



Gulfport Community Update

December 15 - 21, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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.

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

Upcoming Events:

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.

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. Call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com for more information. **The Fresh Market will close at 2 p.m. on December 24 & 31.**

The **Fourth Annual JWest Prostate Cancer 5k Walk/Run for Awareness** is 8 a.m. Saturday, January 4. For more information visit www.jwestprostatefoundation.org or call Mike Calimari at 638-2389.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	129
Officer initiated calls for service	313
Offenses	34
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	45

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5400 block of 6th Place reported on the afternoon of December 12 that, for the second time in two weeks an unknown subject threw a rock and broke a window on her home.

Officers responded a business in the 2200 block of 49th Street regarding a theft of a cell phone. The incident was caught on security video, and the suspect was identified as Dennis Coble. Coble was located 2 hours later and arrested with the stolen property in hand.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of Tangerine Avenue on the morning of December 14 after a caller reported she left her car running while she was inside a friend's home. When she returned a short time later the car was gone.

On the evening of December 14 Officer Marshall was dispatched to a call from a resident in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue who stated that she was unable to wake her boyfriend. Officer Marshall performed chest compressions until the Fire Department and EMS responded. The man was revived and transported to the hospital without incident.

A resident reported that he locked his mountain bike to Gate C, Pier 6 at the Gulfport Marina and discovered it had been stolen when he returned the next day.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of 49th Street on the afternoon of December 15 after a caller reported seeing a male subject looking into the window of a neighbor's home earlier in the day. When the subject realized he was being watched, he ran north on 49th Street.

On the afternoon of December 15 Officer Nicita made contact with two juveniles known to be involved in several criminal reports and arrests in Gulfport. He seized a large water pipe from the backpack of one of the two and the juveniles were released to parents.

Clam Bayou Park was checked by officers in the early morning hours of December 16 in response to a report that someone had set up camp and was living there. Nobody was found and no evidence of a camp remained.

Officer Randazzo witnessed a scuffle at the Skate Park as he was driving by on the afternoon of December 16. Two juveniles kicked, punched, and stomped the head of victim who was trespassing in the park after having been warned previously. All three were taken into custody. The victim sustained minor injuries.

Shawn Rodriguez was arrested on the afternoon of December 17 after he returned to the Town Shores Diplomat Building following a trespass warning. He was charged with trespassing and disorderly intoxication.

A resident of the Town Shores Diplomat Building was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act after she was discovered to be too intoxicated to care for herself. She was transported to a secure facility to sober up.

Officers are investigating a fraud case after a woman reported her debit card, which was inside her purse when it was stolen from a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on December 14, was used at a local gas station on December 17.

Officers responded to a report of 3 bicycles stolen from a shed in the backyard of a residence in the 5000 block of 14th Avenue on the afternoon of December 18. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers issued a trespass warning to an intoxicated individual from the Gulfport Casino on the evening of December 18 after he caused a disturbance and refused to leave. Witnesses reported the man had tripped several other guests.

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

Investigations:

New Cases:	12
Cases Assigned:	2

Cases Suspended-No Leads:	4
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements Received:	17
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	12

Detective Hanh Pham spoke with several inmates at the Pinellas County Jail regarding cases he is investigating. He also worked assigned cases, and closed one as “no crime involved.”

Detective Jennifer Crowson conducted a child abuse investigation involving a student at Richard L. Sanders ESE School. The case was forwarded to the State Attorney’s office as a domestic related battery. The case was exceptionally cleared and an arrest was not made based on the suspect’s mental health. Detective Crowson also completed the annual firearms qualification course and annual use of force and Taser courses.

School Resource Officer Langston conducted a mental health evaluation on a student and determined the student did not meet the criteria for involuntary custody, and responded to a medical emergency involving a student having a seizure. The student was transported by ambulance to the hospital, and the parents were notified. She also counseled a student regarding a bullying issue the school was investigating; located a trespasser on campus (a former student), and escorted the trespasser off campus; responded to a narcotics violation a campus monitor discovered three males in a restroom which had a strong odor of marijuana. The students received school consequences. Additionally, Officer Langston assisted a juvenile probation officer with his investigation and follow-up of a student. Last week a student reported to Officer Langston that his family was unable to afford school supplies for him. She coordinated with the school’s guidance counselor and a representative from 2-1-1, and collected school supplies for the student this week. She also worked the Southeast vs. BCHS boys’ basketball game and completed the Taser recertification training this week.

Officer Motte is on leave this week.

This week Crime Analyst Palmisano updated the sex offender display in the PD lobby, adding a new sex offender and a new career offender who recently moved into the City. She also researched a case in which a Gulfport resident made threatening comments about deputies in Brevard County.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	22
Supplements reviewed:	52
Public records requests:	30
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	8
Subpoenas processed:	12
Citizens assisted:	49

MARINA

Pumped one thousand three hundred thirty six (1,336) gallons of gas, and nine hundred twenty six (926) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty three (83) vessels.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 30' sailboat, 19' sailboat, 23' motorboat, and a 27' sailboat and 34' powerboat this week.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Provided control room coverage for December 17 City Council meeting.
- Engineered Theater lights for Senior Follies Show.
- Completed January 2014 Events/Meetings calendar and sent to printer.
- Filled in for Santa at the Tot Time Christmas Party.
- Continued preparations of Four Fold FAQ Brochure.

Parks

Inspected lights, timers & electrical outlets, and set up trash/recycling bins, tables & chairs in preparation for Holiday Hoopla and removed following event.

Pressure washed picnic tables & cement pad at pavilion 6, and sanded & sealed picnic tables.

Repaired Casino pier sign.

Repaired four power outlets and relocated main breaker wiring on Beach Boulevard in preparation for event.

Painted Sergeant's office at PD.

Hung and removed Holiday hoopla banners.

Repaired trash can door latch on pier, 2 fence rails & 2 posts at Wood Ibis Park, 3 benches at beach bocce court and holiday tree lights at Casino.

Inspected all City parks for repairs.

Raised theatre backdrop curtain.

Repaired irrigation at Library, Little League fields, Senior Center & Recreation Center.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced wheels on Reel Mower, fuel lines on stick edger, wheel & tire on Toro workman, air filters on equipment, and emergency bulbs on trucks, and sound system microphone cable.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned City complex; 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, 28th Street signage area, York & 49th 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.

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

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

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine

organizing, etc. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

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!

Attention Baby Boomers! Thinking about retirement? You're not alone. 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.

Enjoy a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 14.

Community Resource Partnership (CRP) is an alliance of health care industry professionals whose mission is to provide support and information on aging and lifetime health care issues to families and individuals. They are committed to educating the community about available resources on aging and health-related issues, including Affording the Retirement Lifestyle you Need, Financial Planning/Insurance, Government/Public Benefits (Medicaid, VA Benefits), Health Care, Legal & Estate Planning, Nutrition & Wellness, and Senior Housing. Join them for a free informational seminar at the Senior Center on January 15 at 2 p.m.

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 49th Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

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

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 8	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hales Band & Ballroom dance
Monday, December 9	4:30 p.m. - Boley Center Holiday party (Turnout 300)
Tuesday, December 10	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 17) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 14) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 33)
Wednesday, December 11	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 231)
Saturday, December 14	6 p.m. - Second Time Arounders Holiday party (Turnout 170)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events):

Sunday, December 8	9 a.m. - APEDF Conference (Turnout 70)
Monday, December 9	9 a.m. - Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company stage setup
Tuesday, December 10	9 a.m. - Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company stage setup
Wednesday, December 11	10 a.m. - Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company rehearsal 1 p.m. - Senior Follies rehearsal 4 p.m. - Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company rehearsal

Thursday, December 12	9 a.m. - Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company rehearsal
Saturday, December 14	2 p.m. - The Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company presents <i>Annie</i> (Turnout 150)

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, December 8	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Scout Hall (Last week's events):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, December 9	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 21)
Wednesday, December 11	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 19)
Thursday, December 12	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, December 13	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 9, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Monday, December 9, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, December 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Wednesday, December 11, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, December 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, December 11, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, December 12, 1 p.m. - *Computer & Online Safety Crash Course* facilitated by Dave Mather.

Friday, December 13, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

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 beginning January 7, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry*: Gulfport Historian Lynne Brown instructs you on how to research family history and genealogy. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic December 8 - 14, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,930	632
Sun. 12/8	Library closed	
Mon. 12/9	309	113
Tue. 12/10	328	110
Wed. 12/11	288	119
Thu. 12/12	333	92
Fri. 12/13	387	96
Sat. 12/14	261	92

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** for children in Kindergarten through age 14 from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 23-27 & December 30 - January 3, 2014 (closed Wednesday December 25 & January 1). 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. Tot Time/VPK participants visited the Boca Ciega Nursing Center on Monday morning to spread Holiday cheer. They sang Christmas songs and distributed gifts donated by the Michael J. Yakes "Caring & Sharing" Foundation (photo below).



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

John Lapham used the school bus to transport a group of Tot Time/VPK participants to the Boca Ciega Nursing Center on Monday morning, and attended the Pension Board meeting on Monday afternoon.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 12 closed
- Water payments: 1165 totaling \$262,831.53
- On-Line Water payments: 188 transactions totaling \$10,744.34
- Bright House payments: 24
- Utility Bills Mailed 12/18/13: 1633
- Accounts Payable 12/13/13: 1083 transactions totaling \$ 983,500.33
- Mail processed 12/13/13: 771 pieces totaling \$760.32
- Purchasing Card 12/11/13: 190 transactions totaling \$26,832.22

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 7 Structure Fires
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue

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 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, January 16 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.

The Gulfport CERT team donated an Ice Machine to the Gulfport Fire Department. The machine is set up in the Garage bay. This comes in handy for the Rehabilitation Unit and for the hot summer months for the Firefighter to cool down water bottles that they carry on the apparatus.

- Gulfport Fire Department is completing the December St. Petersburg College 2013 Online CME. This month we will review medications and medical equipment either recently deployed or will be introduced into PCEMS in 2014. The Course Evaluation and the Post-Test are required for completion of this CME.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the special PCFCA meeting on December 17.
- Over the next two weeks, the Pinellas County P25 Radio System will undergo upgrades. This will not affect voice traffic for Fire, but it will affect the High Performance Data System (HPD) and Fire Station Alerting (FSAs).
- The Final Draft of the 2014 Medical Operations Manual is going to print. The manual incorporates all corrections received to date, and is suitable for training purposes. The final manual will be transmitted once approved by the Medical Control Board in early January.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Rewired lights on Recreation Center patio.
- Replaced two ballasts in Parks Department office.
- Transported vehicles to Tampa for Garage Supervisor.
- Repaired numerous areas on Senior Center roof.
- Tented Little League building for termites.
- Replaced several ballasts at Library.
- Completed monthly air conditioning filter replacement on all City a/c units.

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 grade in the alley at 55th Street & 23rd Avenue.
- Trimmed trees to removed alley obstructions.
- Completed alley patchwork.
- Set up and delivered automated garbage and recycling containers in preparation for Holiday Hoopla, cleaned area and removed debris following event.
- Posted "Road Closed" signs on Beach Boulevard in preparation for weekend event.
- Repaired broken wash sink and waterline for Streets Department.
- Replaced concrete storm drain cover at Town Shores.
- Delivered two additional 90-gallon trash containers to Boca Ciega High School.
- Graded alley between 54th & 55th Streets, between 22nd & 23rd Avenues.
- Cleaned City yard and removed debris from Garage.
- Reset storm drain lids at 58th Street & 20th Avenue, and 58th Street & 17th Avenue.
- Installed "No Parking" sign at 62nd Street & 13th Avenue.
- Delivered new automated 90 gallon recycling container to Pelican Bay Plaza (B).

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 13 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 114 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 4 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 2213 Pasadena Place South.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Installed stabilizer bar kit on Fire Department Vehicle #17.
- Installed air dryer on Sanitation Vehicle #42.
- Installed sensor on Police Department Vehicle #12.
- Installed upper control arms on Police Department Vehicle #111
- Installed grabber arm on Sanitation Vehicle #31.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

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.

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

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.