



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 15 - 21, 2015*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

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 have temporarily relocated to Scout Hall.

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 have moved to Scout Hall, and 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, 49<sup>th</sup> 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 or visit [www.mygulfport.us/gpl](http://www.mygulfport.us/gpl).

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 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, print a form online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](http://www.mygulfport.us/yardsale) or email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto: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.

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 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.

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 **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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

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 [gulfport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:gulfport_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	151
Self-initiated calls for service	3898
Offenses	36
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	41

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

A resident in the 5100 Block of Newton Avenue reported on February 12 that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and stole a black briefcase containing an external hard drive, cosmetics case, and school papers. An i-pod was moved but not stolen. The stolen property was found lying on the ground about a block away and a fingerprint lifted from the i-pod was sent for identification.

A resident in the 5700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that her unlocked vehicle was entered and items were moved around, but nothing was stolen. While at the scene officers discovered another unlocked vehicle had been entered, but nothing was taken.

Jack Wamhoff was arrested on February 13 following a traffic stop. Wamhoff had numerous driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) convictions, and a pending court date for a recent DWLSR citation.

A resident in the 6100 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on February 14 that when she attempted to file for income tax, she learned that someone else had fraudulently filed in her name already this year.

Alpha Squad worked on an ongoing problem with speeding vehicles near the south end of 49<sup>th</sup>

Street on February 15. Five violators were stopped within approximately two hours.

Officer Wodraska stopped a car in the 2600 block of 48<sup>th</sup> Street and determined the driver had a suspended license. Narcotics and paraphernalia were also found in the vehicle. Kyle Lambert was arrested for driving while license suspended and drug possession.

Two baseball-sized holes were found punched through the vinyl fence surrounding Beachway Mobile Home Park. The holes appeared to have been made from the outside of the fence.

A house under renovation in the 2300 block of Beach Boulevard was accidentally left unlocked overnight. Someone went in and stole the new thermostat from the wall.

Someone made entry to an unlocked vehicle in the 3100 Block of Beach Boulevard on February 16 and took a black leather and cloth purse containing several credit cards.

On February 17 officers located an adult who had been reported missing in Manatee County. The man was fine and stated his phone died and he did not think to call his family to let them know he made it home okay.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that her home was entered and jewelry stolen. She stated that she left several windows open while she was away from home.

A resident in the 6200 Block of Vista Verde Drive reported that he heard his garage door open, and when he went outside to check he saw someone walking west. Officers determined that the victim left the vehicle unlocked with the garage door opener inside. The vehicle had been rummaged through, but nothing appeared to have been taken.

Officers responded to a reported hit and run in the 900 Block of 61<sup>st</sup> Street on February 18 after three vehicles were struck by a hit and run driver sometime overnight. Officers located the suspect vehicle, which was parked in the owner's driveway. The owner, David Berry admitted to driving the vehicle home from a bar and was issued citations for leaving the scene of an accident.

Officers were dispatched to the 4800 Block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue regarding a disturbance. When they arrived several intoxicated people inside were arguing. One agreed to go to a friend's house nearby. A short time later officers were called back to the scene because 2 other people were still arguing. Officer Lavigne took one of them home.

Officer Ross discovered a sailboat docked after hours at the Casino Pier. The mast of the boat was partially in the water and it appears that the boat damaged the pier. Tow Boat U.S. was contacted and the boat was towed to the marina.

The marine unit was on the water for 13.5 hours this week, and four contacts were made.

**Investigations:**

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	24
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0

Detective Pham completed ten investigative supplement reports and closed two cases; one by arrest and one in which he determined no crime had occurred.

Detective Crowson completed a photo array presentation for the victim of a residential grand theft; assisted Detective Pham by administering a photo array presentation in a theft case, and; attended a State Attorney investigation for an uttering/credit card fraud case.

School Resource Officer Motte had an additional school surveillance video camera installed near the south bicycle rack at BCHS in response to bike thefts; requested Pinellas Park PD conduct a welfare check on a student, during which the responding officer found the student overdosed on medications; mentored two students; investigated a simple battery at Boca Ciega High School and determined that school consequences were sufficient, and; scheduled range time for the explorer post.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to a fight in progress; supplemented a lost/found property report; responded to a disruptive student roaming the halls, monitored the area of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue near 57<sup>th</sup> Street following complaints of speeders; made contact with a trespasser on campus; investigated a stolen bike report; made contact with numerous students skipping class; spoke with a parent regarding her daughter not attending school and referred the parent to the appropriate school official; and delivered donated food items to the Gulfport Senior Center.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano updated the sex offender display and flyer adding a new offender who recently moved into the City; completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report; completed a request for information on arrests at BCHS for a Tampa Bay Times staff writer; compiled and distributed the open case lists, and; continued working on an analysis for Ofc. Mills

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	10
Supplements reviewed:	32
Public records requests:	16
Reports disseminated:	6
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	9
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	31

### **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.
- Updated meeting schedules & minutes and Recreation Center information on City Website and GTV615.

- Provided control room coverage for February 17 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Distributed March calendar to City Facilities and Tuesday Market & Art Walk vendors.
- Commenced preparation of PowerPoint project for Open Youth Forum.
- Changed GTV615 template to GTV640 following channel change notification from Bright House.

## **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](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 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

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 **free visual inspections of the 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.

The Alzheimer's Association will offer FREE & confidential **Memory Screenings** on Monday, March 9, 9 - 11:30 a.m. MUST call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Learn to reduce the risks of falling with **Catch Yourself before You Fall** on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. This lively, interactive, educational discussion is presented by Ageless Grace & sponsored by Arcadia Home Care.

Join your Senior Center friends at the Mahaffey Theater for Sarasota-based Southern gypsy funk band **Come Back Alice** on Thursday evening, March 12. The concert takes place

outdoors. Reserve your seat by 3/6. GEMS members: \$6, nonmembers: \$8. Price includes round trip transportation.

Calling all "Lucy" fans: Enjoy an evening of **I Love Lucy® Live on Stage** at Ruth Eckerd Hall Wednesday, March 25. This show will take you back to 1952 with the sidesplitting antics of America's favorite foursome - Lucy, Ricky, Fred, and Ethel. Reserve your seat by March 4. GEMS members: \$26.50, nonmembers: \$28.50. Price includes round trip transportation and admission.

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 8     | 10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,566)  |
| Tuesday, February 10   | Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 30)<br>7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 70) |
| Wednesday, February 11 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 372)   |
| Thursday, February 12  | 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 45)  |

Saturday, February 14 8 p.m. - Lady in Red Ball (Turnout 400)

**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*)**

Sunday, February 8 1:30 p.m. - Elvis: A Concert Experience (Turnout 173)

Friday, February 12 7 p.m. - The Rat Pack Together Again (Turnout 173)

Saturday, February 14 2 p.m. - Sunsatation Show Chorus: Let's Go to the Movies (Turnout 33)

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

Sunday, February 8 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 33)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, February 9 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 26)

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

Thursday, February 12 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

**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:**

Tuesday, February 10, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, February 10, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 11, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, February 11, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Friday, February 13, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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 [riddell@gmail.com](mailto:riddell@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 8-14, 2015:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	312	231
Sun. 2/8	Library closed	
Mon. 2/9	77	54
Tue. 2/10	62	64
Wed. 2/11	44	54
Thu. 2/12	51	55
Fri. 2/13	35	49
Sat. 2/14	26	31

**Recreation Center**

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

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty two (52) 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**

Nicole Latragna attended an all-day Nutrition Workshop in Tampa on Thursday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Five **Gulfport Teen Council** members attended the monthly meeting in Council Chambers on Friday afternoon. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and Christine Brown facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of the January minutes, review and discussion of the Teen Council banner design, Old Business and New Business.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 26 new, 0 closed

- Water payments: 998 totaling \$151,815.22
- On-Line Water payments: 195 transactions totaling \$13,387.94
- Utility Bills Mailed 1,635
- Bright House payments: 12
- Payroll 02/13/2015: 159 transactions totaling \$173,979.77

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

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

### **Life Safety:**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections
- 2 Plans Review

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, March 19. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://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.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the PALS meeting at the Safety Harbor Community Center on February 17.
- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh met with the ADT Commercial Account Executive on February 17 for price quotes for the Fire Protection system at the Historical Museum.
- The City Manager and Fire Chief met with the Fire Union IAFF 4966 on February 18 to begin discussion of the contract renewal.
- The Gulfport Fire Department continued their online February 2015 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topic is Documentation and Medication Administration.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced toilet in ladies restroom at beach.
- Completed annual testing of fire alarm panel and sprinkler systems at City Hall & Fire Station.
- Inspected old wells at Police Compound and City yard.
- Secured book shelves in Scout Hall and replaced door locks in preparation for temporary Library services.
- Repaired wall along stage area at Theater.
- Replaced ballast in office at Neighborhood Center.
- Lubricated locks on hurricane shutters around City Hall and Fire Station.

- Completed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Assisted with room setups for daily activities at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Installed upcoming event banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Installed cigarette butt ash cans on beach pavilions.
- Removed graffiti from benches and drinking fountain at Wood Ibis Park.
- Repaired fence on Tangerine Greenway parking areas.
- Relocated benches on Beach Boulevard.
- Repaired bench swing at Williams Pier.
- Replaced fence at Veterans Park.
- Replaced locks on gates at beach playground.
- Inspected City parks and properties for damage following storm and cleaned up debris.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Wood Ibis Park, Beach Boulevard Streetscapes, Senior Center, Library, Chase Block, Scout Hall & City complex, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Trail spur, Caldwell & Tonkin Parks, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, Pasadena entrance area, Chase Block, and Recreation Center playing field.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and sharpened reels and bed knives on reel mowers.
- Repaired irrigation at Library, Senior Center, Clymer & Caldwell Parks and City complex.
- 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.
- Painted new crosswalk lines at 59<sup>th</sup> Street & 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of debris from city garage.

## 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 #31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 27 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 108 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 8 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 8 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 2937 56<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Repaired fire hydrant at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed riser on fire hydrant at 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Connected 2" lines at NW corner & NE corner of 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and at NE corner of 60<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue & NE corner of 59<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.

## Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed cleanout at 5701 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced damaged tire on Police vehicle #101.
- Investigated and remedied idling problem with Sewer vehicle #80.
- Replaced air dryer on Fire Engine E17.
- Replaced computer in Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced brakes & front tires on Fire Department vehicle #C17.
- Commenced replacement of emblem decals on City vehicles.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**March 4 Planning and Zoning Board and March 17 City Council/CRA meeting:**

C15-01; 2902, 2908 & 2914 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional use application with a site plan for proposed additional outdoor seating for the Art Village Courtyard.

**March 11, 2015 Board of Adjustment:**

- V15-08; 5413 Shore Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the required separation distance between an accessory structure and principal structure by 6 feet, from 12 feet to 6 feet to allow for the continued use of an existing tent structure.
- V15-09; 2902, 2908 & 2914 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to: 1) reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 5 spaces, from 7 to 2 to reflect the current off-street parking spaces provided; and 2). to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 4 spaces from 4 to zero for sixteen additional outdoor seating for the Art Village Courtyard.
- V15-10; 6220 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 14 feet 7 inches, from 45 feet 9 inches to 31 feet 2 inches to allow for the construction of a new catwalk and installation of a proposed new boat lift.