



Gulfport Community Update

October 28 - November 3, 2012

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 4 and Gulfport Fire Chief Jim Marenkovic would like to remind everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors while setting clocks back.

Gulfport **City Hall will be closed** on Monday, November 12 in observance of **Veteran's Day**.

The Osgood Point kayak launch ramp is closed for construction through December 23. Kayaks may be launched from the Gulfport Municipal Marina.

The Gulfport Library and the Gulfport Recreation Center hosted two spectacular Halloween events October 31. The festivities began at the Gulfport Library **Teen Halloween Bash** at 2 p.m. Then the Recreation Center hosted the **Spooktacular Halloween Bash** at 7 p.m. Both events provided a great opportunity for families in our community to have a safe and fun Halloween (photos below).



The American Red Cross is accepting donations for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Funds will provide shelter, food and other assistance to those affected by the storm. To donate visit www.redcross.org, call 800-Red-Cross or text "Redcross" to 90999.

Nearly 100 Red Cross blood drives were canceled because of Sandy so supplies are low in the areas affected the most. The Red Cross asks that those who can donate to schedule an appointment to give blood. For more information please call 800-933-2566.

Upcoming Events:

Come on down to the **Citywide Yard Sale** sunrise - sunset Saturday, November 3. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at City Hall or the Gulfport Library. Maps are available at

Gulfport City Hall & Library, and online at www.mygulfport.us. For more information call 893-1118.

Gulfport's popular **Antiques in the Park** returns on Saturday, November 3. Join us from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Clymer Park located at the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards and peruse antiques and collectibles exhibitors. Find estate jewelry, old pottery, art, china and glassware, primitives and folk, kitchen collectibles, linens, toys, fun ephemera, small furnishings, home décor, and more! This event is cosponsored by the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Historical Museum, and is managed by Hula Hula Productions. In the event of rain, this event will be rescheduled to Saturday, November 10.

Stetson Law Alumni Veteran Javier Centonzo, American Legion Post 125, The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport Merchants and the City of Gulfport would like to invite everyone to a fun packed weekend of events for **Heroes Weekend** November 8 - 11:

- On Thursday, November 8 the **Gulfport Casino Ballroom** will be transformed into a high-stakes gambling casino with Vegas style games including poker, blackjack, roulette, craps, slot machines and Texas hold 'em. Buy-ins includes \$1000 each in "funny money" and can be increased. Enjoy auctions, hors d'oeuvres, a full cash bar and live music. Admission is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple in advance. Proceeds benefit the Small Business Mentor Program at the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce and the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation. Veterans with I.D. cards get an extra \$500 in 'play money' at the door. There will also be a table shared by the American Legion/Vets and the Red Hatters to promote their events at the Casino night. Please visit the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce at 4926 Gulfport Boulevard for tickets.
- All are welcome to join the **City of Gulfport Veteran's Day Parade** on Beach Boulevard Saturday, November 10 at 4 p.m. Those wishing to participate should stop by City Hall to pick up an application, or print a copy from the City's website. Participation is free, but donations will be accepted for the Veteran's Law Institute.
- On Sunday, November 11 the City of Gulfport will have **dedication ceremonies and ribbon cuttings** for the new beach playground and volleyball courts. The dedication for the playground begins at 11:30 a.m. and the dedication for the volleyball courts begins at 11:45 a.m. Then stay for the fun as VETSports takes on Gulfport Police & Fire Departments in Volleyball Benefit at 1 p.m. Many Veterans playing in the volleyball matches use prosthetics for mobility. Please come and cheer on America's Bravest and Gulfport's Finest! Immediately following the volleyball event, an aerial photo will be taken by helicopter of the human chain spelling of **GULFPORT, FL** on the beach.

For more information on these events or to get involved, contact Justin Shea at 727-893-1118 or jshea@mygulfport.us.

The next **Crime Watch Meeting** is 7 p.m. Monday, November, 12, at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. Call 327-3509 for more information.

In appreciation to our Volunteers for their service to the City from October 2011 through September 2012 the **Volunteer Luncheon** is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14 at 12 p.m. at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom. Please RSVP by Monday, November 5. For more information, please call Justin Shea at 893-1118.

Everyone is invited to the **49th Street South Business Association (So49)** monthly meeting at the Neighborhood Center, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 14. For more information call 515-4941.

The Gulfport **Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods; hand-made art and crafts; bath, body and wellness products; live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. and special events on the first Tuesday of each month. Join Chef James Clark, owner and chef of T and Me Tea Co. in the outdoor courtyard adjacent

to Salty Sal's, 2930 Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. on November 6 as he prepares his own sundried tomato Foacaccia bread. Chef Clark previously worked at the St. Petersburg Vinoy Resort, and his Foacaccia is a crowd favorite! Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. The Pantry is in great need of donations to keep up with the needs of clients. Donate your gently used clothes to the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** (Community Action Stops Abuse) at the Peninsula Courtyard on November 13 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your own hangers. Extra clothing donations for CASA are appreciated. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com or contact Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or dan@igc.org.

Weekly Casino Ballroom Events

- Every Tuesday, 12 p.m.: Ballroom lessons, - \$7
- Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Argentine Tango Dance/ Lesson - \$7
- Every Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Swing Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2nd & 4th Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Offenses	51
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	21

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the 2700 block of 47th Street on the evening of October 23 after a woman discovered that her daughter had been squatting in the back yard. She located property belonging to her daughter on her back porch. She did not want charges pressed, but requested her daughter be advised not to return. The daughter complied with the order.

Officers assisted the Fire Department with traffic control during a residential structure fire on the afternoon of October 24. The fire appears to have been set accidentally as there did not appear to be any criminal activity involved.

Officers responded to Williams Pier in the early morning hours of October 25 after an intoxicated individual called to report he was a victim of battery on the pier. The two other involved parties were intoxicated as well, but there was not sufficient evidence to prove who the primary aggressor was. The complainant was on probation with special conditions of no consumption of alcohol. He was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A business owner came to the Gulfport Police Department on the morning of October 25 to report that a laptop was stolen from his business in the 5300 block of Gulfport Boulevard on October 23. The victim suspects a black male and a white female who were in the store together to distract him while the laptop was stolen.

Officers responded to a late reported residential burglary in the 2400 block of York Street on the morning of October 26 after a caller reported that sometime overnight, someone entered his apartment and stole a gray HP laptop. There were no signs of forced entry and the victim believes the suspect may be his ex-girlfriend who has a key to the apartment.

Officers responded to the 2300 block of 58th Street on the evening of October 26 after a resident reported that someone entered her unlocked sliding glass door. A bicycle, television and jewelry were taken. Possible suspects were seen in the area by a neighbor.

Officer Davis stopped a vehicle in the 1800 block of 49th Street after a license plate check revealed the tag expired in September 2012 and the registered owner had a suspended driver license. The driver was given a citation for the expired tag. He also admitted to receiving a similar citation from a St. Petersburg Police Officer two days earlier.

Officers responded to the 6100 block of Fairway Bay Boulevard regarding an ongoing issue with loud parties, noise, and underage drinking at a residence on the weekend. The field training unit conducted surveillance on the PYCC golf course and witnessed underage drinking occurring once again. Contact was made with the homeowner who was given two options: A notice to appear for open house parties, or closing down the party. The homeowner made a good effort to close down the party, but most participants would not leave the front driveway and were drinking in front of officers. One juvenile was placed into custody, which caused the other partygoers to leave the scene. The juvenile was released to his father.

Officer Parks learned that sexual offender Earl Ford Jr. moved out of his residence in the 5500 block of 15th Avenue but did not register a new one. Registered sex offenders are required by law to report any address change to authorities within 48 hours. Ford might be living homeless in Gulfport or St. Petersburg.

Officers responded to a residential fire in the 2600 block of 47th Street on the morning of October 29 after a complainant called 911 to report a palm tree in her front yard was burning. The fire scorched the side of the residence and the roof, and the electrical meter and wiring on the side of the residence melted. There were no injuries. The Fire Chief and Fire Investigator were on scene, and Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Forensics collected evidence.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	17
Cases Assigned:	5
Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	5

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	15
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Previously cleared with Arrest:	4
Cases Closed-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	6

Sgt Woodman continued gathering evidence and conducting interviews for the Hardware store arson case.

Sgt Woodman received information about a CODIS DNA hit on a suspect for burglaries and will now generate PC. He also researched information about George Englund making a pawn transaction and obtained video of the transaction which strengthens the case. Probable cause affidavits are in place for Englund.

Detective Hanh Pham arrested a Tanya Corbett for Identity Theft after Corbett fraudulently used her sister's personal information to establish a Bright House cable account. Detective Pham

interviewed Corbett and she confessed to the alleged crime. She was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Detective Embry attempted to arrest a suspect in a dealing stolen property case he is investigating but someone tipped off the suspect. He will attempt to locate the suspect this week and is following up on assigned cases.

Officer Motte recovered a runaway and investigated two thefts; however neither had sufficient follow up information so both cases were suspended. He also mentored several students and mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring.

Records

Reports reviewed:	19
Supplements reviewed:	60
Public records requests:	16
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	52

Professional Standards Section

Three written directives are currently under staff review as part of the ongoing review process.

Probationary Officer (P.O.) Randazzo has completed phase 3 training and began phase 4 (evaluation phase) with Officer Kellington.

Probationary Officer (P.O.) Crystal Green has completed week 3 of phase 1 training.

Biennial ASP/OC/handcuffing training is scheduled for November.

MARINA

Pumped eight hundred sixty seven (867) gallons of gas, and one hundred ninety six (196) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eleven (111) vessels.

Assisted in ten (10) pump-outs evacuating two hundred sixty (260) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 30' sailboat, 20' sailboat and a 45' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit the City of Gulfport YouTube website at www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport. Cable and DSL internet users can access streaming video from the City's website at www.mygulfport.us. Watch videos of recent events. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm.
- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list. There are 1,231 active contacts on email distribution list.

- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Recorded video footage of 7th Avenue between 58th & 62nd Streets per CM request.
- Printed and delivered Citywide Yard Sale brochure, and answered telephone inquiries. Sixty six addresses are on this year's brochure.
- Commenced planning for the City of Gulfport's presentation at the Pinellas County Fair. Called Pinellas County Fair Foundation Coordinator Marjorie Hynish to inquire about logistics for information booth.
- Updated programming on GTV615.
- Updated Teen Night & class information on Recreation Center website.
- Operated mixing board and lighting board for Senior Center Talent Show at the Hickman Theater on October 31.
- Provided photo/video coverage of Recreation Center Halloween Bash on October 31.
- Photographed the finished Volleyball courts on Gulfport Beach. Continued working with Michelle Liedtke on event planning for Heroes Weekend Inaugural Beach Volleyball benefit.
- Continued planning and preparations for Volunteer Luncheon.
- Commenced preparation of Veterans Parade emcee script. Application for parade participants available at City Hall and online at www.mygulfport.us under latest news on the home page. Deadline to sign up for this event is Tuesday, November 6. Please contact Justin Shea at jshea@mygulfport.us for more information.

Parks

Adjusted irrigation at Senior Center & Tangerine signage area.

Weeded, trimmed and cleaned Clymer & Veterans Parks, Marina grounds and Beach Streetscapes, and hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades, throttle cable on blower, and battery in sand pro machine.

Mowed Recreation Center grounds, 56th Street drainage area, Clymer & Veteran's Park, Senior Center, Library and Neighborhood Center grounds.

Removed bench on beach.

Installed new swings at Tonkin Park.

Removed roots & debris from volleyball courts, installed nets and added sand.

Added more sand at Recreation Center playground.

Removed old sandbox & garden from Recreation Center playground.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

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 needed repairs.

Other Activities:

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

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Want to go shopping? GEMS offers hourly trips to South Pasadena on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays; transportation to the Tyrone Shopping area on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, and; service to Walmart and Aldi every Tuesday afternoon. GEMS has 160 active riders. Call 893-2242 for more information on this door-to-door service.

Senior Center

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center will be closed on November 12 in observance of Veteran's Day, and Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Ready to get fit and meet new friends? If you are over 50 visit the Foundation Fitness Center Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Senior Center and take a tour of our state of the art fitness facility.

A **Beginners Line Dance class** is offered at Scout Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for registered members of the Senior Center. Senior Center membership is free.

Looking for Christmas cards or blank note cards for loved ones? The Gulfport Senior Center is offering cards for sale through November 30. The regular price for each card is 25 cents. This month Christmas cards and blank notes are 2 for 25 cents.

Join in a free panel discussion in the Gulfport Senior Center Dining hall on Wednesday, November 7, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Find information on services, programs, finances and more. Contact Sally Marvin at 893-7190 for more information.

Tuesday, November 13 is **National Memory Screening Day**, and the Senior Center will offer free memory tests from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

The annual Senior Center **Thanksgiving Dinner Party** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m. Seats are limited, and participants must be registered members of the Gulfport Senior Center. Tickets are available at the Center, online at www.gulfporseniorfoundation.org or by calling 893-1231 or 893-2237. Brentwood Senior Community Living is sponsoring this event.

It's **Bingo Blast** on Wednesday, November 28, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Bigger and better than ever! Win great prizes and enjoy delicious refreshments! Where could you have more fun? Tickets are \$10.00 in advance or at the door, available at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. This event is sponsored by Humana, Inc.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, October 21 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance lesson with John
7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 27)

Tuesday, October 23 Noon - Intermediate Ballroom dance lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 12)
1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom dance lesson (Turnout 8)
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance
6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 47)

Wednesday, October 24 6 p.m. - Bonus Dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson
8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 172)

Thursday, October 25 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 31)

Saturday, October 27 4 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 165)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

Thursday, November 1 & Friday, November 9 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Thursday, November 8 7:30 p.m. - Casino Royale on the Bay Admission: \$20 per person;
\$35 per couple; \$25 per person day of event

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m. - The Performing Arts Consortium of St. Petersburg presents
Witches, Goblins & Friends (Turnout 64)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Thursday - Saturday, November 8-10 & 15-17, 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 11 & 18, 2 p.m. -
The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Playboy of the Western World*, a classic
Irish drama with murder, humor & romance. Written by J.M. Synge. Tickets \$15, available at the
Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0136.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, October 21 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 21)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 8)

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 - Wednesday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tuesday, October 23 10:30 a.m. - Senior Center Line Dancing (Turnout 10)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

LIBRARY

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, October 23, 1:30 p.m. - *Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group* meeting.
- Tuesday, October 23, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, October 23, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 24, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 24, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, October 25, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Diann Morningstar.
- Thursday, October 25, 3:30 p.m. - R.E.A.D Therapy Dog Maya.
- Thursday, October 25, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous* meeting.
- Saturday, October 27, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* youth book writing workshop/contest.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m. - *International Gaming Day*. For more information call Sherri at 893-1074.
- Wednesday, November 7, 5 p.m. - *Real Estate News You Can Use* forum.
- Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m. - *NaNoWriMo* group meeting. For more information call Sheri at 893-1074.
- Thursday, November 15, 10:30 a.m. - Coffee/Talk group discussion of *Mrs. Pollifax, Innocent Tourist* by Dorothy Gilman. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.
- Thursday, November 15, 2 p.m. - *Quick & Easy Appetizers for Holiday Entertaining*: Join Rita Fabula as she demonstrates how to create delicious refreshments for guests.
- Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - *Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group* meeting.
- Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *eSalon*. Learn to browse, place a hold, check out and download ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics, or discover new ways of using the e-Reader, tablet or mp3. For more information call 893-1073.
- Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*. Come challenge your friends on the latest XBOX 360 games or just hangout while enjoying free refreshments.

- Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - *Beginning Spanish*.
- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.
- Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous*
- Every Saturday through November 11, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* Youth Book Writing contest & workshops.

Library Services/Statistics October 21 - 27, 2012:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,943	441
Sun. 10/21	14	5
Mon. 10/22	333	82
Tue. 10/23	317	66
Wed. 10/24	376	86
Thu. 10/25	357	69
Fri. 10/26	291	82
Sat. 10/27	255	51

Recreation Center

The gym was rented 6 - 9 p.m. on October 27 for a Gymnastics expo with 25 in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty eight (38) children are registered for the School Year Child Care program, a quality program that provides a nurturing atmosphere where children in Kindergarten through age 14 have the opportunity to experience recreational, social, creative and enriching activities. 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 \$110 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.

Ten (10) children are registered for the 2012/13 Tot Time Program, and eight (8) for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$110 for non residents. 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.

Contractual classes: Braveheart Bootcamp, Conversational Spanish, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hula Dance, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

One (1) 2012/13 Gulfport Skate Park sticker has been sold to date.

Registration continues for the 2012/13 Teen Night program, a great hang out 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. To date thirty eight (38) teens have been registered.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Nicole Latragna, Mike Worthington, Asaph Graham and Kristin Ossola continued working on the haunted house.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 36 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,003 totaling \$119,664.46
- Online Water payments: 83 transactions totaling \$7,162.56
- Bright House payments: 21
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/31/12: No billing this week
- Payroll 10/26/12: 164 transactions totaling \$181,681.98
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 11 transactions totaling \$20,994.25

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 1 Vehicle Crash

Life Safety

- 4 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O's

CERT members and guests are invited to kick off the holiday season with food and fellowship during the annual Pot Luck Dinner at Scout Hall on Thursday, November 15 at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert and an appropriate serving utensil. CERT will provide the ham, fried chicken, paper products and soft drinks. It is important that we know how many people we can expect, so please RSVP to Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

This Week's activities:

- Chief Marenkovic performed a Walk-thru at the Gulfport Recreation Center Haunted House. The CERT Team assisted in monitoring the parking lot and several areas within the recreation center.
- Lt. Poirrier was the preceptor for a St. Petersburg College EMS program Paramedic student doing his field internship on October 26 & 29.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on November 1. Discussions included By-Law Updates. Pinellas County is moving forward on the Operational Analysis of EMS and Fire Study being conducted by Fitch & Associates. The study team will be here the first full week of November for a large number of meetings.
- CSS performed a Standpipe system test at Kipps Colony II. Results are pending.
- Inspector Vento investigated a Fire Outside at 2657 47th Street. The cause is undetermined at this time.

- Inspector Vento is seeking contact with the new owner/occupant of 5004 Tangerine Avenue after the FD noticed construction/renovations being performed on the building, to discuss issues with the building and to ensure they are obtaining the proper permits. The structure is considered a “New Occupancy” and must be brought up to code for FFPC Life Safety.
- Inspector Vento is meeting with a Fire contractor to look over plans for the installation of an upgraded fire alarm system at Pelican Bay Plaza A.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Completed fire system inspections at Library and Casino.
- Repaired locks on beach restroom doors.
- Set up Boo Room and hallway at Recreation Center for Halloween Bash.
- Repaired air conditioning in computer server room at City Hall.
- Transported vehicles to Tampa for repair.
- Set up for daily events at Senior Center.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Delivered recycling bins and “The City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines” information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Received shipment of new automated containers, assembled and delivered to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris from various roadways and alleys throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets at various locations throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patch work on multiple potholes throughout City per direction.
- Completed alley and easement grading, fill and dust control spraying throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout City per direction.
- Cleared tire and metal debris from city garage and graded the city yard.
- Graded Gulfport Beach and removed seaweed & debris.
- Replaced damaged traffic control signs.
- Removed garbage containers and debris following Coastal Cleanup event.
- Installed new sidewalks at 62nd Street & 13th Avenue and Shore Boulevard Beach Parking lot, and graded around new playground sidewalks.
- Removed debris from truck wash area.
- Separated concrete from steel posts and transported posts to recycling facility.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Disconnected water service at 81 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 177 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.

- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 22 water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired water leak at 6210 Pasadena Point Boulevard.

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 Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 2507 54th Street and 2814 Miriam Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired grabber arm system on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced bad EGR valve on Sanitation Truck #43.
- Replaced door lock actuator on front passenger door of Police Vehicle #19.
- Replaced A/C compressor, orifice tube and accumulator, pulled vacuum and recharged A/C system on Water Department Vehicle #78.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

From January to July of this year, the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board issued 536 citations against unlicensed contractors. 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 (727) 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 check their website at 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.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the New Business Checklist at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

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.

November 7 Planning & Zoning Board & November 20 City Council/CRA meeting:

- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code relating to political signs.
- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code relating to notice requirements.

December 5 Planning and Zoning Board and December 18 City Council/CRA meeting:

Consideration of amendments to the zoning code related to outdoor sales or displays within the WRD, CL-1 and CL-2 zoning districts to allow for expedited review.

Distribution:

City Council
City Attorney
Department Directors
The Gulfport Gabber
Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
The St Petersburg Times