 5 CO Inspections

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, November 21 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Lt. Huffman, Lt. Poirrier, & Lt. Fuchs met to discuss operational issues and internal policies to ensure consistency between all shifts and personnel.
- C-shift personnel provided standby coverage for the Boca Ciega High School football game on October 25.
- All crews continued with 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fire training to ensure consistency between fire departments throughout Pinellas County.
- The A-shift responded to a structure fire at 5632 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue on October 30. Upon arrival they discovered heavy fire on the east side of the structure and quickly extinguished the flames, then searched the residence for possible victims. The hard work and quick actions of the crew contained the fire to the exterior of the structure with minimal damage to the interior.
- The C-shift responded to a patient in full Cardiac Arrest on October 25. The crew quickly initiated CPR and Advanced Life Support care and regained a pulse before arrival at the Emergency Room. The patient was transferred to a Cardiac Facility.
- Inspector Vento attended two on-line “Webinars: Low Frequency alarms and Top Challenges of NFPA 25. He also worked on test results for Dollar General’s water flow results, and inspected the Recreation Center Halloween haunted house.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance:**

- Hung Halloween Banners and assisted Recreation Center staff with construction of Haunted House & Boo Room.
- Scraped paint at Recreation Center in preparation for repainting
- Cleaned Little League restrooms and repaired leak in City Hall restrooms.
- Repaired Police Station closet door.
- Repaired door and toilet valve at Library.
- Flushed blocked drain at Senior 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 leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.

- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Picked up street signs from St. Pete Sign Company.
- Reset street sign at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 50<sup>th</sup> Street between 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenues.
- Completed asphalt patchwork on Marina parking lot and at various City locations.
- Completed roadway clean-up following debris/material spill.
- Treated storm water inlets for weeds.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates on Tangerine Avenue storm drain outfall at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Replaced broken storm drain lid at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard and reset storm drain lid at Beach Boulevard & Dellett Avenue.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Added fill and graded roadway on Pasadena Point Boulevard.
- Installed new “Free Mulch Site” sign at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed low branches/sight obstructions from roadways.
- Removed and disposed of broken playground equipment, and wooden debris left beside Casino.
- Added sand and fill to playground area.

#### **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 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 13 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 32 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 12 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.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 5 old water meters with new style meters.

#### **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 primer valve, and both batteries and temperature sensor on Fire Truck #P17.
- Replaced lower control arms on Police Vehicle #102.
- Replaced tension struts on Police Vehicle #12.
- Replaced left rear wheel sensor and repaired open circuit for ABS brake system on Recycle Truck #40.
- Replaced hopper blade proximity sensor switch on Sanitation Truck #43.
- 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.

Business Licenses are good October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If a license is not renewed by October 1, a 10 percent penalty will be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid.

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 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..

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:**

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.