



Gulfport Community Update

January 26 - February 1, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The League of Women Voters hosted a *Meet the Candidates* forum in City Hall Council Chambers on January 28. Ward III Candidates discussed current Gulfport issues. Video of the meeting is available at www.mygulfport.us/councilmeetings.

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that the exemption for Recreational Vehicles that cannot meet the required setbacks expired on January 2, 2014. All RVs must have a permit sticker to be in compliance with RV regulations. One hundred twelve properties were notified between October & December 2013 of new regulations, and ninety four permits had been issued as of January 8: Twenty nine green permits for RVs in compliance with regulations, and sixty four red exempt permits for those not meeting setbacks; two applications are pending; one was denied, and; five violation notices for unpermitted RVs were issued. A permit application and copy of RV regulations can be obtained at www.mygulfport.us. For more information on RV regulations, call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard every Thursday through March 29. The Club's adventures take them through many Gulfport and Pinellas County parks. Everyone walks at their own pace, so feel free to do a mile or five. For more information call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079.

Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email gulfportmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com.

Enjoy **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District February 7, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, February 8 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information visit www.pava-artists.org.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49th & 51st Streets. More than sixty awards will be presented in numerous categories ranging from best in show, best paint job, Mayor's Choice and more. Bring the whole family to enjoy the live music, shopping bazaar, costumed characters, and kiddy area! To register your classic car, email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

Dance the night away at the Gulfport Casino **Valentines Dance** on Friday, February 14, 8 - 11 p.m. Enjoy live music by the Encore IV 17-piece big band. Tickets: \$15 at the door. For more information call 893-1070.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	159
Officer initiated calls for service	280
Offenses	47
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	20

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Sean McCurdy was arrested for battery on a pregnant female and domestic battery by strangulation in the early morning hours of January 23 after he returned to his home in the 5600 block of 15th Avenue following a night of drinking and assaulted his pregnant girlfriend.

A resident in the 5800 block of 20th Avenue reported she left her vehicle unlocked with the keys in it overnight and it was missing the next morning.

Officers responded to the 5600 block of Newton Avenue on the morning of January 23 after a resident reported that someone entered his vehicle unlocked overnight and stole several music CDs. A short time later another resident on the same block reported that sometime overnight someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole approximately \$5.00 in change.

Lewis Slaff was arrested on grand theft charges after his employer reported he used a company expense account to make purchases for personal use at a local business use.

Officers are investigating a fraud case after a resident in the 5300 block of 9th Avenue reported she received a call from an unknown suspect advising that she won an \$8,400 "treasury grant" but had to send the caller \$714 first. The victim put the money on green dot cards and gave the suspect the numbers before realizing it was a scam.

Guy Stokes was arrested on the afternoon of January 24 after he violated a written trespass warning barring him from the McDonald's on Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident reported on the afternoon of January 24 that lost his wallet at Gulfport Library and later discovered his credit card was used to make unauthorized purchases. The case is under investigation.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard on the afternoon of January 25 after several witnesses observed a male strike a female. Thomas Runyan was arrested for domestic battery and transported to the County Jail.

A juvenile male was riding his new bike in the 1400 block of York Street on the afternoon of January 24 when several other juveniles called out to him. He stopped his bike and the other juveniles approached and punched him, forcing him off his bike before stealing it.

Officers responded to an ongoing dispute between neighbors in 5100 block of 15th Avenue regarding calls made to police and the neighbors hurling insults at one another. No crimes were committed but officers were dispatched 4 or 5 times over the weekend. Both parties have been advised to avoid contact, and stop escalating the dispute.

David Perry was arrested for domestic battery on the morning of January 26 after his girlfriend advised he punched and scratched her. Officers observed visible injuries on the woman.

A woman requested police assistance in retrieving her vehicle from a friend who borrowed it. When Officer Merriam went to the complainant's friend's residence he was given permission to go inside and observed in plain view, 12 small plants that appeared to be marijuana in a flower box. The plants were confiscated and sent for testing and charges are pending lab results.

A resident in the 5200 block of 14th Avenue reported on the morning of January 27 that a Kel-Tec 9mm semi-automatic handgun was taken from the residence in early December. The investigation continues.

Officers responded to the 700 block of Gray Street after a caller reported that his brother threatened him with a knife. An investigation determined that the victim's juvenile brother wielded a knife and stabbed a door to the room the victim had entered to get away from the suspect. The juvenile was arrested for aggravated assault.

A resident in the 5800 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that his home had been entered through a rear window and jewelry was taken. There are no suspects.

Two employees of the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club were arrested on January 28 after they stole gasoline from the private gas pumps in the yacht club. They were fined but the victim did not wish to prosecute.

A resident in the 2800 block of 46th Street reported that someone known to him broke into his house, damaged the interior with paint and stole several items. The investigation continues.

Officers responded to the 5400 block of 15th Avenue on the evening of January 28 regarding a physical altercation between an adult male and his mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend fled the scene prior to police arrival. The mother and a younger brother witnessed the incident and a probable cause affidavit was completed. Officers are attempting to locate the boyfriend.

Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of 56th Street regarding a dispute. It was determined that two roommates got into a physical altercation that was witnessed and broken up by three other people at the residence. Neither roommate wished to press charges, and they went their separate ways for the evening.

GPD is investigating a retail theft after a man jumped over the unattended front counter at the Walgreens and stole several cartons of cigarettes. Store employees copied down his tag number as he fled in his vehicle and gave the information to the responding police officer.

The owner of Little Tommie's Tiki reported that twelve beer taps and other items were stolen from a box behind the bar. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to a barking dog complaint in the 800 block of Gray Street on the evening of January 29 and witnessed a dog barking non-stop for approximately 20 minutes. The owner of the residence refused to answer her door. A notice to appear was completed for an ordinance violation, and will be issued at a later date.

Marine Unit officers used the boat to assist during Gasparilla festivities in Tampa last weekend.

Investigations:

New Cases:	24
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	8
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	6
Supplements Received:	18
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	4
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	7

Detective Hanh Pham completed eight supplements and closed out two auto theft cases with arrest. He also investigated a fraud case in which the complainant's ex-boyfriend used the complainant's personal information, including photos to create an account on an adult website.

Detective Jennifer Crowson obtained subpoenaed phone records and added a possible suspect to a criminal mischief case. She also collected evidence to establish probable cause in a contracting without a license case; attended a one day training course on The Art and Science of Interrogation; completed seven supplements and worked on several other cases.

School Resource Officer Motte broke up several altercations and mediated students on better life choices. He also recovered a runaway, Baker Acted a student, assisted Officer Langston with a drug case in which two students were arrested, and covered two basketball games this week.

Officer Langston counseled a student regarding an incident involving her boyfriend; assisted an Assistant Principal with a cyber-stalking investigation, identifying the suspect. The case was handled by the school due to the victims not willing to pursue criminal charges. She also assisted an Assistant Principal with a narcotics investigation in which two students were observed selling and purchasing narcotics on school property; assisted a juvenile probation officer with an investigation; assisted Officer Motte with a Baker Act involving an emotionally disturbed student; completed a missing/runaway juvenile investigation, and later assisted with the recovery of the missing juvenile; responded to a disturbance during lunch, and later met with the students and an Assistant Principal in an attempt to help mediate with the students, and; worked a BCHS basketball game.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis of vehicle burglaries and auto thefts that have occurred in the City since November 1, 2014; completed a request for information from the Tampa Bay Times and pawn checks for 32 cases with either a listed suspect or identifiable property. She also updated the sex offender display in the police lobby, removing one offender who moved out of the City.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	11
Supplements reviewed:	149
Public records requests:	7
Reports disseminated:	26
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	14
Citizens assisted:	29

Professional Standards Section

The following Standards are under review for update: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 120 - Infectious Diseases; and 528 - Sexual Offender/Predator Procedures.

The following Standards have been updated and distributed to officers: 105 - Arrest and Transport Procedures; 306 - Use of Social Media; 800 - Central Records Privacy and Security, and 805 - Uniform Crime Reporting.

Lt. Stone reviewed Standards relating to training this week.

Detective Jen Crowson and Sergeant Tom Woodman attended a seminar on the Art of Interrogation and Child Homicide and Physical Abuse Investigations training this week.

Community Resource Officer Zach Mills attended Basic Crime Prevention training in Altamonte Springs.

Lt. Stone reviewed recently submitted training requests and enrolled several members in upcoming training.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand two hundred four (1,204) gallons of gas, and one thousand three hundred fifty eight (1,358) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling forty six (46) vessels.

Assisted in 19 pump outs, evacuating two hundred seventy (270) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 32' motorboat, 42' sailboat, 38' sailboat and 28' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Completed pump-out maintenance.
- Installed line holder on piers six and two.
- Weeded beneath kayak rack.
- Inspected and cleaned fish cleaning table.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Provided Control Room coverage for January 28 *Meet the Candidates* forum and uploaded video to City website.

Parks

Inspected flags and flag poles at all City facilities.

Hung Car Show banners.

Procured paint for Little League concession stand, and prepped building for painting.

Repaired chain link fence at Dog Park.

Removed sign post at Scout Hall.

Rebuilt sign at Skate Park

Replaced lights in Hoyt Field restrooms.

Assembled six butt cans, and reset cans at beach pavilions.

Inspected Tangerine Greenway electrical outlets in preparation for Car Show.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, repaired/replaced tires and greased aerator, and patched tire on Toro Workman.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Library, 28th Street signage area and triangle bed on Beach Boulevard; trimmed cedar trees and reworked clay at Hoyt Field, removed dead palms at Tangerine/49th Street signage area & Neighborhood Center, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Wood Ibis Park, Trail spur & Clam Bayou.

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.

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. 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.

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 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 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.

Premier Vein Institute will offer complementary screenings and an educational seminar on venous disease and the effects on the body on Monday, February 3 at 2:30 p.m.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is February 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Heidi Crockett from Aging Care Advocates, Inc. will present **Healthy Aging: Mindful Consumption of Food & Pleasure** on Wednesday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. Participants will discuss how to bring more awareness, joy, and pleasure into normal daily activities.

You never know treasure you might find at **First Friday Flea Market** on February 7, 9 a.m. - noon.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimers Association will offer **FREE, Confidential Memory Screenings**, advice and information at the Senior Center on Monday, February 10, 9 a.m. - noon. Call 893-1231 to schedule your screening.

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

Explore a living memorial that inspires citizens to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity during the Senior Center's **Gulfport Getaway** to the Florida Holocaust Museum on Tuesday, February 11. The Museum has made available a historical record and artistic interpretation of the Holocaust and other genocides. The museum's collection covers the end of World War I through the close of the Jewish displaced persons camp in the mid-1950s. Call GEMS at 893-2242 more information & to reserve a seat before February 5. Round-trip transportation and admission: GEMS members, \$13; nonmembers, \$15.

A representative from the Pinellas County Property Appraisers office will visit the Gulfport Senior Center on Wednesday, February 12 9 a.m. until noon to assist citizens who qualify the **Low Income Senior Citizen property tax exemption** with filling out forms.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Life Coach Kathy Lane returns on Wednesday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. with **Law of Attraction: The Love Connection**, a discussion on understanding the essentials for attracting love and more.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay will offer **Free Blood Sugar screenings** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every second Thursday of the month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. beginning February 13.

Christine and Tony from The Cell Phone Solution will offer a **Cell Phone Class** at the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 13. Bring your cell phone and questions!

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, February 14. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

A murder has occurred! Guests will be questioned as possible suspects in an interactive show that features live music from the 1950's, trivia, reenactments of bygone days and dance contests with prizes PLUS a 4 course meal. Grab your Valentine and enjoy the **Murder Mystery Dinner Show** on Friday, February 14 at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$10.

Empower your Mind, Body, & Soul during the annual **Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino on Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. Don't miss out!

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 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, January 19	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 44)
Tuesday, January 21	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 20) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 51)
Wednesday, January 22	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 312)
Thursday, January 23	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 35)
Friday, January 24	6 p.m. - Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 360)
Saturday, January 25	6 p.m. - Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 360)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
Every Thursday	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
Friday, February 14	7:30 p.m. - <i>Gulfport Casino Valentine Dance</i> with live music by Encore IV 17-piece Big Band, dance demonstrations, prizes, snacks & cash bar. Tickets \$15. For more information call 893-1070

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

Sunday, January 19	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 150)
Thursday, January 23	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 172)
Friday, January 24	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 170)
Saturday, January 25	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 170)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Saturday, February 1	2 p.m. - Sunstation Show Chorus presents Gershwin, Porter & Friends. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino. For more information call 579-9089 or visit www.sunstationshowchorus.com
Thursday, February 2	7:30 p.m. - The Rat Pack Together Again: A Thrilling Night of Music & Song. Tickets \$20, available at the Casino Ballroom. For more information visit www.ratpacktogetheragain.com or call (267)408-1615

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

Sunday, January 19	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 17) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

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

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

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, January 20	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 8)
Tuesday, January 21	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 22)
Wednesday, January 22	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 25)
Thursday, January 23	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, January 24	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class

	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
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:

Tuesday, January 21 - 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry*.

Tuesday, January 21 - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, January 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, January 22, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, January 22, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, January 23, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, January 23, 6 p.m. - *Pinellas County Public Information Officers Group* meeting.

Friday, January 25, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, January 25, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Photography Workshop*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Tuesday, February 25 - *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 & Friday beginning February 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, photo ID and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

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

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

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

Library Services/Statistic January 19-25, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,074	672
Sun. 1/19	Library closed	
Mon. 1/20	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 1/21	559	159
Wed. 1/22	367	121
Thu. 1/23	415	136
Fri. 1/24	378	130
Sat. 1/25	325	106

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty eight (48) 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.

Fourteen (14) 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.

Contractual classes: Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Walking Club, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Sixty one (61) 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. Six (6) FY2013/14 passes have been issued to date.

Staff Activities:

John Lapham attended the FRPA Conference in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Single Engine Response

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 1 Fire Inspection
- 1 Plans Review

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs finished their January 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services online Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week.
- Chief Marenkovic met with City Staff and GMA members to discuss operations, road closures and vendor participants for the January 30 *Get Rescued* event. A Special Rescue will be in service with one Firefighter EMT and one Firefighter Paramedic.
- Zachary Ross is a new Paramedic student with the St. Petersburg College Paramedic program doing his ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford of the Gulfport Fire Department on the "B"-shift.
- Pinellas County Communications Department of Safety & Emergency Services Senior Network Tech Chris Capobianco is awaiting confirmation from Verizon & TW Telecom for the 911 circuit relocation project. The 911 connection will be moved from the Police Department IT area to the Fire Station and the work will be done at no cost to the City.
- The Gulfport Fire Department and CERT Team would like to thank American Legion Post 125 and the Sons of the American Legion Post 125 for their generous monetary donations which will be allocated for lettering and a logo on the CERT Rehab Unit trailer.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Cleaned septic system and installed charging cord and breaker at Fire Department.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Repaired partition in Theater lobby men's room.
- Ran errands to Tampa for Garage Supervisor.
- Set up tables at City Hall for "Meet the Candidates" forum.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Repaired countertop at Casino.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.

- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and 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 potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Continued curbside Christmas tree pickup.
- Set new asphalt at 25th Avenue & Ohio Court.
- Asphalted new storm drain inlet at 59th Street & 30th Avenue.
- Reset storm drain lid following vehicle strike at 54th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Removed obstruction from roadway at Premier Drive & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Stacked, wrapped, and loaded electronics onto pallets for recycling pickup.
- Removed debris and cleaned storm grates at 52nd Street & 31st Avenue.
- Cleaned storm drains on Shore Boulevard and Tangerine Greenway.
- Completed asphalt overlay at Fire Station.

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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 4 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 16 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 71 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Installed new water service lines & meters at 2304 51st Street & 2708 53rd Street.

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 laterals at 1200 60th Street, 5521 21st Avenue & 5101 9th Avenue.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage at 2019 56th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Installed front struts on Police Department Vehicle #156.
- Replaced drive shaft coupler on Police Department Vehicle #18.
- Repaired exhaust leak on Fire Department Vehicle #17.
- Installed tailgate seals on Sanitation Vehicles #41 & #42.

- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for December was 198 for a year-to-date (YTD) total of 601. The number of citizen complaints was 15 for a YTD total of 38. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.3 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.

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

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.

February 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-01; 6141 8th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 3 feet, from 15 feet to 12 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 10' x 10' accessory structure.
- V14-02; 5522 17th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 7 feet, from 15 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 14' x 14' accessory structure.