



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 14-20, 2014*

Children from the Gulfport Recreation Center School Year Child Care Program shared several Holiday songs during **Holiday Hoopla** on December 13 (photo below).



The Gulfport Police Department extends their thanks to everyone who donated gift cards, cash and unwrapped toys for **Operation Santa** (photos below). All donated items will go to 72 Gulfport families and approximately 197 children. Over 30 bins of toys were donated, and many more were purchased with monies collected during various toy drives in and around the City.



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26 in observance **Christmas**, and Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2 in observance of the **New Year**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 24 & 31; Friday's pickup will remain on schedule, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

### Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a **New Year's Eve celebration** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom like none before. *Glitz, Glamour & Glitter* will feature a variety of entertainment and surprises on December 31. Enjoy dancing and live music by the popular party band *Daydreams*, D.J. dance music, party favors, commemorative photo booth, roaming magician and balloon artist, sumptuous decorations, full cash bar, and a midnight ball drop with complimentary champagne toast. Guests are encouraged to dine at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants prior to the event. Late-night tapas will be served after 10 p.m. Tickets: \$35 per person, available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. A limited number of exclusive "VIP Party Rooms," including personal concierge service are available for \$200 each. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the celebration will continue until 1 a.m. For more information visit Glitz, Glamour & Glitter on Facebook, call 381-8548 or email [GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com](mailto:GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com).

The J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation will kick off their two day health event with a **Mini Health & Nutrition Fair** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Friday, January 2, noon - 6:30 p.m. Register for the 5K Run & Walk scheduled for Saturday, January 3. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information call 954-615-7354.

Meet Gulfport artist Linda Worsham at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Friday, January 9, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception and exhibit of her **Gulfport Musicians** series of paintings. Free admission; cash bar. Tapas provided by Tommie's Tiki. For more information call 893-1118.

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate the life of trees and their importance to the environment during the annual **Arbor Day** celebration at the Dog Park, 2726 54<sup>th</sup> Street at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 16. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts and the Gulfport Teen Council will serve refreshments. A new Live Oak tree will be planted, and Southern Magnolia and Red Maple seedlings will be offered to attendees. Gulfport Food Forest will also offer fruit bearing seedlings and moringa (miracle tree) cuttings, and will answer planting questions. For more information, please call 893-1118.

On January 17 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S., stepping up as volunteers during our inaugural **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. In partnership with Gulfport Neighbors, the Day of Service will leverage the strength of our community through a variety of service-oriented projects. Now is the time to identify a community service project and form a team. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice](http://www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice) for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	128
Self-initiated calls for service	490
Offenses	45
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	41

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

Alpha Squad assisted the Criminal Investigative Section on December 11 in apprehending two juveniles who stole a bait bicycle planted in a grand theft sting.

A resident in the 5300 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on December 12 that foul language was spray painted onto the back of her vehicle. This occurred on the evening of December 6, and is related to the string of graffiti incidents along 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but the victim did not report their incident for almost a week.

A resident in the 5100 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone had thrown a rock through the back window of her vehicle and damaged her reindeer yard decoration.

Officers responded to Clam Bayou on the morning of September 13 after someone started a small fire with palm fronds in the pavilion sometime overnight. The fire had smoldered until it burned through the floor of the pavilion.

A resident in the 1500 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported that he believed a tenant had been stealing from him for the last two months. When he went to pack up her things, he found a bag stuffed under the mattress with one of his stolen phones and jewelry that he had in a lock box.

Officers were dispatched to Gulfport Florist after the owner reported that two large orders were placed for flowers and gift baskets using what turned out to be a stolen credit card. Officer Priest will follow up with the recipient to try to identify who sent them.

Sgt. Marotta stopped a car after running the tag and discovering the registered owner had a suspended driver license and a possible traffic warrant out of Hillsborough County. The driver and registered owner, Reagan Chauff was arrested after the warrant was confirmed.

A patron called to report he had been battered in a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. The victim stated that a female had pushed him causing him to fall and injure himself. He initially wanted to prosecute, and the female was arrested. He then stated he did not want to prosecute, and the suspect was released without being charged.

A juvenile riding a bicycle and pulling a second bike was stopped at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street in the early morning hours of December 14. The bicycle was taken for safekeeping and the juvenile was transported home. His mother stated he does not own a bicycle and was not supposed to be out.

Officer Priest was conducting a neighborhood check in the 900 block of 61<sup>st</sup> Street early December 14 regarding a suspicious male that Sgt. Marotta had stopped in the area, and found a purse lying in the street. Officers determined it had been taken from a nearby vehicle. Nothing was missing from the purse.

Officers responded to the 900 block of Freemont Street after a caller reported they woke up to discover their rental car stolen from the driveway. The key had been taken from another vehicle in the yard.

A resident in the 900 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street returned home and discovered someone had removed the screen to her kitchen window, entered her residence and stole a laptop computer from the kitchen table.

A resident in the 3000 Block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported that her purse was taken in a robbery. The victims, a man and a woman, stated that as they exited a car, a black male approached them and pointed what appeared to be a gun at the man and demanded money. After the man told him he had none the suspect threw the woman to the ground, took her purse and ran down an alley.

Officers responded to a report of an armed person in the 6100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue on December 16, but when they arrived they discovered that a woman had taken her own life with a handgun.

A resident in the 6300 block of Vista Verde Drive provided police with documentation indicating that someone had stolen her identity and used it to take out a loan.

A resident in the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue called 911 on December 17 and reported that two juveniles entered his neighbor's carport and stole a bicycle. Police apprehended both suspects down the street. They had abandoned the stolen bike but were identified by the witness. Officer Kinsel interviewed the arrestees and they confessed to the offense.

A resident in the 5100 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported she left her door unlocked when she left for work, and someone entered and ransacked the house. The resident provided officers with the identity of a suspected culprit.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue after man called his wife several times and left voicemail messages in violation of an injunction for protection. Michael Blair was arrested at his hotel in St. Petersburg and admitted post Miranda that he made the calls.

Sergeant Burkhart and the Marine Unit participated in the Boca Ciega Yacht Club boat parade on Saturday evening.

### **Investigations:**

New cases:	20
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	17
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	9

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	26
Supplements reviewed:	68
Public records requests:	19
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	40
Fingerprints	7
Subpoenas processed:	20
Citizens assisted:	35

Detective Pham participated in a bike sting operation resulting in the arrest of two teens for theft; investigated a death involving a handgun, and; conducted follow-up investigations in Pinellas County.

Detective Crowson spent the majority of this reporting period investigating a sexual battery case; assisted patrol with a possible scheme to defraud case; investigated a possible fraud case with FDLE which determined the claim to be a civil matter, and; cleared a burglary case after the suspect was arrested on a warrant.

School Resource Officer Motte conducted an explorer meeting, teaching the explorers about criminal investigations; conducted two oral board interviews for the explorer post; mentored two students; assisted patrol with in progress calls; met with several teachers to discuss his teaching law-related lessons in their classes during second semester, and; recruited explorer volunteers for Operation Santa.

School Resource Officer Langston interviewed a suspect in a loitering and prowling case; assisted day shift with a contact call; investigated two grand thefts of cellular phones; assisted SPPD with a runaway juvenile; responded to a suspicious subject in front of the school; made contact with numerous students skipping class; arranged for and assisted with a K9 walk through at the school; provided security for a basketball game; attended ASP/OC Training, and; collected food pantry items and delivered them to the Senior Center.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano coordinated demonstrations of new composite software with two companies; completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report; compiled and distributed the open case lists, and; compiled statistics for and investigation for Lt. Farrand.

The SET team assisted CIS with a bike theft sting operation that resulted in the arrest of 2 juveniles.

## **MARINA**

Pumped six hundred sixty five (665) gallons of gas and four hundred forty five (445) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling forty three (43) vessels.

Assisted in thirty four (34) pump outs evacuating four hundred fifty five (455) gallons of waste.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 30' sailboat, 19' sailboat t, 27' sailboat, 23' motorboat and a 34' powerboat this week.

### **Staff activities/Marina maintenance:**

- Installed pedestal guards on transient, new hasp on dock box on pier 5, slip 27 and dock box on pier one slip five.
- Repaired 30 amp outlet on pier 5 slip 27.
- Installed new kayak launch.

## **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.

- Updated meeting schedules & minutes, upcoming events and Recreation Center information on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for December 16 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued organization and preparations for MLK Day event.
- Collaborating with Gulfport Food Forest for participation in Arbor Day celebration.
- Contacted Boca Ciega Center to coordinate musical event for MLK Day of Service.

## **Multipurpose Center**

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

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

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

Everything is a \$1 at the January 9 **First Friday Flea Market**. The madness begins at 9 a.m. and continues until noon. Support the Senior Center programs while getting the deal of a lifetime! For more information call 893-1231.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is January 12. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

**Are You Prepared for Retirement?** Michelle Stone & Shands Greenlee will offer an educational seminar at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, answering questions on how to make sure you're prepared throughout your retirement. Pizza will be served so please, RSVP to 893-5657.

**Bongo Bob** will perform a Concert on Thursday, January 22 at 3 p.m. The price of admission is a non-perishable food item for the Senior Center Food Pantry. Come hear Bongo Bob sing & support a worthy cause.

Experience modern art at its best during our monthly Gulfport Getaway to **The Dali Museum** on the evening of January 15. The Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso Exhibit, showcasing the works of two of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is now on display. Reserve your seat by January 8. GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$16. Price includes round-trip transportation and admission. Call GEMS at 896-2242 for more information.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games at our new class every Monday at noon.

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone CAN do this, Everyone SHOULD!

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

**Recycle** your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall**

#### **Casino (*last week's events*):**

Sunday, December 7	6 p.m. - Ellis Hale's band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 45)
Monday, December 8	4:30 p.m. - Boley Center Holiday party (Turnout 375)
Tuesday, December 9	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 19) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 83)
Wednesday, December 10	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 225)
Thursday, December 11	6:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission (Turnout 26)

#### **Casino (*upcoming events*):**

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

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

Every Thursday           6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Friday, December 19    7:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga La Playa with dinner buffet &  
 performance Admission \$15

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

Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m. - Suncoast Dance & Music Academy Holiday Mosaic (Turnout 100)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):**

Thursday-Saturday, January 8-10, 15-17 & 22-24, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 11, 18 & 25, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present **Escanaba in da Moonlight** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A contemporary comedy about deer hunting traditions set in the Escanaba, Michigan area. Tickets \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, online at [www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org](http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org) or at the door beginning one hour before performance.

**Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):**

Sunday, December 7        9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 37)  
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, December 8        7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 21)

Tuesday, December 9       10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20)

Thursday, December 11    10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

**Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):**

Every Sunday                6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

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

**Scout Hall (last week's events)**

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

Monday, December 8        9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 18)  
 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, December 9            10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 12)

Wednesday, December 10    10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 10)

Thursday, December 11       10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 15)

Friday, December 12           11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)  
    6 p.m. - Private holiday party (Turnout 60)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

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

Every Monday                11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday               10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday          10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday                 11 a.m. - Line dancing

**LIBRARY**

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

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

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, December 8, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, December 9, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, December 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

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

Wednesday, December 10, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Wednesday, December 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, December 10 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers*.

Friday, December 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*.

Friday, December 12, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

**Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, December 20 - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two newly released movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Monday, December 22, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session*: Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument & join us! Get in touch with your musical self. Call Alex at 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, December 23 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, January 8, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners*. Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [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 near the Easy books.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

### Library Services/Statistic December 7-13, 2014:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	2,159	644
Sun. 12/7	Library closed	
Mon. 12/8	447	129
Tue. 12/9	384	105
Wed. 12/10	346	119
Thu. 12/11	339	110
Fri. 12/13	295	93
Sat. 12/13	334	80

### Recreation Center

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 22-24, December 29-31 and January 5, 2014 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 awesome Christmas & New Year parties!

### Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty (40) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Sixty (60) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday and the City Council meeting on Tuesday.

Four regular **Teen Councilmembers** were in attendance at the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and Vice-Mayor Christine Brown facilitated the meeting. Topics discussed were Advisor report, approval of the November minutes, Special Events, Old Business and New Business.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 31 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 10 Re-Inspections
- 1 FACP Test Final
- 2 Smoke Detectors

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The December meeting is cancelled. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in a 3 hour HAZ-MAT online training with Target Solutions.
- GFD took final delivery on the 2014 Polaris 6X6 Rescue ATV. This vehicle will help the firefighters perform their jobs better and faster. We will be able to carry more equipment and transport a patient out of flooded areas and rough terrain such as the beach area.
- A Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program continues Field Training with Firefighter/Paramedic Burford as preceptor.
- Fire Inspector Lundh and Chief Marenkovic performed a final Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) test at Stetson Law College with Piper Fire Protection.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced contact for Neighborhood Center parking lot lights.

- Performed semi-annual fire hood inspections at Senior Center & Little League.
- Installed larger heat strip to air handlers at Scout Hall for more heat in building.
- Delivered 20 chairs from Casino to Theater and reinstalled handicap theater chairs.
- Repaired toilet at Fire Station.
- Replaced garbage disposal in Recreation Center kitchen.
- Completed daily set-ups for activities at Senior Center.
- Ran errand to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Replaced "Exit" light in Theater Lobby.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City Buildings.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Maintained restrooms during Holiday Hoopla and removed banners following event.
- Repaired two gates at little league dugout.
- Installed cover on Clymer electrical box.
- Repaired/replaced fence rails at Tangerine.
- Closed pavilion at Clam Bayou damaged by arson.
- Replaced 3 Tonkin Park picnic tables and home plate at Little League softball field.
- Relocated 2 signs at Dog Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued trimming palms along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned City Complex, Senior Center, Library & Beach streetscapes, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Recreation Center, beach & Marina green spaces, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, Lions Club, Clymer Greenway, 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians and Hoyt perimeter.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at baseball fields.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

## **Streets & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.

- Added fill and reset grade at alleyway entrances at 55<sup>th</sup> Street & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed new stop sign and post at 64<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed new “No Parking” signs at Marina, Gulfport Dry Storage & Boca Ciega Yacht Club.
- Installed reflective bollards around fire hydrants at Marina.
- Set up trash and recycling containers for Holiday Hoopla, and disposed of debris following event.
- Applied dust control in alleyways per direction.
- Trimmed grass around storm water outfall structure at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue and around storm water inlet structure at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & Tangerine 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 #31, 32, 33, and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 27 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 84 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Repaired water break at 5726 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Repaired sewer main and lateral at 5717 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5325 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Cleaned sewer lateral at 1918 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced hydraulic cylinders on Sewer backhoe #79.
- Replaced battery in Parks Division vehicle #53.
- Replaced blower wheel in Park Division vehicle #25.
- Replaced tires on Streets vehicle #69 and Sanitation vehicles #40 & 42.
- Replaced control valves in Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced radiator and fan blade in Police vehicle #91.
- Delivered Police vehicle #16 to Suncoast Chrysler for warranty repairs.
- Replaced headlight on Sanitation vehicle #46 and diagnosed and repaired “growling” noise.
- Removed, repaired and reinstalled exhaust system on Parks Division Toro Workman vehicle.
- Repaired plastic underbody fairing on Police vehicle #18.

- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at [www.pced.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

**Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

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

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

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

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.

- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

#### WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in 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 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

The number of code enforcement cases for November was 126. The year-to-date total is 345. The number of citizen complaints was 12 with a year-to-date total of 35. The year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 10.1 percent.

The total number of cases for the close of the 2013-14 fiscal year was 2,463, compared to 2,336 cases last fiscal year. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year-end was 221. The ratio of complaints to total number of cases for the 2013-14 fiscal year was 9 percent.

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

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

#### **December 10, 2014 Board of Adjustment results:**

- V14-21; 6121 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the setback requirement from the rear yard property line by 9 feet, from 15 feet to 6 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed 16' x 27' accessory structure (garage). APPROVED
- V14-22; 2797 Seabreeze Drive; Variance request to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 13.3 feet, from 26.67 feet to 13.34 feet to allow for the removal of an existing lower landing, tie-poles, and davits for the installation of a proposed new boat lift. APPROVED
- V14-23; 5949 Seabird Drive; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 19 feet 6 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 7 feet 2 inches to allow for the removal of an existing boat lift and installation of a proposed new boat lift. APPROVED

- V14-24; 5943 Bayview Circle; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback by 9 feet, from 25 feet to 16 feet to allow the reconstruction of a new, uncovered front stairway entry to the existing porch and house. APPROVED