



Gulfport Community Update

November 29 - December 5, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will **be closed for Christmas** on Friday, December 25. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 23; Friday's routes will be collected on Thursday the 24th, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

For twenty four years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting cash, unwrapped toys and gift cards for needy children living in the City, and is again asking for help. Call 893-1097 for more information or to make a donation.

The **Gulfport Senior Center is accepting donations of coats and blankets** through the month of December. Grand Villa of St. Petersburg will distribute the donated items to people in the community in need of assistance. For more information call the Senior Center at 893-5657.

Upcoming Events:

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

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, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Join the Gulfport Historical Society and the City of Gulfport for the **Gulfport Casino's Birthday Celebration** on Friday, December 4 at 6 p.m. The Gulfport Casino has been the site of weddings, special events, dancing, concerts, school functions, etc. for 80 years. Doors open at 6 p.m. and a historical presentation will begin at 7. The Impacs will entertain during the event. The Gulfport Casino is located at 5500 Shore Boulevard. Free admission/cash bar. For more information call 893-1118.

Everyone is welcome at the **Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park at the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards on Monday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Bundle up for an evening of festive music with songs performed by children from the Tot Time/VPK & School Year Child Care programs. Join Mayor Henderson, City Council and Yvonne Johnson for caroling. There will be refreshments and festive cheer as the Mayor lights the tree for another holiday season. The big man in red will be there to listen to the little ones' holiday wishes. For more information call 893-1118.

It's time to get your holiday cheer in gear. Support small business by shopping local during the Gulfport Merchants Association's annual **Holiday Hoopla** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The festival will provide shoppers with one-of-a-kind gifts that cannot be found anywhere else, and all of your holiday shopping can be done in one place! Visitors will be enchanted by a variety of festive and fun holiday-themed music, holiday carolers, dance performances, and roving street performers. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Santa and Gulfport families in need. Vendor applications and information are available at www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/fall/holiday-hoopla.

The holiday spirit continues on the evening on December 12 with the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Lighted Boat Parade** along Gulfport Beach at 6 p.m. The parade begins at the Gulfport Municipal Marina and passes by the BCYC clubhouse before heading into the bay and on to Williams Pier and the beach, past the Casino, through Town Shores, Pelican Bay, Kipps Colony

and the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club. Lastly we visit Isla del Sol, then head back to the BCYC clubhouse for the Post Parade party. Sail and power boats are welcome! Entry fee: Two or more unwrapped toys for Operation Santa. Boca Ciega Yacht Club is proud to have been part of Operation Santa for 15 years. Sign up at BCYC, 4600 Tifton Drive South, or visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information. To become a parade sponsor call Don & Jen Rogers at 345-7544 or email jrogers@tampabay.rr.com.

Celebrate the history of our winter holidays with a cookie exchange, trolley caroling tour, and a celebration of all the holidays that have combined to give us Christmas. The Gulfport Historical Society's **Festivus History of Christmas Party** is Friday, December 18, 6 - 10 p.m. at the Gulfport History Museum at 5301 28th Avenue. It doesn't matter what you believe - everyone is welcome. Free to all and filled with cookies! Bring cookies to trade or sample.

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 & Gitter* 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. Casino Club reservations are \$45 and include reserved seating with no table minimum or maximum, full private VIP bar area, exclusive Casino Club concierge service, tableside midnight champagne pour and premium party favors. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. Space is limited, so purchase tickets early. This event is sponsored by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information call Angela Lagan at 348-6490 or email Angela.Lagan@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/New-Years-Eve-Gala-866500280041698.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	140
Self-initiated calls for service	349
Offenses	34
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	47
Ordinance violations	37

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A Gulfport resident reported on November 26 that he was robbed of his wallet near 49th Street in St. Petersburg. Gulfport officers stood by with the complainant until St. Petersburg Police arrived to investigate.

A bar patron reported on November 27 that she left her car parked at Veterans Park overnight. When she returned the next day the car was gone.

Gulfport Police were summoned to help Pinellas County Sheriff Deputies apprehend a shoplifter in South Pasadena. Officer Petit spotted the thief hiding in a backyard in the 6700 block of West Flamingo Way and detained him until deputies arrived.

An officer recovered a vehicle reported stolen From St. Pete behind an abandoned house in the 5000 block of 10th Avenue. Items from a vehicle recovered two weeks ago were also found in the yard. It appears the house is being used to dump stolen vehicles.

A resident in the 900 block of 63rd Street reported on November 29 that sometime in the previous four days someone entered his garage and stole a pressure washer and two drills.

Officers were dispatched to the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a resident reported that someone used her bank information to make a purchase in Georgia. The pending transaction was flagged but went through anyway.

A resident in the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue reported that his Ford Aerostar Van had been stolen from his driveway during the night.

An officer was dispatched to an address in St. Petersburg regarding an armed robbery that occurred in the 1500 block of 49th Street. A man fired a black semi-automatic handgun away from the victim and requested everything he had, taking the victim's cash, an L-Scooter, and a cellphone.

The owner of Gulfport Family Restaurant reported on December 1 that someone entered the fenced area behind the business and stole some tools.

A bicycle was reported stolen from the Gulfport Elementary School bike compound after a juvenile suspect walked into the compound, took a student's bike, and fled toward St. Petersburg. Officers circulated the area but were not able to locate the suspect or the bike.

Officer Hutsko responded to an information call at Gulfport Police Department. When he checked the complainant's identification he discovered two outstanding felony warrants for violation of probation. Rebekah Walker was arrested.

An officer was flagged down by the manager of Save-A-Lot on December 2 and advised that a wallet was found next to the dumpster. Officers traced the wallet to a Gulfport resident and business owner and discovered that a purse was taken from an unlocked vehicle in the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard. Forty dollars was missing, but officers recovered other items and returned them to the victim.

The Marine unit was on the water for 5.75 hours this week. Detective Pham assisted with a water rescue and responded to a domestic between two people staying on a vessel. He also made two contacts. Officers Cavanah and Ross responded to a water rescue call regarding a man who appeared to be having difficulty keeping his head above water. He found unharmed on a vessel in the area.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	2
Cases still active:	14

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a grand theft, a burglary, and a death investigation.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two auto thefts and two vehicle burglaries.

School Resource Officer Langston completed one supplemental report; counseled a student; met with the parent of a student; followed up on a robbery case; provided information to a SPPD detective; researched and provided follow up information to the school regarding a SPPD investigation, and; provided security coverage at a basketball game.

Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 12 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	36
Public Records requests:	6
Reports disseminated:	12
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	27

Professional Standards

The following departmental policies are in the review process: 114 - Firearms Procedures; 122 - Crime Scene Processing; 126 - Eyewitness Identification Procedures; 130 - Overcoming Communication Barriers; 146 - Training for Specialized Assignments, and; 445 - Surveillance and Monitoring Equipment.

Lt. Stone and Sgt. Woodman attended a four hour training session entitled Leading during Major Crimes and Incidents, hosted by the Tampa Bay Police Chief's Association. Speakers included Temple Terrace Police Chief Kenneth Albano and former Chief Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor.

Ten Police Officer applications are being processed.

Lieutenant Stone is reviewing prior applicant information for possible revision of testing materials for the applicant screening process.

A minority recruitment plan was developed and submitted to Chief Vincent. Members of the professional standards section will be scheduling events in order to meet the requirements of the plan. Lt. Stone has reached out to the University of South Florida in order to attend any career fair events. The university has tentatively scheduled an event for February.

Lt. Stone is working on a DHSMV audit of the use of the DAVID database and an audit of the agency's property and evidence function.

MARINA

Assisted in thirty four (34) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty five (345) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand seven hundred twenty six (1,726) gallons of gas and six hundred fifty six (656) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty five (85) vessels.

Transient vessels

Marina staff welcomed a 45' motorboat, 39' motorboat, 38' motorboat, a 36' sailboat and 2 34' sailboats this week.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 23, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, November 23, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*, facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, November 24, 2 p.m. - *Computer Class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, November 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, November 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Seasonal Book Sale*: Hardcover editions & more, great for gifting! Offerings will be available for preview by members of the Circle of Friends on Friday evening.

Tuesday, December 8, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club*. Start creating and commanding your own robot! The group meets every second Tuesday of the month. Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Wednesday, December 9, 4 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport!* Are you new to, returning to, or just curious about Gulfport? Everyone is invited to this get-together co-hosted by the Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about both organizations and discover services offered by the City. For more information call 893-1074.

Thursday, December 10, noon - *Lunch & Learn All About Cats*: Join composer, singer, storyteller and lifelong cat aficionado Denny Mitchell for a fun hour of entertainment with original music. Consider bringing lunch. Drinks will be provided. For more information call 893-1073.

Monday, December 14, 1 p.m. - *BarTAB, Bar Training for Active Bystanders*: Almost 50% of sexual assaults involve alcohol. Training session presented by Suncoast Center to help create a safe environment for patrons and staff. For more information call 327-7656, ext. 4150 or email BarTabPinellas@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling 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 or visit the Library for more information.

Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Concert*: The men's vocal ensemble has performed at Nordstrom's in International Plaza, area churches, and for civic events. This holiday event is sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center and the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library.

Friday, December 18, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets. We'll build awesome forts and watch a family movie. Popcorn provided! For more information call Cailey at 893-1074 or cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Saturday, December 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

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. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistics November 22 - 28, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,870	590
Sun. 11/22	Library closed	
Mon. 11/23	493	136
Tue. 11/24	400	130
Wed. 11/25	436	128
Thu. 11/26	Holiday - Library closed	
Fri. 11/27	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 11/28	410	121

PARKS & RECREATION

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-640. 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.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, upcoming events, Recreation Center, Senior Center and water quality information on City website.
- Continued preparations for Gulfport Casino 80th Birthday celebration, Holiday Tree Lighting and MLK Day of Service.
- Attended MLK and JWest Cancer Run planning meetings.
- Assisted with set up of City displays at St. Pete Boat Show and Shopapoloosa.
- Uploaded December City Council meeting to City website and rebroadcast meeting on GTV615.

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.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) 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 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborhood Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, 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 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 27th Avenue South for more information.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 1.

The **LGBT Support & Resource Group** meets at 5:30 p.m. every first & third Monday of the month. The group focuses on unique challenges confronting older LGBT citizens. December's topic is *Religion & the LGBTQ Community*. The next meeting is December 7.

Enjoy lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 8.

You got a Tablet! Now What? Learn the basic functions of Android Tablets during **Tech Talk** on Wednesday, December 9 at 2 p.m. Provided by The Gulfport Library.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is December 14. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

The **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** is a monthly get together to share a meal, conversation, and fun! The group will visit Cracker Barrel on Tuesday December 15. Space is limited: seats MUST be reserved in advance. The round trip fee is \$4 for GEMS members and \$6 fee for nonmembers.

Learn how to make a holiday centerpiece for your table at the **Flower Arrangement Class** on Thursday December 17 at 2 p.m. Presented by Boca Ciega Center. Call 893-5657 to register.

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

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center 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.

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 organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, November 22 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Ellis Hale's Band (Turnout 24)
- Tuesday, November 24 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 13)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 51)
- Wednesday, November 25 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 25)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 228)
- Saturday, November 28 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 75)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
- Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
- Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
- Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Friday, December 4 6 p.m. - Gulfport Casino Birthday Celebration

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

- Sunday, November 22 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Tuesday, November 24 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Monday, November 23 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, November 24 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Recreation Center

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 14. There are two theme categories: general for single homes and; commercial for single business and professional locations, including home occupations. Deadline to enter the contest is noon on the 14th. A plaque will be presented to one winner in each category at the City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 5.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 21-24, December 28-31 & January 4 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!

The multipurpose room was rented noon - 10 p.m. Saturday, November 28 for a wedding reception with 85 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, December 5 for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty seven children are registered for the **2015/16 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. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Nine children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten 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.

Thirty five teens are registered for the **2015/16 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: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women’s Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities:

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport a group of Tot Time/VPK participants and their parents to the Horse Power Farm in Odessa.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue
- 2 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 17 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 4 C.O.’s
- 1 Plan Review
- 1 Smoke Detector

Firefighter/Paramedic Grady and other first Pinellas County delivered more than 100 teddy bears to patients at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg on November 30 for The Caden Project.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief’s Association meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on December 3.

Lieutenant Burford on the “B” shift is preceptor for an EMT Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

PUBLIC WORKS

Staff continues daily water quality testing at Gulfport Beach, Gulfport Shores and the Marina. The beach is currently open. The results of December 3 are provided below. Visit www.mygulfport.us for the most up-to-date information.

Gulfport Casino

Sample ID	Date/Time
1533707-01	12/3/15 7.50 a.m.

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
4 B	4	12/3/15 9 a.m.

Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
10 B	10	12/3/15 9 a.m.

Gulfport Marina

Sample ID	Date/Time
1533707-02	12/3/15 8:12 a.m.

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
16 B	4	12/3/15 9 a.m.

Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
20 B	10	12/3/15 9 a.m.

Gulfport Shores

Sample ID	Date/Time
-----------	-----------

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
--------	-----	--------------------

Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
--------	-----	--------------------

1533707-03 12/3/15 8:03 a.m. 110 B 4 12/3/15 9 a.m. 110 B 10 12/3/15 9 a.m.

Enterococcus Results Description		
<u>Good</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Poor*</u>
0-35 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	36 – 104 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	105 or greater Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water
0-35 CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean		36 and over CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean
Fecal Coliform Results Description		
<u>Good</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Poor*</u>
0-199 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	200-399 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	400 or greater fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

*A poor rating may result in a resampling event to confirm poor conditions; otherwise a Health Advisory or Warning will be issued immediately. These indicate that contact with the water at this site may pose increased risk of infectious disease, particularly for susceptible individuals. A reading of NR means “No Result”. This could indicate that no sample was taken at this point because of weather or other factors, or that an analysis result was not obtained from the laboratory.

Building Maintenance

- Inspected Little League building for termites, and removed carpet in upstairs area.
- Enclosed openings in Parks Department building following removal of a/c wall units.
- Lubricated doors at City Hall.
- Installed mini blind in Vehicle Maintenance office.
- Set up tables at Recreation Center in preparation for Tot Time event.
- Painted rooms at Neighborhood Center, and repaired gate and card reader.
- Picked up and delivered vehicle repair parts to garage.
- Repaired marquee sign at Casino.
- Delivered donated food to Senior Center pantry.
- Changed locks on doors at various City facilities.
- Picked up and delivered trees to Parks staff.
- Performed semiannual maintenance of a/c units at all City facilities.
- Replaced ceiling tiles in Library main room, Friends room, hallway & restrooms.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Replaced electric wires & outlets and installed holiday decorations at Clymer Park.
- Adjusted timers at skate park and volleyball courts.
- Commenced renovations to Parks Department shop break area.
- Repaired bench swing on beach.
- Mowed City Complex, Library & Senior Center grounds, Clymer, Tomlinson & Veterans Parks, sign areas at 28th Avenue and at Tangerine & 49th Street, and drainage area along 56th Street.
- Repaired irrigation at City Complex & Caldwell Park.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach Boulevard streetscapes & Casino green spaces, replaced flower planters at Williams Pier & Clymer Park, and cleaned beach.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, assembled new reel mower, and replaced fuel lines & carburetors on line trimmers & blowers.
- 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.
- 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, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Continued automatic street sweeping.
- Removed 300-gallon trash containers from Holy Name following weekend event.
- Restocked mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Completed routes #48, 9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 79 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off
- Completed 102 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Continued locating water mainline valves throughout City.
- Commenced directional bore along 27th Avenue in preparation for relocation of water services.
- Repaired water breaks at 14th Ave & York Street and at 1617 49th Street.

Sewer

- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise & preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall & Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 4795 Baywood Point, and sewer lateral & main at 5108 8th Avenue.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5602 12th Avenue.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at 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 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, 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.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for November was 113. The year-to-date total number of cases is 270. The number of citizen complaints for November was 6, making a year-to-date total of 16. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 5.9 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. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review 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.

December 9, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

V15-29; 4624 27th Avenue; Variance Application request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 6.55 feet, from 25 feet to 18.45 feet to allow for a proposed addition onto an existing single family house.