



Gulfport Community Update

February 22 - 28, 2015

Thanks to the Gulfport Neighbors, CERT volunteers, Gulfport PD and City Staff who helped with the **Junk in the Trunk** event on Saturday (photos below). We collected 9.33 tons of junk plus four palettes of electronics in addition to all the salvageable items that found a new home.



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The **Gulfport Library is closed for renovation**. Library services have temporarily relocated to Scout Hall. Check out the new fiction and new non-fiction selections, a small collection of kid's books, magazines, newspapers and graphic novels. Staff will be happy to help patrons order titles from the other branch libraries. Ask about the free programs scheduled for kids and adults.

Six computers are available for public use, as well as free Wi-Fi access. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information call 893-1074 or visit www.mygulfport.us/gpl.

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:

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.

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.

Meet local Photographer Melissa Lowe at the Catherine Hickman Theater 4-6 p.m. Friday, March 6 for a reception and exhibit of works from her pictorial book *Gulfport Girls*. FREE Admission. Beer and wine cash bar. Tapas provided by Stellas. For more information call 893-1118.

If it's first Friday it's time for **Art-Walk** in the Gulfport Waterfront District on March 6, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

Find great bargains during the **Spring Citywide Yard Sale** on Saturday, March 7. Maps are available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue, or online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. In case of rain, the Yard Sale will be rescheduled to Sunday, March 8. For more information call 893-1118.

Support your team during the **Gulfport Little League Parade** on Saturday, March 7. The parade begins at Lum Atkinson Field, 1820 55th Street at 10 a.m., and travels south on Beach Boulevard, then west on Shore and north on 58th Street. For more information call Paul Latragna at 214-4638.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. - noon. Sign in at the volunteer tent the day of the event. City of Gulfport staff will be on hand with supplies for volunteers. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup on Saturday**, March 14, 9 a.m. - noon. If you are looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. For more information, email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	158
Self-initiated calls for service	354
Offenses	39
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	35

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1600 block of 53rd Street reported on the morning of February 19 that a decoration was stolen from her front porch overnight.

Officers assisted the Gulfport Fire Department with a forced entry to a business in the 5400 block of Gulfport Boulevard. A small kitten was removed from the attic and taken to the emergency vet clinic for observation.

Alpha Squad assisted Boca Ciega High School Resource Officers on February 20 after two students became disorderly and resisted efforts to take them into custody.

Officers responded to McDonalds on February 20 after a man reported being harassed by four juveniles. He made a comment to the subjects as he was leaving the business, and they followed him, harassing and threatening to fight him. At one point two of the juveniles displayed a Taser while another juvenile displayed a firearm. The man stated that he was not scared, walked away and called police to report the incident.

An officer responded 700 Block of Gray Street regarding damage to a vehicle. A newspaper carrier was upset that the resident called the carrier's boss to complain and deliberately threw his hip against the resident's vehicle, leaving a small dent.

A resident in the 5700 Block of 13th Avenue reported on February 21 that someone reached into the bed of his pickup truck and stole a paint sprayer.

Officer Ross stopped a car in the 2800 Block of 45th Street for an expired tag. The driver, Robert Akins had several prior convictions for driving with a suspended license. He was arrested for felony driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR).

Officers responded to the 5400 Block of Tangerine Avenue after three juveniles got into a fight resulting in injuries to two of the three. The parent of one of the juveniles insisted they be charged with battery, and charges on the three were forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

A resident in the 1200 Block of Hull Street reported on February 22 that her bank advised her of two transactions made with her debit card in California. She did not authorize the transactions.

A resident in the 5600 block of 28th Avenue reported that his black men's Kona bicycle was stolen from the screened porch.

Vanessa Simard was arrested on the morning of February 23 after being trespassed from a residence in the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard the night before. She returned and entered the rear of the residence without permission. The resident found her inside when he woke up.

A resident in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue reported on February 24 that she left her house unlocked when she departed for a brief period, and someone entered and stole her jewelry box.

A Town Shores resident reported on February 25 that she allowed two men posing as repair men to enter her condominium to check the ceiling for water leaks. The men searched throughout the condo and stole a large sum of cash they found in a closet. An investigation determined that no such repairs had been ordered. The investigation is ongoing.

The marine unit was on the water for 6 hours this week. Seven contacts were made, and Officer Cavanah assisted with a water rescue involving a small vessel adrift under the Skyway Bridge dangerously close to the main shipping channel. The vessel and two occupants were towed to safety by the Eckerd College vessel.

Investigations:

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	11

Detective Pham arrested Zantrail Jenkins for burglary to a vehicle; testified in a lewd/lascivious trial; attended an Advanced Sex Crimes Seminar, and; participated in GPD vehicle surveillance training.

Detective Crowson attempted to locate and interview a suspect in the theft of a firearm case; received and reviewed subpoenas on two separate fraud cases, and; assisted Det. Pham in locating and apprehending a suspect in a vehicle burglary.

School Resource Officer Motte took two Explorers to the shooting range; conducted the Monday Night Explorer meeting at which the post cleaned guns and organized the PD armory; arrested a student for resisting without violence while being truant from school; mentored two students; assisted Officer Langston with the arrest of two students, and; organized a volunteer day for the Explorer Post for the upcoming weekend.

School Resource Officer Langston identified subjects involved in a bike theft and recovered the stolen bike; responded to two juvenile trouble calls, a report of a narcotics violation and a report of an occupied suspicious vehicle; assisted SPPD with gathering Intel on a student; investigated a battery on school employee; completed theft of cell phone investigation and recovered the phone; monitored the area of 11th Avenue near 57th Street in response to complaints of speeding; made contact with students skipping classes, and; attended an invest for battery on a school employee case.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed a review of stolen property with a known serial number for entry into FCIC/NCIC; completed pawn checks on 18 cases with a listed suspect, serial number or searchable property description, and; completed an analysis on criminal mischief cases involving the fence between Beachway MHP and the Pinellas trail.

The Special Enforcement Team participated in a 4-hour surveillance training this week.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	54
Public records requests:	24
Background checks:	9
Bike registrations:	23
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	13
Citizens assisted:	39

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 Recreation & Teen Council information on City website, and March events on City's Trumba calendar site.
- Updated Trolley map for Get Rescued event.
- Continued work on PowerPoint project for Open Youth Forum, and met with City Manager and Councilmember Roman to discuss event.
- Met with Tim Conner, Brian Van Slyke, Justin Shea and Little League President Paul Latragna to discuss Little League opening day logistics.
- Distributed "no parking along Beach Boulevard in preparation for Get Rescued event.
- Contacted Trolley driver and Senior Center Supervisor to confirm drivers for March 7 Flamingo Home Tour.
- Trained City staff on technical set ups and filming for events.

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 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.

Join Barbara Newborn as she guides you to empower your whole being, nourish it, and give yourself exactly what you need. **Empowerment of Healing - Mind, Body, & Soul** is Monday, March 9 at 4 p.m. This month's topic: **BODY**.

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.

Urinary Incontinence can be a very embarrassing condition to live with and can make working or even doing everyday things a battle. **HCA Health Talks Living with Urinary Incontinence? You Don't Have To!** is Wednesday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. Interstim Therapy may help! Join Dr. Meena Jain as she explains finding a solution to incontinence.

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 15	6 p.m. - Gulfport Community Dancers Appreciation Night with The Good Times Swing & Ballroom Fantasy Band (Turnout 291)
Tuesday, February 17	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 31) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 57)
Wednesday, February 18	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 308)
Thursday, February 19	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 43)
Saturday, February 21	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 140)

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

Saturday, February 28 7 p.m. - Tails at Twilight Animal Rescue Fundraiser with raffles, silent auction and entertainment. Tickets \$25. For more information call 323-3892.

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, February 15 2 p.m. - *Ireland on Parade: An Irish variety show* (Turnout 173)

Wednesday, February 18 7 p.m. - *Yankee Ladies in Florida: A Literary Landscape* (Turnout 173)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Thursday-Saturday, February 26-28, March 5-7 & 12-14, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 1, 8 & 15, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present **The Kitchen Witches**. Tickets \$15, available online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org at Beach Bazaar, or at the door one hour before performance.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, February 15 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 29)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, February 17 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Thursday, February 19 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)

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 17, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, February 18, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, February 18, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of the Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin over coffee & light refreshments.

Friday, February 20, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion* over coffee & light refreshments. Title TBD. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information 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.

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 15-21, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,058	596
Sun. 2/15	Library closed	
Mon. 2/16	154	66
Tue. 2/17	281	145
Wed. 2/18	155	101
Thu. 2/19	197	112
Fri. 2/20	113	75
Sat. 2/21	120	74

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 2-7 p.m. Saturday February 21 for a Baby Shower with 45 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 4-8 p.m. Saturday, March 14 for a Baby Shower.

The multipurpose room is reserved 4-9 p.m. Saturday, March 21 for a Banquet, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, March 28 for a Wedding reception.

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 nine (69) 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 worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 21 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,053 totaling \$479,613.72
- On-Line Water payments: 192 transactions totaling \$13,461.59
- Bright House payments: 20
- Utility billed 1,310
- Accounts Payable 02/20/15: 797 transactions totaling \$484,983.43
- Mail processed 02/20/15: 5,301 pieces totaling \$830.13
- Purchasing Card 02/20/15: 220 transactions totaling \$29,561.35

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls

- 5 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 9 Re-Inspections

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, March 19. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Community Hazard Mitigation Field Representative Joseph Colavopole performed a preliminary ISO Fire inspection at Gulfport Fire Department on February 24. The findings were good. We will maintain our ISO rating of 3. The final report to be released in five to six months.
- Chief Marenkovic, Inspector Lundh and the Water Department performed hydrant flow calculations throughout the City for the ISO report.
- The City Manager and Fire Chief will meet on March 4 with IAFF 4966 to discuss the upcoming firefighter contract.
- Municipal Emergency Services (MES) performed annual Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) & Air Compressor testing this week per mandatory Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Personal Protective Equipment 1910.134.
- 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

- Repaired flushometer and replaced handle & toilet seat in Neighborhood Center ladies restroom handicap stall.
- Painted several walls at Senior Center and in Theater Lobby.
- Boarded up vacant house at 54th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Repaired several outside lights at Library.
- Assisted with daily room setups for activities at Senior Center, and installed three light fixtures on "Donor Wall".
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed past event banner and installed upcoming event banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced cigarette butt cans on beach pavilions.
- Repaired green windscreen at volleyball courts.
- Repaired automatic door closer on Recreation Center front door.
- Repaired benches at Chase Block.
- Replaced chains on gates at Hoyt Field.

- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Wood Ibis Park, Senior Center, Beach Boulevard streetscapes, Library, Chase Block, Scout Hall and City Complex, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Clymer Greenway, 55th Street medians, 56th Street drainage area, Hoyt perimeter and Recreation Center grounds.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired frame holder for reel mowers, hand held blower and a line trimmer.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field and along Beach Boulevard streetscape.
- 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.
- Removed pond debris from Wood Ibis Park.
- Removed cardboard debris from the roadway at 51st Street & Gulfport Boulevard per Gulfport Police request.
- Demolished and disposed of large metal sail mast at Marina.
- Cleaned and removed debris from Stetson alleys.

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 31 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 91 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 3 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 1601 49th Street.
- Installed new water service at 6 addresses in the 5900 block of Tangerine Avenue, 9 addresses in the 5900 block of 19th Avenue and 8 addresses in the 1800 block of 59th 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 front pads and rotors on Fire Engine #17.
- Fabricated and welded braces on Parks Division gang mower.
- Fabricated mount and mounted flashing light on Parks Division Kawasaki mule utility vehicle.
- Replaced headlight on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced tensioner arm in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Continued 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 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 continued this week 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.

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 March Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. 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.

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.
- V15-11; 2841 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to: 1) reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 8 feet 2 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 18 feet 6 inches to reconstruct the existing dock in its existing footprint adjacent to the seawall; and 2) to reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 7 feet 2 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 19 feet 6 inches to allow for the reconstruction the existing catwalk in its existing footprint.
- V15-12; 4747 Trade Winds Drive South; Variance request to: 1) acknowledge the encroachment of the existing house, front porch and stairway into the front yard setback requirement by 9 feet, from 25 feet to 16 feet; and 2) To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 4 feet, from 25 feet to 21 feet for the construction of a proposed front deck to be attached to the principal structure.