



# Gulfport Community Update

December 1 - 7, 2013

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Residents bundled up for an evening of festive music during the Holiday Tree Lighting in Clymer Park on December 2 as Mayor Henderson, Gulfport City Council, and former Mayor Yvonne Johnson joined us for caroling. Teen Council served refreshments and Santa was there to listen to all the children's wishes (photos below).



New signage has been installed at the Neighborhood Center to enhance the recognition of the building as a police facility. The word "POLICE" was installed in large lettering above the door, new decals were applied to the door face, and a 24-inch image of our police department badge was added to the existing signage indicating a police resource office is on site (photos below).



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

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

Enjoy the crisp December air and get into the holiday spirit at **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on December 6, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Stop by the **Lions Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, December 7, at 7 a.m. inside the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. Admission is \$5 at the door. Call 321-5717 for more information.

The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library will host a **Holiday Book Sale** at the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information call 893-1074.

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. Swap till you drop at the Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA in the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 10. The market will be open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve. Call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) for more information.

Want to experience a real old fashioned Gulfport Christmas? The **Museum Trolley Christmas Party** is scheduled for Friday, December 13. We'll leave the Museum at 7 p.m. and take the trolley to view some of the town's prettiest seasonal lights. Following the tour, we'll return to the Museum for festive refreshments and good wishes for Gulfport's 104<sup>th</sup> year. Space is limited to 25 seats, so please call Miki at 321-5705 to reserve your spot.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, December 14 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex, Shelter #4.

Enjoy music, shopping and holiday carols during the annual **Holiday Hoopla** extravaganza on Beach Boulevard Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 322-5217. Then stay for the **BCYC Annual Christmas Boat Parade**. The boats will leave Gulfport Marina at 6 p.m. and head to Gulfport Beach. Sail and power boats are welcome to join in the fun. For more information call 235-9070 or visit [www.sailbcyc.org](http://www.sailbcyc.org).

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

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

All GFD patrol officers were instructed on the county's landscaping and fertilization ordinance. Printed copies of the website's FAQ section given to officers to distribute in an effort to educate commercial landscapers of the various requirements, including the prohibition against blowing

or sweeping lawn clippings into the roadways. For more information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/environment/pdfs/FAQ-Professionals.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment/pdfs/FAQ-Professionals.pdf).

## **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	126
Officer initiated calls for service	333
Offenses	29
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	26

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

A driver traveling east in the 6300 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the morning of November 28 attempted to make a U-turn and collided with another car. The passengers in the second car were transported to the hospital, and the at-fault driver was issued 2 citations.

Officers responded to a theft at the Family Dollar store on the afternoon of November 29 after a subject attempted to leave the store with stolen items in a bag. The merchandise was recovered before the suspect could leave, and the investigation is ongoing.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 4800 block of Baywood Point Drive on the afternoon of November 29 after a caller reported an injured dog near the seawall. SPCA picked up the dog.

A Stetson Security guard turned in a black bag found on Gray Street on the morning of November 30. GPD determined the bag had been stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the area. Nothing was taken from the bag and it was returned to the owner.

A resident in the 4900 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was issued a notice to appear after several neighbors reported that her three dogs were loose and preventing people leaving their homes and vehicles. The owner stated she was not aware the dogs were running at large.

An individual reported on November 30 that he was robbed at gunpoint while walking through a parking lot in the 2200 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Surveillance video in the area provided police with leads on the suspects' identities.

St. Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) officers detained a juvenile they believed may have committed a crime in Gulfport. After interviewing the suspect, Gulfport officers received information that the suspect and several others entered a yard and took a wallet and iPhone from a purse. The suspect led officers to the wallet, and then to the iPhone. Everything except the cash from the wallet was recovered. The suspects were arrested for grand theft.

A resident called 911 to report a drunk driver on the morning of December 3. Officers observed the vehicle driving erratically in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard, and a traffic stop was attempted but the driver refused to stop. The vehicle eventually stopped and the driver jumped from the car claiming it was going to blow up, and fought with officers as she was being arrested. One of the officers sustained a minor injury and was treated at the scene.

A landlord reported on the afternoon of December 4 that sometime in the last two weeks his tenant moved out of a rental home in the 5100 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and stole the refrigerator.

Officers responded to the 6100 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a caller reported her boyfriend chased 2 black males who had broken into their unlocked vehicle. A canister of pepper spray and a black leather clutch containing a Florida driver's license, military ID, debit card and cash were taken.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 3 hours this week.

## **Investigations:**

New Cases:	7
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	4
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements Received:	9
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest	0
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	8

Detective Pham was assigned to investigate an armed robbery case. He reviewed video footage and is working leads. He also arrested Roshane Davis for grand theft auto. A small baggie of marijuana was found in Davis' possession during his arrest, and he was transported to the Pinellas County Jail for grand theft, violation of probation and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Additionally, Detective Pham has developed probable cause for the arrest of Timothy Grant for retail theft at the Family Dollar store.

Detective Crowson interviewed a suspect about her involvement in a felony criminal mischief case. She also re-interviewed the complainant and witness to a shoplifting case at Family Dollar. Additionally, Detective Crowson attended the FISOA holiday luncheon and assisted Detective Pham in arresting Roshane Davis for grand theft auto and other charges.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students and mediated an altercation preventing a fight occurring. He also coordinated with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Gulfport Neighbors to have juveniles assist with the beach cleanup on December 14.

Officer Langston counseled a student regarding a Facebook dispute. She also spoke with several students about joining the GPD explorer post, met with the parent of a new student who was a victim of dating violence in the past, assisted SPPD detectives with an aggravated assault case, and attempted to investigate the alleged theft of a student's property from the gym building, but the camera system was malfunctioning. The investigation will be completed once the cameras are in working order.

Analyst Palmisano completed pawn checks on 28 cases with a named suspect or identifiable property. Because Pinellas County is transitioning from the Pinellas County pawn database to RAPID (Regional Automated Property Information Database) pawn checks were run in both systems. She also attended a FISOA meeting with Detectives Pham and Crowson.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	14
Supplements reviewed:	22
Public records requests:	18
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	2
Citizens assisted:	34

## **MARINA**

Pumped nine hundred twenty six (926) gallons of gas, and five hundred ninety seven (597) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling forty three (43) vessels.

### **Staff activities:**

- Replaced lines on fuel dock.
- Performed pump out maintenance.
- Cleaned storage area.
- Repaired gate locks on pier six.
- Repaired GFIC on pier six, slip sixteen.

### **Transient Vessels:**

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

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Completed post-production of November 26 Water Conservation Seminar video and uploaded to website.
- Provided control room coverage for December 3 City Council meeting and December 4 Planning & Zoning meeting.
- Completed Tree City USA recertification.
- Commenced design and updating of the January Events/Meetings calendar.
- Continued preparations of Four Fold FAQ Brochure.
- Provided sound and photographic coverage for December 2 Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Completed troubleshooting of Theater sound system, and met with Events Supervisor to discuss options for lighting.

### **Parks**

Set up bleachers, tables, chairs, sound equipment and trash/recycle containers in preparation for Clymer Park tree lighting, and removed following event.

Repaired Post Office flag line, moved cleat and replaced 3X5 flag,

Repaired beach playground gates.

Repaired top water fountain behind Recreation Center, and advised Supervisor of parts needed for lower fountain.

Installed 2 *No Parking on Grass* signs at Veterans Park, and removed graffiti from equipment.

Replaced picnic tables at Beach pavilion 7.

Replaced 1 fence rail and repaired sign light at Wood Ibis Park.

Cleared debris from concrete surfaces around Recreation Center.

Cleaned along Beach & Shore Boulevards, emptied trash, and picked up fallen branches.

Inspected decorative lights at Clymer Park on Friday & Saturday.

Reset breaker on East fountain light at Wood Ibis Park.

Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park and Little League fields.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired tire on Toro mower.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned, Clymer Park, Neighborhood Center and Recreation Center grounds; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Recreation Center grounds, Marina area, Chase block, Dog Park, Scout Hall grounds, Caldwell & Tomlinson Parks, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians, Neighborhood Center, 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, Tangerine & Clymer Greenways, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, edge of Tangerine pond and Pasadena entrance.

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**

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

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

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

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

Here's your chance to get some holiday shopping done, grab a bite to eat, or catch a matinee with your Senior Center friends during the **Gulfport Getaway to the Shops at Park Place** on Tuesday, December 10. Stores include: Target, Fashion Bug, Pet Co. and many, many more, plus BJ's Brewhouse, Starbucks, Cold Stone Creamery & Regal Movie Theater! Call 893-2242 before Wednesday, December 4 to reserve a seat. GEMS members, \$6; nonmembers, \$10.

Watch a free movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 10.

Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader Jaclyn Moore will facilitate an **I-Pad Workshop** on Thursday, December 12 at 4 p.m. Jaclyn will cover basic functions of the Apple iPad.

Learn how to play Sudoku, Binairo and so much more during **Fun with Puzzle Pages** on Friday, December 13 at 11 a.m.

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

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

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

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

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every second Thursday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is December 12. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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, November 24	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance (Turnout 41)
Monday, November 25	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 86)
Tuesday, November 26	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 15) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 6) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 22)
Wednesday, November 27	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 342)
Saturday, December 30	6 p.m. - Quinceanera (Turnout 107)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Sunday, December 24	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

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

Sunday, November 24	1:30 p.m. - <i>ELVIS: A Concert Experience</i> featuring Jim Jinelli (Turnout 150)
Saturday, November 30	2 p.m. - Sunation Show Chorus presents <i>100 Years of Broadway</i> (Turnout 170)

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

Sunday, November 24	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 8) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, November 26	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

**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, November 25	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 17)
Wednesday, November 27	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 21)
Thursday, November 28	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, November 29	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
Saturday, November 30	5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 60)

**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, November 25, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Monday, November 25, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Tuesday, November 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.

Tuesday, November 26 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Wednesday, November 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

**Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. - *Holiday Book Sale*: Find great bargains for holiday gifts at very reasonable prices, and shop in the comfort of our meeting room.

Monday, December 16, 3 p.m. - *Gingerbread Houses*: Create your own gingerbread house and get in the spirit of the season! Activity for children in grades K-5. Craft supplies provided. For more information call 893-1133.

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

Saturday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Tuesday, December 24 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto:rriddell@gmail.com).

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

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

Every Saturday, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Participants in grades 1-12 will attend workshops and have the opportunity to create a book. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents welcome to attend. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic November 24 - 30, 2013:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1609	13
Sun. 11/24	Library closed	
Mon. 11/25	424	119
Tue. 11/26	349	109
Wed. 11/27	381	110
Thu. 11/28	Holiday	
Fri. 11/29	Library closed	
Sat. 11/30	378	96

**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.

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 9. 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 9<sup>th</sup>. A plaque will be presented to one winner in each category at the City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 17.

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

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

Forty six (46) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Thirteen (13) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents. Tot Time/VPK participated in a Bike-A-Thon on the outside basketball court on November 20, raising \$387 for St. Jude's Hospital. On November 22, the children brought vegetables and helped prepare them for their parents during the annual Stone Soup Social. They also read a poem and sang songs during the City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting in Clymer Park on December 2.

**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.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez, Joanne McRoberts, Kimberly Titara and Nicole Latragna participated in the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Cailey Klasson from the Library to discuss a possible Outreach Program between the Recreation Center and Library.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes

### **Life Safety:**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 2 Plans Reviews
- 1 C.O.

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

- Chief Marenkovic attended the PCFCA meeting in Largo on December 5. Discussions included updates to the Standard Operating Procedures 600 Series.
- FF/PM Burford performed the Annual EMS inventory for Pinellas County this week.
- Firefighter/EMT Lesley Jordan passed his State of Florida Firefighter Instructor I Course.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Rene Fernandez passed his State of Florida Fire Officer I Course.
- The County purchased ITLS books for training will commence in February 2014. ITLS is accepted internationally as the standard training course for pre-hospital trauma care. It's used as a state-of-the-art continuing education course - and as an essential curriculum in many paramedic, EMT and first-responder training programs. ITLS courses combine classroom learning and hands-on skill stations. Scenario assessment stations enable users to put their learning to work in simulated trauma situations. ITLS courses are designed, managed and delivered by course directors, coordinators and instructors experienced in EMS, pre-hospital care and the ITLS approach.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Cleaned Little League restrooms
- Replaced six fluorescent lights at Library.
- Replaced Fire Department on-demand water heater.
- Painted Neighborhood Center kitchen and hallways.
- Installed Senior Center holiday decorations.
- Inspected Little League building for termites and scheduled building for tenting.
- Met with roofer to discuss repairs at Senior Center.
- Repaired a/c unit above Recreation Center gym, and faucet & toilets in Public Services Building.

### **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.

- Removed four palm trees creating site obstructions on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Removed concrete and construction debris from Gulfport Neighbors clean-up site.
- Disposed of old tires from Garage.
- Completed asphalt patchwork citywide.
- Reset stop signs at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Reset stormwater covers at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Gulfport Boulevard & 54<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Installed flex sticks on 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Wood Ibis Park.
- Removed sidewalk at 713 Hull Street.
- Added millings & set grades on several alleys citywide.

#### **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 #09, 10, 11 and 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 104 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off
- Completed 98 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.

#### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned, televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 5322 Jersey Avenue.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

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

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that new regulations are in effect for the placement of recreational vehicles (RVs). All RVs must have a permit. Permit applications, RV regulations and a flowchart of the permit process are available at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). RVs meeting setbacks will receive a green permit window sticker. Owners of RVs not meeting setbacks can obtain through January 2, 2014 a red permit sticker which allows for an exemption from regulations to place the RV within setback areas. This exemption only applies to one RV in a specific location and is not transferable to a new RV. Red stickers for exemptions will not be

available after January 2, 2014, and owners will be required to remove un-stickered RVs at that time. For more information call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

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

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.

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

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

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 was 2,336. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year 178, which represented an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.6 percent.

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

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

**December 11 Board of Adjustment:**

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