



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *November 3 - 9, 2013*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

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

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

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** on 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. Then 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 volleyball courts are located at 5500 Shore Boulevard.

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

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	150
Officer initiated calls for service	393
Offenses	36

Arrests	9
Traffic citations	25

**Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Officer Parks attempted to stop a reckless driver at 47<sup>th</sup> Street & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of October 31, but the vehicle fled eastbound at a high rate of speed. He did not pursue the vehicle, but the driver lost control at 45<sup>th</sup> Street & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and crashed into a tree. The driver fled the scene on foot before police arrived, but DNA evidence was obtained from inside the vehicle.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on the morning of October 31 after a 61 year old female was found deceased inside her home. She appeared to have died of natural causes.

Officers responded to a call from a concerned citizen who stated that they saw an egret get hit by a car on Gulfport Boulevard near the pond at Stetson University. Officers located the bird and contacted the SPCA who took it to a treatment facility.

Jenna Thibert was arrested for DUI in the early morning hours of November 1 after officers observed her driving north in the southbound lane of Beach Boulevard. She performed poorly during a field sobriety test.

Officers were dispatched to the 2800 block of Tifton Street early November 1 regarding a Domestic in Progress. Arthur Chambless admitted to slapping the other person involved and was arrested for domestic battery.

A resident in the 1800 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street reported early November 1 that his roommate had punched him in his eye and chest after they had an argument. The roommate, James Dillman was arrested for battery.

Officers responded to a 911 hang up call in the 5800 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue early November 1. Upon arrival they spoke with a man who stated that he and his wife had gotten into an argument and she bit him on his finger. Everyone in the house was intoxicated.

A resident in the 1800 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street reported on the afternoon of November 1 that he believed his roommate stole \$400 from his bedroom dresser and broke his coffee table. The roommate denied the accusations.

Officers responded to a residence in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of November 1 after an elderly male caller advised he had been robbed and tied to his bed by a known suspect who then took his wallet, car keys and car. The vehicle's OnStar was activated and tracked to Pasco County. Suspect Nathan Rewerts was arrested by Florida Highway Patrol for grand theft auto and resisting without violence. A Pinellas County arrest warrant was completed and sent to the Pasco County Jail. Rewerts is awaiting extradition to Pinellas County on charges of home invasion robbery, kidnapping, and grand theft auto.

An officer was dispatched to Palms of Pasadena Hospital on the evening of November 1 to meet with a citizen who was battered at his home in Gulfport. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers responded the Gulfport Marina on the evening of November 1 regarding a subject making suicidal statements. His parents had located him and were waiting when police arrived. He was taken into custody by Pinellas Mental Health Services (PEMHS).

Officers responded to the 1300 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of November 2 after a resident reported that sometime the night before an unknown subject entered the enclosed pool area in their backyard and stole the pump. The investigation continues.

An employee of the Suncoast Foodmart reported that while he was at the other end of the store a black male reached over the counter and stole a \$25 Lotto scratch off ticket.

Officer Obrart witnessed two women having an argument in the 5400 block of Essex on the evening of November 2 and convinced them to take a cab home due to their level of intoxication. While she was clearing the call, she saw the subjects arguing again, and witnessed one shove the other one. The assailant was arrested on a battery charge.

Sophia Dottin was arrested for domestic battery on the morning of November 3 after a complainant reported that Dottin came to her home in the 5100 block of Preston Avenue and battered her boyfriend. The incident is the latest in an ongoing dispute involving Dottin stalking the couple and possibly keying the complainant's car.

A bicycle that was chained to the bike rack in front of Gulfport City Hall was reported stolen after having been left there by the owner for two days.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue after several neighbors got into an argument which turned physical. Three people sustained minor injuries, but nobody wished to prosecute.

A regular customer at Family Dollar reached over the counter and stole the clerk's wallet. The suspect, who has several prior convictions for theft, was identified through store surveillance video and is being sought for a felony crime.

A resident in the 2900 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of November 4 that his girlfriend hit him in the head during an argument over his wanting to meet with her probation officer. Susan Coleman was extremely intoxicated and was arrested for domestic battery.

Charges have been forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution of a pool and spa contractor operating without a license after a resident notified GPD that he was no longer was licensed to do business in the state.

Officer Cavanah spoke with a business owner in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard who reported on the afternoon of November 5 that she received a phone call from someone claiming to be from Duke Energy stating that her power would be immediately shut off if she did not pay her bill. She bought a Green Dot card from Walgreen's as instructed by the suspect and gave the suspect the card information. When she received a bill from Duke Energy and called to tell them she already paid, she was told they never called her and she was probably the victim of a scam.

Officers responded to the beachfront on the evening of November 5 regarding a 7 year-old who had wandered away from his brother while he was playing basketball. Several people on the beach stated they saw the child walking east with a group of kids. Another parent located the boy and left a note for his parents at their home. The boy was located and was in good spirits

Officers made contact with a white male sitting on the side of a closed business in the 1400 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street early November 6. He told officers he was new to the area and was trying to find a ride home. Officers gave him a courtesy transport.

An employee of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard called police in the early morning hours of November 6 to report a juvenile banging on the door and acting oddly. The 16 year-old was listed as a runaway. Before being placed in the police car to be transported home, an officer located 2 pills identified as anti-depressants not prescribed to him in the teen's pocket. The teen's mother wanted her son arrested and advised after he was returned home that he made suicidal comments. He was taken to a facility for evaluation under the Baker Act and the narcotics charge was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

Officer Mills checked on a vehicle parked behind a business in the 2300 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the morning of November 6 after someone reported the car looked suspicious. The car was listed as a stolen rental car from St Petersburg. It was towed after being processed.

A resident in the 5600 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of November 6 that his electric bicycle was stolen from his front yard. The bike was locked to a tree in the yard and the lock had been cut.

A business owner in the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the afternoon of November 6 that several tools were missing from his shop. The burglary occurred sometime in the past week, and the victim stated the back of the business was not secure.

Officers responded to the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard on the evening of November 6 regarding an open 911 line. A female answered the door after officers knocked several times, but advised she did not call. A check of her phones revealed that one was on and the emergency button was accidentally pressed.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	22
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	13
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements Received:	20
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	5
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	13

Detective Hanh Pham was on vacation for several days this reporting period. He returned to work on Wednesday and continued investigating assigned cases.

Detective Embry conducted a phone interview with a grand theft auto suspect. The suspect confessed to stealing the vehicle post Miranda, but lives in another county so Detective Embry placed a Probable Cause affidavit for his arrest in VIPAR until a warrant is issued by the State Attorney's Office. He also exceptionally cleared a sexual battery case between children, which was presented to the SAO. The victim's parents did not wish to prosecute. Detective Embry also continued investigating assigned cases.

SRO Motte mentored several students and mediated two altercations preventing fights occurring. He also completed a Baker Act evaluation and determined the person was a danger to himself and transported to PEMHS without issue, and followed up with two runaway cases out of St. Petersburg since both students attend Boca Ciega High School. Neither student was located at school, but both were recovered in St. Petersburg. Additionally, Officer Motte assisted patrol with four juveniles who ran from an officer during a suspicious person call. All four were apprehended and determined to be truant from the high school. Since they fled from law enforcement they were taken to the Truancy Center instead of being returned to school. He also relayed information to the Criminal Investigative Section regarding a juvenile for whom SPPD has probable cause for crimes in Gulfport.

SRO Langston mentored a student who believed she had anger issues, referring her to several resources at the school, and providing advice on how to better control her anger. She also responded to a trespasser on school property. The subject was identified as a former student, and given a verbal warning regarding the trespass. Additionally, Officer Langston assisted day shift Officer Priest on a domestic in progress call after he requested additional backup, and investigated a complaint of a stolen wallet and money from the wallet. The money was not recovered but the victim did not wish to file a police report. Officer Langston also responded to a disturbance during lunch stopping a fight happening; completed a Baker Act evaluation of a student she believed met the qualifications and transported the student to P.E.M.H.S.; transport

a student Baker Acted by Officer Motte to P.E.M.H.S.; met with the probation officer of a student at the school, and provided him with information regarding the student; spoke with an anonymous complainant regarding possible robberies occurring on school property, and; assisted Officer Motte with a wanted person attempt. She received a list of fourteen juniors from teachers for the peer to peer mentoring program mentioned in previous Weekly Updates and set up a meeting with those students. For unknown reasons only one student attended. The student stated she would be interesting in participating. Officer Langston is still trying to recruit at least four more mentors for the program. She also met with Sarah Ogdie, program specialist from Community Tampa Bay, who will assist in providing lessons for mentors and mentees once the program is established.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis for Officer Mills regarding traffic crashes involving pedestrians on 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Of the 32 crashes since January 1, 2012 three involved bicycles and 1 involved a pedestrian. The driver of the vehicle was at fault in two crashes, the bicyclist was at fault in one, and the pedestrian was at fault in the other. She also completed a review of residential burglaries, vehicle burglaries and thefts to determine if a known subject may be a possible suspect in any of the cases, without success.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	58
Reports disseminated:	20
Public records requests:	9
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	25

### **Professional Standards**

The following Policies are in the review process: 105 - Arrest and Transport Procedures; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 126 - Eyewitness Identification Procedures; 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence; 445 - Surveillance and Monitoring Equipment, and; 514 - Surveillance Operations.

Policy 114 - Firearms Procedures was updated and distributed this week.

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

### **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand nine hundred thirty one (1,931) gallons of gas, and one thousand ninety one (1,091) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty six (86) vessels.

#### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 45' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 27' sailboat and a 23' motorboat this week.

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Replaced dock lines on fuel dock.
- Repaired and reset fuel dispenser.
- Cleaned and removed debris from boat ramp drain.
- Checked and retied boats in marina.

- Picked up wind debris around marina.
- Cleaned and rearranged storage area.
- Removed water from sump.
- Repaired foot of shrimp tank.

## **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 event preparation for November 7 Flood Insurance Community Forum & November 26 Water Conservation Seminar.
- Continued Heroes Weekend & Volunteer Luncheon event preparations.
- Met with Bob Williams and Leisure Services Supervisors to discuss upcoming events.
- Provided control coverage for November 5 City Council Meeting and uploaded video to website.
- Continued planning and preparation for Tree City USA recertification.
- Commenced design and updates to December Events/Meetings Calendar.
- Updated GTV with November information.

### **Parks**

Commenced replacement of picnic tables at beach and continued installation of cigarette disposal urns at beach shelters.

Replaced tennis court light and photocell, and light bulbs on Recreation Center flag and in Hoyt Field ladies room.

Raised flags from half-mast.

Installed 7 butt cans at beach.

Cleared debris from Clymer Park fountain drains.

Removed buoy from beach.

Reset breaker on East fountain light at Wood Ibis Park.

Ordered new neon light for Casino and LED lights for Clymer Park & Beach Boulevard.

Replaced flowers and mulched pier planters.

Inspected/repared irrigation at Caldwell Park, Beach Streetscapes & Tonkin Park, and installed irrigation sleeves under sidewalks at Clymer Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades.

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

Mowed 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, Caldwell Park, beach & Marina green spaces, Recreation Center grounds and Neighborhood Center grounds.

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

#### **Multipurpose Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborhood 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.

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.

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

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

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

Want to learn to use your Smartphone, downloading Apps, take pictures, add contacts or adjust 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.

**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. December 4

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

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.

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, October 27	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 42)
Monday, October 28	7 p.m. - USA Dance Ballroom Dance (Turnout 92)
Tuesday, October 29	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 9) 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 30	7 p.m. - Shim Sham Lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swingtime Halloween Ball & Swing Dance (Turnout 391)
Thursday, October 31	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 155)
Saturday, November 2	6:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 194)

**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 (Last week's events)**

Saturday November 2 9 am - Gulfport Community Players Stage setup

### **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 27	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16) 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

### **Scout Hall (Last week's events):**

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, October 28	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 21)
Wednesday, October 30	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 9)
Thursday, October 31	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 7)
Friday, November 1	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

### **Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

### **LIBRARY**

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

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

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, October 28, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, October 28, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, October 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, October 30, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, October 30, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, October 30, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 31, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Friday, November 1, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, November 2, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Saturday, November 2, 4 p.m. - *National Novel Writing Month group meeting*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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.

Saturday, November 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 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 27 - November 2, 2013: Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,888	599
Sun. 10/27	Library closed	
Mon. 10/28	330	118
Tue. 10/29	321	98
Wed. 10/30	343	114

Thu. 10/31	326	85
Fri. 11/1	304	97
Sat. 11/2	249	76

## 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

Recreation Center staff worked the Annual Spooktacular Halloween Bash on Thursday evening. There were approximately nine hundred (900) attendees throughout the evening.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Cleaned Little League restrooms.
- Replaced urinal valve at Library.
- Installed "people counter" at Library.
- Cleared and cleaned blocked toilet in Public Services building break room.
- Installed air hose reel at Parks shop.
- Hung miscellaneous pictures in City Hall.
- Scraped bubbling paint from back wall at Recreation Center.
- Cleared sink drain in Fire Station kitchen and corrected drain fitting.
- Replaced light bulbs in Recreation Center Art Room.
- Hung first aid kits in Police break room, City Hall break room & Human Resources Office.
- Cleared blocked urinal at Fire Station.

- 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.
- Commenced automated curbside street sweeping.
- Trimmed trees in preparation for Tour of Homes.
- Graded multiple alleyways.
- Cleared debris from storm drains on Tangerine Ave.
- Commenced sidewalk installation at Beach Boulevard & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Water:**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 50 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 94 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 2 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Installed remote antenna on 120 water meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 5414 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5819 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 2626 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Painted 41 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.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced thermostat, radiator, cooling fan and fan relay on Police vehicle #16.
- Replaced transmission in MVM vehicle #70.
- Replaced horns and horn button assembly on Streets Department vehicle #38.
- Replaced turbo charger and EGR cooler in Sanitation truck #42.
- 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 continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to the City boundaries.

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

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

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

To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

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

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.