



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 8 - 14, 2013*

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

The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library hosted a **Holiday Book Sale** on December 7. Shoppers were treated great prices on a wonderful selection of books (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](http://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.

For 22 years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting toys to be donated to needy children living in Gulfport. GPD is again accepting monetary donations, new unwrapped toys and gift cards. For more information please call 893-1042 and leave a message.

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 in observance of the **Christmas holiday**, and on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of **New Year's Day**. There will be no Wednesday yard waste pick-up either week.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Want to experience a real old fashioned Gulfport Christmas? The **Museum Trolley Christmas Party** is scheduled for Friday, December 13. We'll leave the Museum at 7 p.m. and take the trolley to view the town's prettiest seasonal lights. Seats for the Trolley tour are first come first served, so please arrive by 6:30 p.m. to reserve your spot. Following the tour, we'll return to the Museum for festive refreshments and good wishes for Gulfport's 104<sup>th</sup> year.

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](http://www.sailbcyc.org).

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. The market will be open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve. Call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) for more information.

Visit **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on December 21, 6 - 10 p.m. for some last minute Christmas shopping. Call 322-5217 for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	127
Officer initiated calls for service	421
Offenses	32
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	46

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

A resident in the 1600 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street reported on the morning of December 5 that someone smashed the window of his vehicle with a bat. Nothing was taken, and there are no suspects.

A resident in the 6200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of December 5 that someone punched the lock on the driver side door of her car and stole loose change.

Officers responded to the Town Shores Diplomat building on December 6 regarding a disturbance/possible domestic. They made contact with Gary Hudge who had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for retail theft. He was arrested.

Officer Parks stopped a vehicle in the area of Tangerine Avenue & 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of December 6 because the tail lights were not working. He smelled the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and the driver. A search of the vehicle did not reveal any contraband; however, officers discovered a glass pipe on the driver which tested positive for cocaine. He was arrested.

GPD assisted Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in a perimeter involving an aggravated battery suspect who ran from deputies. The suspect was located in the South Pasadena Mobile Home Park by PCSO K-9 unit.

Officers responded to a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the afternoon of December 7 regarding a male who walked out of the store with 2 containers of laundry detergent. A witness advised she knew the man who stole the items and provided a name. The investigation is ongoing.

A resident in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the morning December 8 that coins and jewelry were missing from a locked dresser. There was no apparent forced entry, but a window was not properly secured.

A resident in the 2600 block of Miriam Street reported that sometime between December 3 & 7, 2 trailers and a boat were taken from her property. There are no suspects.

Officers were dispatched to McDonalds on the afternoon of December 9 for a possible theft in progress. While investigating, they determined that Kevin Wilson had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for driving while license suspended or revoked. He was arrested.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on 2 males on bicycles and determined that one of the bicycles was stolen from a residence in the 1800 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, and the other was stolen during a burglary in the 5500 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Officers stopped a driver in the 5300 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue early December 9 following a traffic violation. After a short investigation it was determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. She was taken to the Pinellas County Jail without incident.

A resident in the 5200 block of Tangerine Avenue reported that her car's gas tank was pried open and an unknown substance poured into it. The car was towed to the dealership for repair.

Officers were dispatched to the 5700 block of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue regarding a burglary that occurred sometime in November while the homeowner was out of state. Several items were reported missing. The investigation is ongoing.

Officer Mills is investigating a retail theft after a man entered the Family Dollar on the morning of December 10 and stole merchandise before fleeing the store.

Officers responded to an attempted robbery in the 1000 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street after a female reported she encountered a male friend that she owes \$10, and he attempted to steal money from hand, but she was able to escape in a taxi. The case is under investigation.

Officers were dispatched to the 5700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the morning of December regarding a disturbance. The resident wanted the other party to leave, and while arranging a ride home for her, they discovered a small bag of white material that tested positive for cocaine. She was arrested for possession of narcotics.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 5 hours this week.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	14
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	8
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements Received:	22
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Previously Cleared With Arrest	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	6
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	10

Detective Pham arrested Roshane Davis for grand theft auto and Timothy Grant for felony theft. He also took the police boat out for routine patrol on Monday, investigated assigned cases and appeared for a trial.

Detective Jennifer Crowson collected evidence from SPPD regarding a stolen vehicle and submitted the evidence to PCSO to be processed for touch DNA. She also issued two notices to appear for sexting, and determined that a credit card fraud did not occur in our jurisdiction, forwarding the report to Maidenhead, UK police.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated an altercation and completed a Baker Act evaluation. He also covered an off duty basketball game, completed his annual firearms qualifications and accompanied a K-9 walk through at the school.

School Resource Officer Langston attended a defensive tactics training session, counseled students regarding dating and family issues and bullying complaints, investigated a complaint of a stolen cell phone and pursued a theft investigation that occurred last week as well, investigated two complaints regarding possible missing/runaway students, conducted two Baker Act evaluations on students, and worked two details providing security coverage for BCHS boys' basketball games.

Analyst Palmisano testified in a deposition regarding a dealing in stolen property case and at a trial for a felony theft case. She also created and distributed the open case lists and the PCSO call out report and completed a check of property reported stolen with a known serial number to document entry into FCIC.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	23
Supplements reviewed:	105
Public records requests:	26
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	39

### **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand one hundred sixty two (2,162) gallons of gas, and five hundred seventy three (573) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety three (93) vessels.

#### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 45' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 19' sailboat, 48' powerboat, and a 30' sailboat this week.

### **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.
- Provided control room coverage for December 11 Board of Adjustment meeting.
- Completed presentation photographs for Bob Williams.
- Completed updates to January 2014 Events/Meetings Calendar and sent to printer.
- Continued work on Four Fold FAQ Brochure.

## **Parks**

Set up tables, chairs and trash cans for Gulfport Neighbors cleanup, and removed following event.

Installed new outlets for Beach Boulevard tree lights, and repaired/replaced damaged lights.

Repaired electrical outlets and lights on holiday tree at Clymer Park.

Installed new picnic tables at Beach pavilion 7 and Recreation Center patio.

Lowered flags to half-staff in observance of Pearl Harbor Day and the passing of Nelson Mandela.

Repaired holiday tree lights at Casino.

Transported ice machine from American Legion post 125 to Fire Station for CERT team event.

Repaired irrigation at Library, Chase block and Dog Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced gears and chains on Reel mower and ordered parts for various equipment.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Recreation Center, Casino & Beach streetscapes; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Recreation Center grounds, City complex, Clymer & Veterans Parks, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Neighborhood Center grounds, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini and Lions Club grounds.

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**

Many thanks for all the generous food and cash donations made to the **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** this holiday season. Our pantry shelves are stocked again because of the unselfish efforts of so many. You have made it possible for many families to have a great holiday. The 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.

**Gulfport Quilters** Remember the true meaning of the Holiday Season. The Senior Center was filled with caroling as the Gulfport Quilters met on December 10 to wrap over 120 placemats they made (photos below). The Gulfport are working with the Meals on Wheels program to add some cheer to residents' Holiday Dinner.



The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

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

Get ready for **Flea Frenzy Reduction**. We're cleaning out the clutter at our next First Friday Flea Market on January 3, 9 a.m. - noon. ALL items will be priced at \$1.00 or less!

Take **A Closer Look at Your Social Security Benefits** on Monday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. as we discuss Individual Benefits, Spousal Benefits, and Social Security Maximization Strategies. Learn about full retirement age, taking benefits early, working while collecting social security, taxation of benefits, and more.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is January 7. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso with Alzheimer's Association will offer free, confidential **Memory Screenings** and advice and information during the new **Monthly Memory**

**Screening Clinic** on the second Monday of every month, beginning January 13, from 9 a.m. - noon. Participants **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Join your Senior Center friends for a tranquil visit and guided tour of the world famous Sunken Gardens botanical attraction during the **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday, January 14. The Gardens has collection of more than 50,000 plants and flowers representing over 500 species of arranged in a beautiful setting of pools and cascading waterfalls. Call 893-2242 before Wednesday, January 8 to reserve a seat. GEMS members \$10/ nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation and admission. The tour **MUST** have at least 15 riders.

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.

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.

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

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center 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, December 1	3 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 126)
Tuesday, December 3	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 11) 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 35)
Wednesday, December 4	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 226)
Thursday, December 5	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa Dance (Turnout 28)

Saturday, December 7	7 p.m. - APEDF Banquet (Turnout 144)
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**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Sunday, December 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):**

Saturday, December 7	6 a.m. - APEDF Conference (Turnout 70)
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**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15, 2 & 7 p.m. - The Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company presents *Annie*. Visit [www.musicaltheatreperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:www.musicaltheatreperformingarts@gmail.com) for more information.

**Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):**

Sunday, December 1	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 8) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, December 5	2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 36)

**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, December 2	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)
Wednesday, December 4	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 20)
Thursday, December 5	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, December 6	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

### 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, December 2, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Monday, December 2, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, December 3, 9 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting*.

Tuesday, December 3, 10 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Guidance/Assistance*.

Tuesday, December 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, December 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, December 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, December 4, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, December 5, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*.

Friday, December 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. - *Holiday Book Sale*.

Saturday, December 7, 1:30 p.m. - *Crafts Club for All Ages*.

### Upcoming Events:

Monday, December 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.

Thursday, December 19, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club* discussion of *The Dubliners* by James Joyce over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, December 19, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners* class: Learn about being safe & secure when using computers and other devices when communicating online. To register visit the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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.

Tuesday, December 24 - *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*. 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 December 1 - 7, 2013:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,147	702
Sun. 12/1	Library closed	
Mon. 12/2	473	142
Tue. 12/3	327	104
Wed. 12/4	376	112
Thu. 12/5	389	132
Fri. 12/6	292	102
Sat. 12/7	259	90

### **Recreation Center**

The game room is reserved 12 - 5 p.m. Saturday December 21 for a Christmas party.

The multipurpose room is reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 28 for a Birthday party.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 23-27 & December 30 - January 3, 2014 (closed Wednesday December 25 & January 1) for children in Kindergarten through age 14. Extended care is available until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, sports, and much more!

### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Forty six (46) 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.

Thirteen (13) 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 nine (59) 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. Three (3) FY2013/14 passes have been sold to date.

### **Staff Activities**

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

John Lapham, Toshiko Pinckney and several Teen Night Program participants judged this year's Holiday Decoration Contest on Monday evening.

Marivel Gutierrez hosted the Gulfport Teen Council meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

Four **Teen Council** members attended the monthly meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of the November minutes, Community Service Projects Mural, members attendance per Resolution and upcoming events.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 14 new, 13 closed
- Water payments: 1,389 totaling \$256,871.49
- On-Line Water payments: 165 transactions totaling \$7,813.02
- Bright House payments: 18
- Utility Bills Mailed 12/11/13: 1,254
- Payroll 12/06/13: 157 transactions totaling 177,509.39

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Re-Inspection
- 2 Plans Reviews
- 1 C.O.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, December 19 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Lt. Fuchs and the “C”-shift taught Health Care Provider CPR Course to the staff of Amley Orthodontics in St. Petersburg. Dr. Amley’s Office has been renewing their CPR with the Gulfport Fire Department since 2005.
- The Pinellas County School Board and GFD performed the Boca Ciega High School annual fire inspection this week. No major violations were observed.
- Over the next two weeks, the Pinellas County P25 Radio System will be going through upgrades. This will not affect voice traffic for Fire, but it will affect the High Performance Data System (HPD) and Fire Station Alerting (FSAs).

Chief Marenkovic reports that between 2007 & 2011 U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 230 home fires that started with Christmas trees, causing an average of 6 deaths, 22 injuries, and \$18.3 million in direct property damage annually. On average, one of every 40 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.

To reduce the risk of a Christmas tree fire choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer. Electrical problems were factors in one-third (32%) of home Christmas tree structure fires. Inspect power outlets and lights, and discard any light strands that are frayed or damaged prior to decorating a tree.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Completed semi-annual hood inspections on kitchen hoods at Senior Center and Little League Field.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Replaced handle and flapper in Parks Department men’s restroom.
- Repaired several light decorations on street poles.
- Repaired 8 lights in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Purchased and set up Christmas tree at Casino.
- Relocated several boxes of envelopes from Senior Center to City Hall.
- Replaced two gate motors and hardware at Police Station compound.
- Rebuilt light in patio area at Recreation Center.
- Repaired air conditioner in Fire Department dining area.

### **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 throughout City.

- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Set up barricades in preparation for parking lot striping at Recreation Center, and roadway striping and installation of stop bars at intersection of 59<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Poured and formed replacement concrete storm lids.
- Completed asphalt road work on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 56<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed and disposed of old tires and parts from City Garage.
- Reset street signs hit by vehicles.
- Applied dust control to alleyways citywide per direction.
- Replaced trash container liners at bus stop located at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Graded and filled alleyways between Gulfport Boulevard and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Cleaned 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Repaired depression in asphalt on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 52<sup>nd</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup> Streets.

#### **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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 40 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 25 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 127 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.

#### **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.
- Cleaned, televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1200 Gray Street.
- Cleared grease stoppage in City yard truck wash.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced air filters on all Sanitation and Fire Department vehicles.
- Replaced brakes and wiper control arms on PD vehicle #18.
- Replaced purge valve and hydraulic Filter on Sanitation truck # 42.
- Replaced throttle sensor on Sanitation Truck #45.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard

economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

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).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 was 2,336. 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).

**December 11 Board of Adjustment results:**

5933 Bayview Circle South - Variance request V13-17 to reduce the applicant's waterfront property right-hand side one-third setback requirement by 7.67 feet from 26.67 feet to 19 feet to allow for the proposed reconstruction of a previously permitted dock and new boat lift. APPROVED.