



Gulfport Community Update

November 30 - December 6, 2014

Mayor Henderson and the Gulfport City Council welcomed approximately 150 celebrants to the City's annual **Holiday Tree Lighting** on December 1 (photos below). The children from the Recreation Center's School Year Child Care & Tot Time programs filled Clymer Park with holiday song and former Mayor Yvonne Johnson led attendees in caroling in anticipation of a special visitor in a big red suit's arrival on the City's antique fire truck while the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments. Thank you to the CERT team for their assistance with parking and pedestrian safety.



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.

For twenty three 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.

Upcoming Events:

Avoid the shopping crowds at the mall this holiday season and enjoy live music while perusing original art and craft vendors during **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on December 5, 6 - 10 p.m. Then stay for dinner at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants. For more information call 322-5217.

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. Donate or trade gently used apparel at the monthly **CASA Clothing Swap** in the Art Village courtyard at the Corner of Beach Boulevard & 29th Avenue on December 9 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Get your group, family and friends together for a great outdoor activity at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, December 13, 9 - 11 a.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4. Email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com or visit Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Feeling Scrooge-y? Don't get your Tinsel in a Tangle! It's time to get your holiday cheer in gear, and fun-filled festival will do the trick. Support small business by shopping local during the Gulfport Merchants Association's annual **Holiday Hoopla** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, December 13. 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. The Gulfport Merchant's Association gives back to the community all year. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Santa and Gulfport families in need, and new unwrapped toys, gift cards, etc. will be collected for Operation Santa, the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will accept nonperishable food & toiletries for their pantry, and Gulfport's Get Rescued group will collect pet food & cat litter. Donations can be dropped off at the Gulfport Police Department and the Gulfport Area Chamber of commerce prior to the event. This event is sponsored by Bright House Networks, Tampa Bay Times and the City of Gulfport. Visit www.gulfportma.com for more information.

The holiday spirit continues into the evening on December 13 with the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Boat Parade** along Gulfport Beach at 6 p.m. Sail and power boats are welcome! Entry fee: Two or more unwrapped toys for Operation Santa. Sign up at BCYC, 4600 Tifton Drive South, or visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information.

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.

On January 17, 2015 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 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	104
Self-initiated calls for service	545
Offenses	29
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	30

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Priest stopped a vehicle with an expired tag in the 6500 block of Gulfport Boulevard early November 27. As he approached the car the driver, Clarissa Cubby confessed that she is a habitual traffic offender. A database check confirmed that the driver's license was suspended in 2008 and that she has had 7 prior Driving While License Suspended or Revoked arrests. She was taken to Pinellas County Jail.

Officers attempted to speak to a driver of a motorcycle seen driving at high speeds in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard. The driver fled the scene, almost striking a witness. Officers were able to get the tag number and identify the driver, confirmed by a witness. Charges are being forwarded to the State and citations have been mailed out.

The Gulfport Historical Museum reported on November 28 that someone took two five-dollar bills from their donation box.

Officers responded to the 5900 block of Pelican Bay Plaza regarding a call a resident received from an unknown person claiming they kidnapped the residents' daughter. The caller demanded \$4000 dollars for her safe return. The residents were able to make contact with the daughter and all family members were accounted for. The call was determined to be a hoax.

Sometime Friday night someone forced entry to a doctor's office in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard and stole a small amount of cash.

A caller reported a female who appeared to be intoxicated was in the street in the 6100 block of Gulfport Boulevard early November 30. Officers made contact with her and discovered she had fallen and caused a minor injury to her face. After being checked by medics, she was transported home where there was someone to take care of her.

A resident in the 2400 block of 53rd Street reported on the morning of December 1 that a friend woke him at 5:30 a.m. to tell him that several black males had just stolen his Mercedes from his driveway. The suspects went through a chain link fence, opened the unlocked kitchen door and grabbed the keys from a table just inside the door. Camera footage from the PD showed that it took less than 30 seconds for the thieves to get the key and drive away in the car.

Officers were dispatched to the 5800 block of 9th Avenue early December 2 to check on a person lying on the sidewalk and made contact with a 15 year old male who admitted that he left his group home because he didn't like the way the other kids treated him. He had been entered by the St Petersburg Police as a runaway. The group home was contacted and he was returned to the facility.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Technology Center on December 3 after a caller reported that paint was splattered and smeared on the front of the business, and a table in front was damaged. It is possible that it was done by students who wait for a bus nearby in the mornings.

Officers arrested Nicholas A. Tersigni on a warrant for worthless checks. Tersigni was transported to Pinellas County Jail without incident.

Investigations:

New cases:	22
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	3
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	3

Records Section

Reports reviewed	14
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public records requests:	3
Reports disseminated:	14
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	6
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	25

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are in the review process: 101A - Intermediate Weapons; 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 109 - Extra Duty/Off Duty Employment; 115 - Personal Body Armor; 127 - Physical Abilities Test Program; 202 - Duties and Responsibilities; 305 - Public Information Release Procedures; 408 - Traffic Law Enforcement; 419 - Substance Abuse Marchman Act; 421 - Homicide Investigations, and; 445 - Surveillance and Monitoring Equipment.

Sworn officers are participating in online training for Basic First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens refresher training.

Thirteen police officer applications are being processed. Of those, four applicants performed Oral Board interviews and physical abilities tests on December 4.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand six hundred seventy one (1,671) gallons of gas and one hundred ninety six (196) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety eight (98) vessels.

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

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 45' motorboat, 39' motorboat, 38' motorboat, 54' motorboat, 44' motorboat two 34' sailboats and a 36' sailboat this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Repaired dock box on pier one, slip five.
- Removed kayak dock from water.
- Installed new GFIC on pier two, slip seven.
- Replaced cover on electrical pedestal on pier five, slip five.
- Inspected all pedestal lights.

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.
- Distributed Newsletter and December calendar to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Updated meeting schedules & minutes, and upcoming events on City Website.
- Created programs and provided sound setup for Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Provided control room coverage of December 2 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Commenced preparation of January calendar.

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.

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 27th Avenue South for more information.

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 December 8. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Calling all bakers to the **Christmas Cookie Swap** at 10 a.m. Monday, December 8. Bring 4 dozen of your favorite **HOMEMADE** holiday cookies, candy, or treats to share. Participants **MUST** RSVP by December 4 with the type of treat you will bring. Call 893-5657 for more information.

The **Senior Center Foundation Members' annual meeting** is Monday, December 8 at 3 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 592-1933.

Eckerd College OLLI presents **Route 66: America's Mother Road** on Monday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Learn how Route 66 reflected the hopes & aspirations of all Americans in the mid-twentieth century. Call Eckerd College at 864-7600 to RSVP. Admission: \$5 to OLLI.

Walgreens will offer **Flu Shots** at the Gulfport Senior Center 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 10. Bring your insurance card or \$31.99.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is December 11.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, December 11.

Have questions about real estate? Join in on the **Real Estate Chit Chat** on Monday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m. Ask your questions to the experts from Keller Williams Realty.

Come to our **Very Merry Holiday Party** and celebrate the season at noon on Wednesday December. Remember to bring a new, unopened toy or gift card for Gulfport Police Department's Operation Santa. **LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE.** Tickets must be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

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

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*):

Monday, November 24	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 96)
Tuesday, November 25	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 13) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 50)
Wednesday, November 26	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime and two bands (Turnout 425)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion 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
Every Thursday	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
Friday, December 5	7 p.m. - Holiday Christmas Jam to benefit the Hillsborough County Family Partnership Alliance. Cash bar, raffle, prizes! Monetary donations or toys, diapers, socks, etc. are needed for foster children! \$12 at the door, or \$10 for attendees donating gifts.

Catherine Hickman Theater (last upcoming events):

Friday, December 5, 6 p.m. - Reception and art exhibit showcasing the works of Michael Eismont. Free admission.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, November 23 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 13)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, November 24 6:30 p.m. - Golfview Condo Association meeting (Turnout 8)

Tuesday, November 25 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 6)

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, November 24 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 10)
11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 30)

Tuesday, November 25 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 10)

Wednesday, November 26 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 8)

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, November 24, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, November 24 24, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, November 25 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, November 25, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, November 26, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, December 5, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets. We'll build some awesome forts and watch a family movie. Popcorn provided! Call Cailey at 893-1133 or cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Saturday, December 20, 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two newly released movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Friday, December 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*: We screen a flick and provide some crunchy munchies. Join us & enjoy an afternoon networking with other fans. Open to ages 12-18.

Thursday, December 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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.

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.

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 November 23-29, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,627	510
Sun. 11/23	Library closed	
Mon. 11/24	385	124
Tue. 11/25	361	111
Wed. 11/26	440	130
Thu. 11/27	Holiday - Library closed	
Fri. 11/28	Holiday - Library closed	

Recreation Center

Upcoming Events

Children from the City's School Year Child program and Tot Time program will sing holiday songs and read poetry during the Holiday Hoopla on December 13, beginning at 11 a.m.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty seven (37) 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.

Fifty eight (58) 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

Joanne McRoberts and Kimberly Titara helped the Tot Time/VPK class recite poems and led them in song, and Nicole Latragna led the School Year Child Care program in singing "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" and "The Night before Christmas" during the City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Holiday Tree Lighting.

The **Gulfport Teen Council** served drinks and cookies to attendees at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 36 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas leak

Life Safety:

- 19 Fire Inspections
- 6 Re-Inspections

- 2 C.O's
- 1 Plans Review

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

- Chief Marenkovic attended the St. Petersburg College Fire and Public Safety training on the PPE Program Trainer to Trainer for the Level "C" suits. This procedure will help with the containment of Ebola patients in the field with correct donning and doffing of the Level "C" protection suits. The goal is to bring back the training to each department and train each Firefighter on the Practical Skills check-off sheets.
- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on December 1. Chief Marenkovic, Engine 17 & Pumper 17 were in the Parade lineup with the 1925 La France fire truck carrying Santa Clause.
- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh performed a Final Inspection on the FACP at the 1601 49th Street South Church.
- GFD is hosting one Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford is the preceptor for "B" shift.

Holiday and Christmas Tree Fire Safety:

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Following are a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy:

- Don't put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Place trees away from heat sources, including fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Keep the live tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Don't link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it's safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Avoid using lit candles; consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles
- Ensure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations don't block an exit way.

For more tips on how to prevent a holiday fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Rewired air handler at Library for increased heat output.
- Repaired gas heaters at Garage.
- Boxed up and properly disposed of 436 fluorescent bulbs.
- Replaced broken window at Dog Park building.
- Repaired two tables at Recreation Center.
- Replaced handle and chain on toilet in FD restroom.
- Discarded records for City Clerk's office.
- Repaired outer window sill on east side of Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Replaced chain for locks at Lum Field.
- Installed solar powered lights at Clymer Park.
- Inspected playgrounds for repairs, and repaired beach playground gate.
- Opened new Tonkin Park playground.
- Painted Holiday signs and stakes.
- Re-seeded ball fields.
- Repaired mainline break at Tonkin Park.
- Hung lights on Holiday tree, set up chairs and risers for tree lighting event, and assisted with sound setup.
- Surveyed for proposed volleyball court.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed palms along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Police compound, Marina green spaces, Dog Park and Chase block.
- Mowed Dog Parks, Recreation Center, Library & Senior Center grounds, City complex, Clymer Park, Chase Block, Pasadena Entrance, 14th Avenue Median & 28th Avenue sign area.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced clutch on line trimmer and pull start on stick edger, repaired tires, changed fluids and tightened chain on aerator, adjusted bed knife and tightened drive chains on ball field reel mowers, and performed preventive maintenance on all equipment.
- Repaired irrigation at Chase Block, Tonkin Park, Dog Park and 49th Streetscapes.
- 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.
- Initiated physical inspection of storm drains.
- Reset and straightened street signs on 49th Street.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.

- Removed and disposed of several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area & Lincoln Cemetery.
- Removed 300-gallon recycling bins from gas station at 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Delivered replacement automated trash containers to Town Shores Eaton, Fairfax & Kenmore buildings.
- Trimmed overgrowth around stop signs throughout City.

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 #46, 47, 48, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 82 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 14 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 117 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 15 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 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Made connection of 2" waterline to 6" water main to improve water quality and increase volume to business and residents in the area of 58th Street & 17th Avenue.
- Repaired water breaks at 4933 Newton Street, 4925 14th Avenue & 5717 15th 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.
- Replaced a section of sewer main and lateral line at 1519 54th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired airline on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Repaired tire on Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced alternator and battery on Police vehicle #102.
- Replaced front brakes on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced fuel pressure valve on Fire Engine #P17.
- Repaired brake switch on the Fire Chief's vehicle #C17.
- Replaced tires on Parks Division sand grooming tractor.
- Replaced power steering/brake hose on GEMS vehicle #7.
- Replaced internal hydraulic hose and hydraulic reservoir in Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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 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, 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.

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

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

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

December 2, 2014 City Council/CRA results:

- C14-02; Two vacant lots south of 5000 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional Use request with Site Plan for a proposed off-street parking lot in connection with a contiguous commercial use. MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED 3-2.
- C14-03; 5401/5405 Shore Boulevard South; Conditional use application with a site plan for a proposed second floor addition of an existing restaurant with additional outdoor seating. APPROVED 5-0.

December 10, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-21; 6121 8th 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).
- 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. 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.
- 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.