



Gulfport Community Update

November 16 - 22, 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 collection.

Mayor Sam Henderson, City Council and City staff honored all 2013/14 volunteers at the annual **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** at the Gulfport Casino on November 12 (photo below).



Gulfport Elementary students endured the cold to learn the importance of the Gulfport Police, Fire and Public Works departments and how they can help individually during the **Great American Teach-in** on November 19 (photos below).



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.

Upcoming Events:

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	105
Self-initiated calls for service	596
Offenses	16
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	51

Significant incidents or calls this week:

The owner of a business in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue reported on the morning of November 13 that someone attempted to pry open a garage door but was unsuccessful. The door was damaged.

A St. Petersburg resident reported that someone used her personal identity to obtain a prescription for drugs which was filled at the Gulfport Walgreen's.

Officers were advised that a juvenile left home and had not been heard from for nearly a full day. He was located and returned to his parents without incident, and the family was provided assistance information for substance abuse issues.

Officers were dispatched to the 5700 block of 21st Avenue after a caller reported his ex-girlfriend that was on scene and upset that he had a female visitor. The woman was sent on her way and advised to not return.

Officers responded to 58th Street & 15th Avenue on the evening of November 15 after a caller reported a male beating on the gas pumps at the gas station and shouting at a female. When officers arrived, Glenn Albritton was upset that his car wouldn't start. Albritton was extremely hostile towards all officers on scene and repeatedly challenged them. He was eventually arrested for disorderly intoxication.

A resident in the 2600 block of 45th Street reported that his .380 caliber handgun was stolen from his house. He believes the suspect was someone who had been visiting him.

A witness reported that a juvenile stole a bicycle while the owner was inside a store in the 1400 Block of 49th Street. The suspect was last seen riding into St Pete.

A store employee called to report that a customer had just stuffed items down his pants. Officer Wodraska stopped Timothy Jones as he was exiting the store and found several items stuffed into a second pair of pants that Jones was wearing. He was arrested for theft.

A Pelican Bay Plaza resident reported on the morning of November 16 that someone used his name and social security number to obtain a credit card online.

Several complaints were received concerning the volume the band playing at Salty's. Noise readings showed a violation and after being warned several times the establishment was issued a noise ordinance violation.

A resident in the 2200 block of 52nd Street reported that he was battered by his neighbor during an argument. Donald Bates was arrested for punching his neighbor, causing a minor injury.

A resident in the 2200 block of Beach Boulevard reported on the morning of November 17 that a scooter had been left in the alleyway. The scooter had been stolen from a nearby residence sometime overnight and the owner did not realize it was gone until contacted by officers.

An employee at Peninsula Inn stepped away from the front desk for an interview with a magazine and discovered her wallet, containing a large sum of cash and several credit cards, was missing from her purse when she returned.

A resident in the 1800 block of York Street reported that over the last 7 months his son and several friends stole multiple items from his house and pawned them.

Branden Paine was arrested at his residence November 18 on an outstanding warrant for a probation violation. He was taken into custody without incident.

Officers responded to the 1100 block of 52nd Street on November 19 after a caller reported that a dog had been hit by a car. Officer Obrart reached out to the dog to allow him to smell her hand and was bitten on the finger. The officer's injury was minor but the dog was quarantined by Pinellas County Animal Services for observation.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of Preston Avenue regarding a child in possession of a gun. Officers found the 15 year old male in his room with a loaded gun on the bed next to him. He was arrested for minor being in possession of a firearm.

Officers Cavanah & Nicita manned the Marine Unit this week and cited two boaters for no anchor light after dark. Sergeant Burkhart observed Officer Nicita while he completed part of the test required for him to be a solo marine unit officer.

Investigations:

New cases:	23
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	24
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	17

Detective Pham completed 6 supplements; conducted follow-up investigations; typed reports, and; conducted pawn checks in an attempt to locate stolen property.

Detective Crowson worked on supplements and attended a homicide conference this week.

School Resource Officer Motte conducted traffic stop training with members of the Explorer post; gave three presentations at Gulfport Elementary for the Great American Teach-in; arrested a suspended student for trespassing after warning and criminal mischief at BCHS, and; arrested two students for attempted grand theft auto and vehicle burglary.

School Resource Officer Langston attempted to locate two missing juveniles from SPPD with one successful recovery; investigated a bike theft, two disturbances, one 911 hang up and one medical call. She also assisted Officer Motte with a burglary/theft investigation, and conducted surveillance of the bike rack areas due to recent thefts of bikes; spoke with the grandparent of a student regarding a disturbance that occurred off campus; spoke with a female student regarding her relationship concerns; conducted traffic control on 11th Avenue, and provided security at a BCHS girls' varsity basketball game.

Margaret Palmisano attended a two-day property crimes conference in Orlando; completed the monthly PCSO call out report; created a crime prevention flyer on holiday shopping safety to be posted on the Gulfport Police Facebook page, and assisted Officer Novak with a pawn search for a theft investigation.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	4
Supplements reviewed:	66
Public records requests:	14
Reports disseminated:	25
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	15
Citizens assisted:	50

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are in the review process: 101A - Intermediate Weapons; 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 127 - Physical Abilities Test Program; 408 - Traffic Law Enforcement, and; 421 - Homicide Investigations.

The following policies have been reviewed and distributed to personnel; 114 - Firearms Procedures; 405 - Missing Persons Investigations, and 511 - School Resource Officer.

Venice Police Department Accreditation Manager Lee Lyons, Tarpon Springs Police Sergeant Frank Ruggiero and Largo Police Officer Haley Sequeira conducted a mock assessment at the GPD on November 13 & 14. The final assessment will take place in April.

Training Coordination

Lt. Stone is coordinating Basic First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogens and Taser refresher training.

Detective Jennifer Crowson is attending a 40-hour Florida Homicide Investigators Association training conference in Orlando this week.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand eight hundred nineteen (1,819) gallons of gas and six hundred ninety six (696) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety eight (98) vessels.

Assisted in nineteen (19) pump outs evacuating two hundred ninety five (295) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 25' motorboat, a 48' motorboat and a 30'sailboat this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Installed/replaced pylon caps throughout Marina
- Replaced all dock lines on fuel docks
- Repaired security gate at BCYC.

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 December calendar to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Provided A/V coverage for Volunteer Luncheon and Great American Teach-in.
- Provided control room coverage for November 18 City Council meeting, rebroadcast on GTV615 and uploaded video to City website.
- Updated meeting schedules, Recreation Center and MLK Day of Service information on City Website.
- Working on draft script for PSA.

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.

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

Barbara Newborn returns at 3 p.m. Monday, December 1 with her latest lecture series topic: **Empowerment of Healing - Mind, Body, & Soul**. Join Barbara as she guides attendees to empower their whole being.

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

Join Michelle Stone & Shands Greenlee for the **Are You Prepared for Retirement? Educational seminar** on Wednesday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. Call 893-5657 to RSVP.

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.

Calling all bakers to the **Christmas Cookie Swap** at 10 a.m. Monday, December 8. Bring 4 dozen of your favorite **HOMEMADE** holiday cookies, candy, or treats to share. Participants **MUST** RSVP by December 4 with the type of treat you will bring. Call 893-5657 for more information.

The **Senior Center Foundation Members' annual meeting** is Monday, December 8 at 3 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 592-1933.

Eckerd College OLLI presents **Route 66: America's Mother Road** on Monday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Learn how Route 66 reflected the hopes & aspirations of all Americans in the mid-twentieth century. Call Eckerd College at 864-7600 RSVP. Admission: \$5 to OLLI.

Walgreens will offer **Flu Shots** at the Gulfport Senior Center 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 10. Bring your insurance card or \$31.99.

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 9	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with the Royal Blue band (Turnout 62)
Tuesday, November 11	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 21) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)
Wednesday, November 12	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 219)
Thursday, November 13	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance with Carol Rivera (Turnout 15)
Friday, November 14	7 p.m. - The Impacs band & dance (Turnout 440)
Saturday, November 15	7 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 132)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

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

Sunday, November 9	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>The Cat and the Canary</i> (Turnout 75)
Thursday, November 6	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Cat and the Canary</i> (Turnout 64)
Friday, November 7	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>The Cat and the Canary</i> (Turnout 51)

Saturday, November 8 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Cat and the Canary* (Turnout 99)

Catherine Hickman Theater (last upcoming events):

Saturday, November 22, 2 p.m. - The Sunstation Show Chorus presents *Celebrate America* with music that reflects who we are in terms of patriotism, culture, diversity and history. Tickets: \$15, available at the Casino, online at www.sunstationshowchorus.com or by calling 530-7190.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, November 9 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 30)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, November 10 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting (Turnout 14)

Tuesday, November 11 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 8)

Thursday, November 13 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 7)

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

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

Scout Hall (last week's events)

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

Monday, November 10 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 22)

Tuesday, November 11 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 7)

Wednesday, November 12 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)

Thursday, November 13 10:30 am - Dance Fusion (Turnout 11)

Friday, November 14 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

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 10, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting* facilitated by Dave Mather.

Monday, November 10, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, November 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, November 12, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class*.

Wednesday, November 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, November 12, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, November 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, November 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*.

Friday, November 14, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day* facilitated by Sheri Stanley.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Friday, December 5, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets. We'll build awesome forts and watch a family movie. Popcorn provided! For more information call Cailey at 893-1133 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Saturday, December 20, 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.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at riddell@gmail.com. **Please note: the November 26 meeting is cancelled.**

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 9 - 15, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,951	604
Sun. 11/9	Library closed	
Mon. 11/10	370	124
Tue. 11/11	Holiday - Library closed	
Wed. 11/12	455	135
Thu. 11/13	425	127
Fri. 11/14	382	115
Sat. 11/15	261	78

Recreation Center

Upcoming Events

The multi-purpose room is reserved 6 - 10 p.m. Saturday November 22, and 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday November 29 for baby showers.

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 seven (57) 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

Marivel Gutierrez and Nicole Latragna attended the Volunteer Luncheon on Wednesday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Gulfport Teen Council meeting on Friday.

Six **Gulfport Teen Council** members were in attendance at the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated the meeting. Topics discussed: Advisor report; approval of the October minutes; special events; old business and new business.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 26 new, 25 closed

- Water payments: 1,134 totaling \$141,392.41
- Utility Bills Mailed 11/19/14: 1638
- Bright House: 29
- On-Line Water payments: 164 transactions totaling \$9,483.85
- Accounts Payable 11/14/14: 766 transactions totaling \$922,063.85
- Mail processed: 854 pieces totaling \$796.38

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas leak
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 16 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O
- 1 Plans Review
- 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, December 18 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 Paramedics and EMTs continued 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.
- The Gulfport Fire Department has received their Certification for 100% compliance with the State of Florida Fire Marshall Fire Incident Reporting System (FFIRS) & National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFRS).
- Chief Marenkovic attended the PALS meeting in Oldsmar on November 18. Discussions included approval of the Minutes from October 21 meeting; an overview of the new protocols that will be implemented in January 2015; new Pediatric Handtevy bags; Trauma Alert Transport times, and; medication root analysis.
- Lieutenant Fuchs and the "A" Shift participated in the Great American Teach-in at Gulfport Elementary School and the Season of Care Day School VPK Preschool on November 19.
- GFD is hosting two Paramedic students from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. FF/PM Grady & FF/PM are the preceptors for "B" and "C" shifts.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced Fire Department dining area a/c compressor.

- Rewired light fixture on Library signage.
- Obtained soil samples from behind Police Department and Parks shop.
- Reset clock timer for Casino outdoor restrooms.
- Cleaned carpet, and set up Council Chambers for meetings.
- Replaced ballast in Garage office.
- Completed monthly pest control at City buildings.
- Replaced a/c filters on all City units.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Shelled paths at Wood Ibis Park and removed pepper trees from lake edge.
- Removed graffiti from Tomlinson Park playground equipment.
- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Repaired/replaced concrete benches behind Casino.
- Built stakes for tree and tested lights in preparation for Holiday Tree Lighting event.
- Installed Bryer Hall sign at arts building.
- Repaired landscape globe for resident following City vehicle strike.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed palms along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Police compound, Marina green spaces, Dog Park and Chase block.
- Mowed Tomlinson Park, Pinellas Trail Spur and Fire Station grounds.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced clutch on line trimmer and pull start on stick edger, repaired tires, changed fluids and tightened chain on aerator, adjusted bed knife and tightened drive chains on ball field reel mowers, and performed preventive maintenance on all equipment.
- Repaired irrigation at Chase Block, Tonkin Park, Dog Park and 49th Streetscapes.
- 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.
- Filled hole in easement at 55th Street & 11th Avenue, and near driveway at 5820 20th Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Reset stop sign and street sign at 61st Street & 12th Avenue following vehicle strike.
- Delivered barricades for weekend events.
- Set up for Mobile Collection event at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed lost debris from roadway at 58th Street & 15th Avenue and broken glass from roadway at 49th Street & 17th Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of dock post behind Casino.
- Removed graffiti from signs on Tangerine Greenway.

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 #31, 32, 33, 34 and 45 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 32 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 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 2 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.
- Replaced a section of 6" water line at 56th Street & 31st Avenue.

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.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 4934 Newton Street.
- Televised sewer lateral at 1214 63rd Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replace alternator on Police vehicle 501.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle 102 and Sanitation vehicles 45 & 46.
- Replaced power steering hose on GEMS vehicle 11.
- Repaired emergency brake on Parks vehicle 51.
- Replaced battery on generator at Lift Station 2.
- Replaced belts for grabber arms on Sanitation vehicle 47.
- Repaired coolant leak on Sanitation vehicle 40.
- Replaced batteries in Recreation vehicle 68 & CERT vehicle R17.
- 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.pcclb.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.

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.

December 10, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-21; 6121 8th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the setback requirement from the rear yard property line by 9 feet, from 15 feet to 6 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed 16' x 27' accessory structure (garage).
- V14-22; 2797 Seabreeze Drive; Variance request to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 13.3 feet, from 26.67 feet to 13.34 feet to allow for the removal of an existing lower landing, tie-poles, and davits for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.

- V14-23; 5949 Seabird Drive; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 19 feet 6 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 7 feet 2 inches to allow for the removal of an existing boat lift and installation of a proposed new boat lift.
- V14-24; 5943 Bayview Circle; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback by 9 feet, from 25 feet to 16 feet to allow the reconstruction of a new, uncovered front stairway entry to the existing porch and house.