



Gulfport Community Update

November 17 - 23, 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 27th and Friday's schedule will not be affected. There will be no yard waste pickup.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Gulfport Community Update for the week ending November 30.

A big thank you to the Gulfport Merchant's Association for their generous donation of \$6,000 to the Gulfport Senior Center Food Pantry to help supply much needed food items and toiletries for Gulfport seniors in need (photos below).



Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that new regulations are in effect for the placement of recreational vehicles (RVs). All RVs must have a permit. Permit applications, RV regulations and a flowchart of the permit process are available at www.mygulfport.us. RVs meeting setbacks will receive a green permit window sticker. Owners of RVs not meeting setbacks can obtain, through January 2, 2014, a red permit sticker which allows for an exemption from regulations to place the RV within setback areas. This exemption only applies to one RV in a specific location and is not transferable to a new RV. Red stickers for exemptions **will not** be available after January 2, 2014, and owners will be required to remove un-stickered RVs at that time. For more information call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

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 each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.GulfportMA.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

The Pinellas County Extension and the City of Gulfport will present an informative **Water Conservation Seminar** outlining the advantages of conserving water both inside and outside your home in Gulfport City Hall Council Chambers, 2401 53rd Street at 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 26. Brian Niemann, a Water Star Certified Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent from the Pinellas County Extension will give away a rain barrel and several instant-off water savers, and answer questions from residents in attendance.

Swing Time's Pre-Thanksgiving Bash is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 27 in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Boulevard. The bash features live jump, blues, and swing music. Admission is \$10 and all ages are welcome. For more information call 893-1070.

Everyone is welcome at the **Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park on the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards Monday, December 2 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, Gulfport City Council and former Mayor Yvonne Johnson for caroling. Refreshments will be served and as always, Santa will be there to listen to the children's wishes.

Enjoy the crisp December air and get into the holiday spirit at **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on December 6, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library will host a **Holiday Book Sale** at the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Avenue on Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information call 893-1074.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, December 14 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex, Shelter #4.

Enjoy music, shopping and holiday carols during the annual **Holiday Hoopla** extravaganza on Beach Boulevard Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 322-5217. Then stay for the **BCYC Annual Christmas Boat Parade**. The boats will leave Gulfport Marina at 6 p.m. and head to Gulfport Beach. Sail and power boats are welcome to join in the fun. For more information call 235-9070 or visit www.sailbcyc.org.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	150
Officer initiated calls for service	320
Offenses	46
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	28

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A vehicle traveling south on 49th Street on the morning of November 14 was struck by a car traveling west on Gulfport Boulevard after the driver failed to stop for a red light. The driver was issued citations for the red light violation, driving with a suspended license and expired registration.

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported on the afternoon of November 14 that he was notified by 3 credit card companies that someone is attempting to use his information to open accounts.

A resident in the 3000 block of 59th Street reported on the morning of November 15 that a bicycle that had been locked to a pole was stolen sometime between the evening of November 14 and the evening of November 15. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of Newton Avenue on the morning of November 15 after a caller reported that someone had kicked open a door to a vacant apartment. Nothing appeared to be missing.

A resident in the 1300 block of 58th Street reported on the afternoon of November 15 that an unknown white male knocked on the front door of his house. Video footage from the residence showed that when no one answered, the male used a cigarette to burn a note on the door.

The manager of a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that sometime on October 31, a store employee removed \$200 from a deposit bag in the office of the business.

Officers responded to a reported theft after a Town Shores resident reported that he allowed a coworker's nephew to do work in his condo. The resident later discovered several pieces of jewelry missing. The nephew, Dylan Budd admitted to stealing the jewelry and giving it to another employee, Brian Borland who then pawned it. Affidavits will be completed for both subjects once evidence is obtained from the pawn shop.

Officers assisted SPPD with a hit and run in which a silver Corvette travelling at a high rate of speed lost control and knocked down a utility pole and several live wires. The Corvette fled the scene leaving its door behind on 46th Street.

Officer Horning arrested Travis R. Kennedy in the 5400 block of Essex Avenue on a failure to appear warrant for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Sgt. Vandenberg observed a black male being chased down Gulfport Boulevard by several white males in the early morning hours of November 18. He had just broken into a house in St. Pete and was attempting to sell stolen items at the Stinger Bar, where the homeowners were having a drink. The victims beat the suspect and chased him down the street. The suspect was transported to Bayfront Medical Center as a trauma alert with head injuries. The victims declined to report the crime to SPPD.

Officers responded to a structure fire at a vacant house in the 3100 block of Clinton Street in the early morning hours of November 20. The fire department has ruled the blaze suspicious. The State Fire Marshal suspects the fire was arson as they located several points of ignition. The front of the house collapsed as a result of the damage. The investigation continues.

A resident in the 5600 block of 13th Avenue reported that her yellow mountain bike was stolen from her back porch and another bike, possibly left by the suspect was in her yard.

Officers received information that a suspect with a warrant from 2004 was residing at a residence in the 900 block of 61st Street. The subject was located on the evening of November 20 and taken into custody without incident.

Several items that appeared to have shoplifted from a local Publix Supermarket were discovered in an easement between two businesses in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The items were returned to Publix. Several anti-theft devices from Walmart were found near the same location in October.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 23rd Avenue after a caller reported that someone entered an unlocked vehicle and stole clothing, tax documents, and a charger for an electric wheelchair. A fingerprint was obtained and has been sent for analysis.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 10 hours this week.

Investigations:

New Cases:	17
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	5
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	5

Supplements Received:	14
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Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	3
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	8

Sergeant Woodman is assisting GFD and the State Fire Marshall with a suspected arson to a residence in the 3100 block of Clinton Street.

Detective Hanh Pham was in Orlando this week for annual Florida Homicide Investigators Association training.

Detective Embry finalized his case load prior to being transferred back to Patrol on November 19, and Sergeant Woodman reassigned the remaining cases to his replacement, Detective Crowson.

Detective Crowson worked 2 days in CIS this week and continued to work cases carried over from patrol.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring, mentored several students, completed a Baker Act evaluation, and arrested a student for possession of narcotics on school grounds. He also covered the JV and Varsity Boys Basketball games against Dixie Hollins. Boca Ciega High School won both games.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to a fight in progress, assisting with breaking the fight up and escorting one of the participants to the office. Both students involved received school consequences. She also discovered several truant students and notified the assistant principals. Two of the students were previously arrested for grand theft auto, and the day shift patrol units were notified. Additionally, Officer Langston assisted Officer Cavanah with the recovery of a missing juvenile, mentored a student regarding truancy related issues, assisted two St. Petersburg police officers with a domestic battery investigation involving a BCHS student involved, assisted school administrators with a bullying issue by speaking with the parents and student and gathering information related to the allegation, responded to a disturbance involving school employees, and arrested a student who was trespassing on school property.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis for Officer Mills regarding complaints about an address in the 700 block of 60th Street. She reviewed dispatch logs and reports from November 1, 2012 through November 14, 2013 and discovered 11 calls for service to the address, six of which were disturbance or fight related. There were also eight logs which were officer initiated follow-ups or area check type calls. She also completed pawn checks on 27 cases in which a known suspect is named or the property is identifiable and searchable. Because Pinellas County is transitioning from the Pinellas County pawn database to RAPID (Regional Automated Property Information Database) pawn checks were run in both systems. Additionally, Analyst Palmisano reviewed offense reports from October 26 through November 12 for proper documentation that stolen items with a known serial number were entered into FCIC, and trained three officers to use the new RAPID system.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	22
Public records requests:	18
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	8

Citizens assisted: 32

MARINA

Pumped one thousand six hundred ninety seven (1,697) gallons of gas, and one thousand two hundred seventy four (1,274) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy six (76) vessels.

Staff activities:

- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Read and calculated electrical readings.
- Replaced dock box pier on one slip four.
- Repaired gate on pier one.

Transient Vessels:

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

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Completed post-production of Flood Insurance Community Forum video and uploaded to City website.
- Provided control coverage for November 19 City Council meeting and uploaded video to website.
- Continued planning and preparation for Tree City USA recertification.
- Distributed December Events/Meetings calendar to all City Facilities.
- Commenced preparation of Four Fold FAQ Brochure.
- Continued event preparations for December 2 Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Completed and promoted Councilmember Brown's press release and flyer for open office hours.

Parks

Commenced decorating Holiday tree at Clymer Park.

Replaced rope on flag pole at Lum field.

Replaced several picnic tables in Beach Pavilion 7.

Reset breaker on East fountain light at Wood Ibis Park.

Transported tables & chairs from Scout Hall to Recreation Center in preparation for Pink Flamingo Trolley Tour of Homes, and returned following event.

Inspected irrigation at Library & along Streetscapes, and installed irrigation clock at Clymer Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired tires on mowers and on Truck #51.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned 49th streetscapes, Clymer Park and Recreation Center grounds; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Clymer Greenway, Lions Club, Hoyt Perimeter, Recreation Center playing field and York & 49th Street termini.

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:

- 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.

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 27th Avenue South.

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 some 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 facilitate an **I-Pad Workshop** on Thursday, December 12 at 4 p.m. Jaclyn will cover basic functions of the Apple iPad.

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

Join us at noon on Wednesday, December 18 for the Senior Center's **Holiday Dinner** of prime rib, mashed potato, vegetable, roll and dessert for only \$7.00 per ticket. Then stay for the 2013 Joe Koehler Christmas Show *Christmas in Town Square* presented by Dave O'Brien and Cookie McPhee at 1:30 pm. Tickets for the show are \$5.00. Dinner/Show combo: \$10.00.

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 over coffee and doughnuts.

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 49th 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 10	1 p.m. - Volley Ball Tournament Vets vs Police & Fire (Turnout 300) 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 41)
Tuesday, November 12	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 18) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 5) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 42)
Wednesday, November 13	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 271)
Thursday, November 14	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera, Beg. & Inter. 8 p.m. - Salsa Dance (Turnout 32)
Friday, November 15	6 p.m. - The Impacs Band Rock, Roll n' Remember (Turnout 425)
Saturday, November 16	10 a.m. - Pink Flamingo Home Tour (Turnout 150)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Sunday, November 24	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

Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events)

Sunday, November 10	Noon - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>The Cooley Girls</i> (Turnout 29)
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Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, November 10	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 17) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, November 14	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 9) 6 p.m. - Pasadena Pt. Homeowners meeting (Turnout 4)

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
Wednesday, November 6	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 13)
Thursday, November 7	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
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:

Tuesday, November 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, November 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, November 13, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, November 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, November 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, November 16, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Saturday, November 16, 4 p.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest Awards Ceremony.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. - *Holiday Book Sale:* Find great bargains for holiday gifts at very reasonable prices, and shop in the comfort of our meeting room.

Monday, November 16, 3 p.m. - *Gingerbread Houses:* Create your own gingerbread house and get in the spirit of the season! Activity for children in grades K-5. Craft supplies provided. For more information call 893-1133.

Saturday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy two movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

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.

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 10 - 16, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,875	590
Sun. 11/10	Library closed	
Mon. 11/11	Holiday Library closed	
Tue. 11/12	543	139
Wed. 11/13	320	102
Thu. 11/14	309	111
Fri. 11/15	360	125
Sat. 11/16	273	89

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty five (45) 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, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty seven (57) 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

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport a group of Gulfport Elementary students to Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater in Thursday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport a group of Tot Time/VPK participants to Clam Bayou on Friday.

Alton Hooker covered the Recreation Center for the Chamber of Commerce Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes event on Saturday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Water payments: 1092 totaling \$139,527.85
- On-Line Water payments: 156 transactions totaling \$9,504.84
- Bright House payments: 18
- Utility Bills Mailed 11/20/13: 1595
- Accounts Payable 11/1/13: 484 transactions totaling \$ 188,812.40
- Mail processed 11/1/13: 113 pieces totaling \$54.70
- Purchasing Card 191 transactions totaling 28,746.07

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

PUBLIC WORKS

From the Office of the Director

Building Maintenance:

- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Repaired electrical outlet at Recreation Center.
- Completed monthly replacement of air conditioning filters in City buildings.
- Repaired air handler and replaced 20 ceiling tiles at Library.
- Installed "Police" signage on Neighborhood Center sign.
- Replaced water heater at City Hall complex.
- Transported popcorn machine from Recreation Center to Library in preparation for Free Family Movie Day.
- Replaced hand sensor faucet and shut-off valve in Recreation Center men's restroom.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Met with engineer and roofer at Recreation Center for "core sample testing" of roof.
- Repaired Senior Center communications antenna.
- Removed floor-mounted door stop on Recreation Center rear exit door.
- Replaced 2 bath faucets and supply lines at Fire Department.
- Cleaned Little League restrooms.
- Sanded and washed Recreation Center wall in preparation for loxon conditioner.
- Collected document boxes for incineration.

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.
- Relocated street signs on Gulfport Boulevard in preparation for crosswalk installation.
- Installed crosswalk signs at 55th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, 55th Street & 11th Avenue and 55th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Removed sight hazards on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Assembled traffic control signage per direction.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed car bumper from drain gate at 49th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Installed "No Parking" signs and posts at Veterans Park and on 54th Street between 31st Avenue & Shore Boulevard.

- Removed fallen limb from roadway at 54th Street & 21st Avenue.
- Removed debris following house fire at 3120 Clinton Street.

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 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 43 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off
- Completed 108 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Installed remote antenna on 20 water meters.
- Replaced 2 water meters that were stuck and not recording usage.
- Removed water service & meter at 3120 Clinton Street in preparation for demolition following fire.
- Repaired water break at 1859 52nd Street.
- Painted 32 fire hydrants throughout City.

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.

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.

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 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th 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.

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