



Gulfport Community Update

February 8 - 14, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

An estimated 3,000 attendees perused the 60 classic cars lining the Tangerine Greenway during the **So49 Classic Car Show** on February 6 (photos below). Drawings for items donated by various vendors helped raise money for a Fallen Heroes Project family.



The Professional Association of Visual Artists hosted the **2Cool Art Show** for the fourth year inside the Gulfport Casino on February 7 and 8. More than 3,200 were in attendance for this juried fine art craft show, showcasing the artistic work of PAVA members statewide. Thirty-eight fine art and fine craft artists showcased paint, wood, ceramics, photography, metal, glass, mixed media and jewelry during this two day event. Mark your calendars for the fifth annual PAVA 2CoolArtShow scheduled for January 30 & 31, 2016 at the Casino!

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center is one of four community-based organizations chosen to test a new initiative designed to demonstrate and evaluate a model of delivering high-quality nutrition education programs at senior centers. **Next Steps to Better Nutrition**, an educational collaboration between the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the Walmart Foundation and the American Heart Association (AHA) will be presented by Palms of Pasadena Hospital.

For older adults living on a fixed income, eating healthy can be a challenge. Many seniors choose cheap processed foods over the fruits and vegetables that are necessary for a healthy diet. Poor nutrition is a major factor that contributes to rising rates of obesity and chronic disease among adults aged 60+.

The program will show older adults how they can afford, purchase, and cook more nutritious foods. In a series of 6 one hour-long classes, participants will learn about the relationship between nutrition and chronic disease, and how they can take steps to improve their diet and keep their heart healthy.

Classes begin on Monday, March 9 at 2:30 p.m. and continue weekly for 6 weeks. Call 893-5657 to register and become a part of this exciting opportunity.

February is **Love Your Library Month** and to celebrate, the Gulfport Library is hosting a food drive collecting nonperishable food items to help needy individuals and families dealing with difficult life circumstances. Donations will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center pantry.

The **Gulfport Library is closed for renovation**. Library services will temporarily relocate to Scout Hall beginning Monday, February 16.

The Monday afternoon Science Club for K-5 and Free Thinkers open AA meetings, Wednesday afternoon Teen Hangout and evening Toastmasters, Thursday morning Toddler Storytime and Friday afternoon Women's AA Club will move to Scout Hall beginning the week of February 16. Coffee/Talk Book Club on Thursday February 19 will also move to Scout Hall. The Wednesday morning Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers group will meet in City Hall Council Chambers.

The 11 a.m. Monday Chair Yoga class will relocate from Scout Hall to the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617, 49th Street during the renovation, and Monday & Thursday's Dance Fusion classes and the Tuesday & Friday Line Dance classes will relocate from Scout Hall to the Gulfport Recreation Center at 5500 Shore Boulevard.

The renovation is expected to last 6-8 weeks. For more information call 893-1075.

It's easy to get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the **March 7 Citywide Yard Sale**: Fill out a form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue, print a form online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale or email gbiron@mygulfport.us (you will receive confirmation via email). Deadline to get on the brochure is 4 p.m. Friday, February 27. We know you've got stuff, so clear out the clutter and sign up now! In case of rain, the Yard Sale will be rescheduled to Sunday, March 8. For more information call 893-1118.

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.

Upcoming Events:

The **Sunsation Show Chorus** performs some of the most memorable movie music ever written. Join them for **Let's Go to the Movies** at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 14 at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue. Tickets: \$15, available at the Casino, or online at www.sunsations.azurewebsites.net. For more information call 530-7190.

Coming to Gulfport for the first time: **Ireland on Parade**, an Irish variety show will be presented at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 15. This exciting show features the award winning dancers from the Scariff Hardiman School of Irish Dance, renowned Irish tenor Noel Kingston and singer/storyteller Patricia Brady. Experience the magic of Irish dance at its best. Members of the Firefighters of Tampa Bay Pipes and Drums will be there with their brilliant music. They have played at many parades, memorials and fairs to great acclaim. Their unique sound is sure to electrify all who hear them. Tickets: \$15, or \$10 for students/seniors, available at the Gulfport Casino and Gulfport Beach Bazaar. Call 893-1070 for ticket information. For more information on event call 973-761-0041 or email pbradyday@erols.com.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Betty Jean Steinshouer will return as guest speaker at the **Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library's annual meeting** at the Catherine Hickman Theater 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 18. This amazing Gulfport Historian and Chatauquan performer dazzled a packed house last year. This year Ms. Steinshouer will trace the importance of Florida in the development of four authors: Laura Ingalls Wilder, Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Steinshouer spends approximately 15 minutes in character as each author, with a discussion to follow on Reconstruction, The Homestead Act, Jim Crow and environmental concerns for the flora and fauna. This free special event is funded by the Florida Humanities Council and is open to the public.

It's time again for **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk/Truck**. Residents can get rid of stuff or trade it for other stuff at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center on Saturday, February 21, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Representatives from the Gulfport Food Forest will offer advice on increasing our tree canopy, and a collection center will be set up for attendees to donate non-perishable food for the Senior Center Food Pantry. The Police Department will be on hand to register bicycles for residents. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Get your group, family and friends together for a great outdoor activity at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, February 21, 9 - 11 a.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4. Bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. Email gufport_neighbors@yahoo.com or visit Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Animal lovers, get ready for the Gulfport **Get Rescued** event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. FREE Admission. Stay for the **Tails at Twilight** animal rescue fundraiser at the Gulfport Casino from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Call 323-3892 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	127
Self-initiated calls for service	451
Offenses	28
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	28

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5900 block of Bayview Circle discovered that someone used her identity to open a bank account online. She notified GPD when she received a "welcome" letter from the bank. The account was cancelled and she was advised to check her credit for additional incidents.

Officers were dispatched to a residence the 5700 block of 23rd Avenue on February 6 after guests who were asked to leave were still on the property using the hot tub several hours later. The caller did not want a written trespass issued, and the parties left without incident.

Officers responded to a 911 hang-up in the 5200 Block of 11th Avenue on February 7, and quickly determined a person inside the house needed medical attention. They entered the home and found two females attempting to assist a male who was unresponsive, had no pulse, and was not breathing. Officers performed CPR on him until the Gulfport Fire Department and Sunstar responded. He eventually regained a pulse and started breathing on his own, and was transported to Bayfront Hospital for further medical attention.

A resident in the 5100 block of Preston Avenue reported that someone entered his vehicle and stole a laptop computer sometime overnight. The victim did not remember if he locked his vehicle, but there were no signs of forced entry.

A resident in the 2800 Block of Upton Street reported that her unlocked car had been entered sometime overnight and a makeup bag was stolen.

An officer was dispatched to the 5500 Block of Jersey Avenue on February 9 after man who seemed lost and confused was discovered on the Pinellas Trail. He was identified and transported by ambulance to a hospital. Family members in St Petersburg were notified.

Kerri Campbell was arrested for fraud and a felony warrant out of Pinellas County for Uttering Forged Checks after she turned herself in at GPD.

Officers responded to the 5600 block of 15th Avenue on February 11 after a 17 year-old male having a dispute with this mother about going to school struck his stepfather several times with brass knuckles after he intervened, causing significant facial injuries. The juvenile was arrested.

The marine unit was on the water for 13.5 hours this week. Twelve contacts were made and Officers Cavanah and Marshall assisted a boater who had broken her leg. They summoned medical assistance and escorted their vessel to a nearby marina where EMS provided treatment.

Investigations:

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	22
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	15

Detective Pham completed 9 supplements; closed three cases, one case by arrest, one “no crime, and one exceptionally cleared; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail; manned the marine unit on Sunday and made three contacts, and; conducted follow-up investigations and pawn checks.

Detective Crowson spent the majority of the week investigating cases and typing supplements; looked for two suspects wanted for questioning, and; closed a grand theft auto case with an arrest.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored two students; completed Explorer paperwork and created lesson plans for upcoming Explorer training, and; worked security during an afterschool event.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated 3 thefts (two phones and one book bag); responded to a fight in progress; assisted with the arrest of a student for a St. Petersburg PD burglary case; investigated a child abuse that occurred in Pinellas Park; assisted with a mental health assessment which didn't meet Baker Act requirements; responded to two disturbances; made contact with students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; spoke with a parent concerning students harassing her daughter and notified the school; spoke with a student who reported that an unknown student was bothering her and attempted to locate the student; collected and dropped off donated food items for the Senior Center pantry and; instructed the GPD Police Explorers on the topic of thefts.

Margaret Palmisano; compiled fiscal statistics for Chief Vincent; commenced compiling data for a public records request concerning arrests at BCHS, and; continued working on an analysis of crime statistics for Ofc. Mills.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	95
Public records requests:	4
Reports disseminated:	9
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	32

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are currently in the review process: 312 - Fiscal Activities; 326 - Use of the Internet; 341 - Report Writing; 349 - Civilian Volunteer Program; 416 - Traffic Homicide Investigations; 421 - Homicide Investigations, and; 517 - Search Warrants.

The following policies have been updated and are awaiting the Chief's signature: 425 - Bicycle Patrol & 350 - Explorer Post Procedures.

The following policies have been approved and distributed to personnel: 144 - Ride Along Program; 414 - Traffic Direction and Control; 314 - Line and Staff Inspection, and; 426 - Problem Oriented Patrols.

Ten Police Officer applications are currently being processed. Roxanne Affeldt received a conditional offer of employment and a tentative start date of March 10.

Sgt. Vandenberg is working on a flyer to be mailed to Gulfport residents concerning the Lock It or Lose It campaign, and setting up Bicycle Patrol training with SPPD.

Ofc. McLaughlin is processing applicant files and working on obtaining the vendor application from the Peninsula Inn. He assisted with setting up bike training and will be attending the Law Day at Pinellas Park High School.

Ofc. Mills is making progress the Coffee with a Cop program and plans to implement the program in March. He is currently attending a 2-week Advanced Traffic Homicide Investigator course.

Accreditation Activities

Lt. Stone instructed Sgt. Vandenberg on inspections and audits that need to be completed while he is away at the FBINA. The quarterly property and evidence audit of the bicycle compound was completed this week.

Training Coordination

All officers have completed online training for Photographic or Live Lineups in Eyewitness Identification.

Ofc. Marshall completed a 16 hour course on Officer Survival Concepts.

Ofc. Mills is attending an 80-hour Advanced Traffic Homicide Investigation course.

Sgt. Parks is attending a 24 hour AR-15 Armorer Course.

Ofc. Randazzo and Ofc. Obrart are attending a 40 hour Interview and Interrogation course at SEPSI.

MARINA

Assisted in twenty two (22) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifty five (355) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand six hundred fifty six (1,656) gallons of gas and one thousand eight hundred forty five (1,845) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy seven (77) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 28' sailboat, 30' sailboat, 43' sailboat, 45' motorboat, 49' gulfstream and a 40' Albin this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Replaced 20A breaker on Pier 6-11.
- Replaced two (2) GFIC on Piers 7-9 and 7-11.
- Repaired gate lock and dock box lid on Pier 6.
- Relocated dock box on Pier 3.

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.
- Updated meeting schedules & minutes and Casino & Recreation Center information on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for February 11 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Sent March calendar to printer.

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.

Join us for **Healthy Aging w/Heidi Crocket: Seniors & Sexuality in the 21st Century** on Monday, February 16 at 2:30 p.m. This class will explore current trends in sexual health for those over 60, and understanding the importance of intimacy for your overall health.

Representatives from the **Pinellas County Property Appraisers** office will visit the Senior Center between the hours on 9 a.m. & noon on Thursday February 19 to assist Gulfport seniors in completing the Low Income Senior Exemption application for property owners 65 years and older with income of less than \$28,448 for 2014. For more information call the Pinellas County Appraisers office at 464-3294.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19 for **Maneuvering through the Senior Healthcare Maze**. Senior healthcare experts explain the difference between Home Health, Private Duty, Independent Living and Assisted Living, and how to pay for each.

Senior Care ER is a specialized care program that focuses on the needs of seniors. Join Dr. Henry Kruusz on Monday, February 23 at 2:30 p.m. for this month's **HCA Health Talk: Senior Care ER is in St. Petersburg** when he'll discuss senior-focused amenities available at St. Petersburg General Hospital.

Caring for a loved one is a challenging, yet rewarding experience. **Caring for Your Loved One - A Mission from the Heart** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 25 will provide information on how to balance responsibilities to with the natural stress of caregiving.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee and donuts in a relaxed setting during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 3.

Guest Audiologist Dan Gardner, M.S. will provide a **free visual inspection of ear canal, electronic hearing check, & hearing aid services** on Wednesday, March 4, 9 - 11:30 a.m. Appointment required. Call 893-5657.

Check out the great deals at the **First Friday Flea Market** on March 6, 9 a.m. - noon.

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

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone CAN do this, Everyone SHOULD!

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

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

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*):

Sunday, February 1	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Royal Blue Dance Band (Turnout 25)
Tuesday, February 3	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 38) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 72)
Wednesday, February 4	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 356)
Thursday, February 5	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 41)
Saturday, February 7	10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,689)

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 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Friday, February 6, 6 p.m. - Senior Center Art reception (Turnout 40)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, February 1 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 33)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, February 2 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, February 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 26)

Thursday, February 5 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 28)

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

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion
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, February 2, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, February 3, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, February 3, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, February 4, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, February 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, February 4, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers.*

Thursday, February 5, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, February 6, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, February 18, 8 p.m. - *Yankee Ladies in Florida: A Literary Landscape.* Everyone is welcome to join us for our Circle of Friends Annual meeting for a very special free program by historian and Chataouquan Betty Jean Steinshouer. Funded by the Florida Humanities Council. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, February 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of the Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Reference Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Monday, February 23, 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, February 24 - *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.

Thursday, February 26, 3 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 2-4 year olds, and 3:30 p.m. - Storytime Yoga for 5-10 year olds:* All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

Thursday, March 5, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners:* Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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 February 1-7, 2015:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,390	10
Sun. 2/1	Library closed	
Mon. 2/2	440	136
Tue. 2/3	393	119
Wed. 2/4	413	133
Thu. 2/5	461	153
Fri. 2/6	373	110
Sat. 2/7	291	91

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 12:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, February 7 for a Family Reunion with thirty five (35) in attendance

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-7 p.m. Saturday February 21 for a Baby Shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty (50) 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 two (22) 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 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. Fifteen (15) Tot Time/VPK Program participants and five (5) adults visited the Fresh Market in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

Sixty seven (67) teens are 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: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport a group of Senior Center participants to the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg on Thursday evening. He also worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez met with the City Manager and City staff on Tuesday morning to discuss details for the Community Youth Recreation Forum scheduled for March 31. She also met with Meagan from Stetson College of Law on Tuesday to discuss details for the "Fun in the Sun" Day event scheduled for April 4.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 22 new, & 0 closed
- Water payments: 2,344 totaling \$448,977.89
- On-Line Water payments: 377 transactions totaling \$24,325.62
- Bright House payments: 17
- Utility billed 1,255
- Accounts Payable: 1,011 transactions totaling \$305, 534.96
- Mail processed 02/06/15: 327 pieces totaling \$334.17
- Purchasing Card 02/06/15: 220 transactions totaling \$29,561.35

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Haz-Mat Call
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 4 COs
- 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 19. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting an EMT Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.
- GFD participated in Transitional Fire Attack concept training at the Pinellas County Drill grounds in February.
- Physio-Control Senior Technical Service Representative Kathy Suggett performed annual service checks on all the AED's (automatic external defibrillator) located in City facilities per our service contract agreement.
- Acting Lieutenant Burford conducted a safety fire inspection at the So49 Classic Car show on February 7. There were no violations reported.
- GFD personnel continued their February St. Petersburg College EMS Continuing Education training. This month's topic is Documentation and Medication Administration.
- Fire inspector James Lundh conducted a Final Ansul Hood System Test at the Genesis Church at 1601 49th Street. There were no violations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed semi-annual inspection of fire systems at City Hall and Police Department.
- Repaired toilet in men's restroom at Casino.
- Pressure cleaned and sealed City Hall exterior.
- Removed broken key from restroom door at Dog Park.
- Pressure cleaned a/c area behind Theater & Casino, and concrete patio area at Senior Center.
- Rented scissor lift for light replacement at Recreation Center Gym, Garage & Fire Station.
- Installed new 10-ton air handler and condensers at the Library.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Assisted with transport and set up of audio equipment for SO49 Classic Car Show.
- Installed upcoming events banners on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced locks at Hoyt Field.
- Sanded down graffiti on wooden gazebo at Wood Ibis Park.
- Sealed picnic tables in preparation for installation at Recreation Center.
- Tilled sand on beach playground and added sand under the swings.
- Reset trash can on Beach Boulevard.
- Removed graffiti from playground at Tomlinson Park.
- Cleaned and organized shop.
- Replaced flags at City Hall, Senior Center and Wood Ibis Park.
- Secured new picnic tables at Tonkin Park.
- Secured wind screen on fence at Hoyt Field.
- Replaced lights on Clymer Greenway art.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed low branches along Tangerine Greenway.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Neighborhood Center, 28th Street signage area, cleaned along back area, ditch line and fence line at Wood Ibis Park, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Tangerine Greenway & Lake, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, Neighborhood Center green spaces & Clymer Greenway.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, sharpened chains on chain saws and replaced bump head on line trimmers.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park, Chase Block and Dog Park.
- 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.
- Delivered garbage container to Coast Guard station for weekend cleanup,
- Delivered garbage & recycling containers for weekend car show on Tangerine Avenue.
- Reset stop sign hit by a vehicle at 52nd Street & 7th Avenue.
- Completed roadway work on 15th Avenue from 61st to 62nd Street.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping from Gulfport Marina area.
- Graded beach parking lot and removed contractor's debris.
- Removed debris from roadway at 58th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Completed asphalt patchwork, per direction.

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 #23, 24, 25 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 116 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 5 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 6 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 1844 58th 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced tail lamps on Streets vehicle #34.
- Repaired throttle master switch, and replaced turn signal lamp on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced windshield wipers on Police vehicle #154.
- Repaired oil leak on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced headlight/turn signal assembly on Streets vehicle #35.

- Reassembled headlight assembly on Streets vehicle #71.
- Straightened and welded wear rails in Sanitation vehicle #31.
- 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 continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to the city boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for January was 135. The fiscal year-to-date total is 631. The number of citizen complaints was 12 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 57. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 9 percent.

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

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.

Planning and Development

February 11 Board of Adjustment results:

V15-06; 5937 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to:

1. To recognize the existing catwalk and dock encroachments of 0.42 feet into the side outer one-third required setbacks of the extended waterfront; and
2. To reduce the right-hand outer one third setback requirement by 12.42 feet, from 26.67 feet to 14.25 feet to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift. ALL REQUESTS APPROVED

V15-07; 5320 Dellett Avenue South; Variance request to:

1. Reduce the side yard setback requirement from by 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed new pool enclosure to be attached to the house; and

2. To recognize the reduction in the separation distance of 5 feet, from 12 feet to 7 feet, between the proposed pool enclosure and an existing accessory structure (shed). ALL REQUESTS APPROVED