



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 1 - 7, 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 will be closed for renovation** beginning Monday, February 9. Library services will temporarily relocate to Scout Hall beginning Monday, February 16.

The Friends Room will be open for the Free Thinkers open AA meeting at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday January 10; Toastmasters at 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 11, and; Women's AA Club at 5:45 Friday, February 13. These meetings will move to Scout Hall beginning the week of February 16 along with Science Club for K-5 at 3 p.m. on Mondays; Teen Hangout at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays; Toddler Storytime at 10:30 on Thursdays, and; Coffee/Talk Book Club on Thursday February 19. 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.

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.

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 **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway, 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Stop by Moore's Resources Insurance booth and meet former Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Dave Moore. FREE admission. Call 327-3509 for more information.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2Cool's proximity to Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity to find that special fine art gift for your special person. Contact Susan Gehring at 916-0105 or [srgehring211@gmail.com](mailto:srgehring211@gmail.com) or Connie Parkinson at 709-4069 or [cspventures@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cspventures@tampabay.rr.com) or visit [www.pavaartists.org](http://www.pavaartists.org).

Join **Jonathan Herman** at 6 p.m. Saturday, February 7 at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater for a remarkable evening of romantically inspired entertainment. Jonathan is a consummate entertainer whose bass-baritone voice "entrances the audience with its powerful tone." Classically trained under John Fiorito, former lead baritone of the New York Metropolitan Opera, Jonathan performs across all genres: Opera, music from stage and screen, pop, jazz and more. Listen to his sense of the beautiful as he plays acoustic and nuevo flamenco guitar. Jonathan will be performing with piano accompanist Lurray Myers who has served as accompanist for such esteemed ensembles as Gloria Musicae, Florida Voices, and the Anna Maria Island

Concert Chorus and Orchestra. She holds a Master of Music in Accompanying from the University of Southern California. Seating is limited. Tickets: \$20, available online or at the Gulfport Casino or Gulfport Beach Bazaar box offices. No phone orders accepted. For more information call 893-1070.

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).

**Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.**, three famous superstars who came together in the 1960s as part of the "Rat Pack" will be recreated in a show at the Gulfport Casino at 7 p.m. Friday, February 13. Tony Sands as Sinatra, Johnny Petillo as Martin and Geno Monroe as Davis assume the roles of the three singers during their glory days to bring their audience the best of the Rat Pack songs and their individual hits with the onstage banter that made their act a big hit in Las Vegas. Tickets: \$20, available at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard or the Gulfport Beach Bazaar Box Office, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 893-1070.

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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Tickets: \$15, available at the Casino, or online at [www.sunsations.azurewebsites.net](http://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](mailto:pbradyday@erols.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](mailto: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	151
Self-initiated calls for service	338
Offenses	25
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	27

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

Officers were dispatched to a fight at a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on January 29. Two men had an argument over a woman and began throwing beer bottles at each other. They were issued trespass notices at the request of bar staff.

An unknown subject entered an unlocked vehicle in the 800 block of 61<sup>st</sup> Street on January 30 and ransacked the glove box and center console. Nothing was taken.

Someone entered the screened porch area of an office building in the 1200 Block of 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and stole a woman's bicycle. There was no damage to the screened area and the victim was unable to provide the bicycle's serial number.

Officer Lavigne stopped a car at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and determined that the driver, Quiana Manning had a suspended license. She was on felony probation for driving with a suspended license. Manning was arrested for driving with a suspended license and probation violation.

A business owner in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported on January 31 that a small amount of cash was stolen from the cash register. When the police investigation revealed that the complainant's brother was the suspect in the theft, the complainant no longer wanted to press charges.

A car was stolen from a residence in the 5100 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue after the owner left it unlocked with the keys inside. It was recovered the next morning in St. Petersburg.

A woman visiting a storage unit in the 700 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on February 2 left her purse on the seat of her car with the windows down, and when she returned the purse was gone. It was recovered a few blocks away a short time later by a citizen. The victim's wallet and credit card were not recovered.

Unknown subjects entered an unlocked vehicle in the 4600 Block of Tifton Drive on February 3 and stole a bag containing the victim's wallet, credit card, passport, and cash. The suspects then locked the victim's keys inside the vehicle, leaving him locked out of his car.

Colleen Alicea was arrested on an outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear on February 4 after a caller reported a woman going door to door in violation of City Ordinance.

Officers Marshall and Cavanah used the Marine Unit for 12.5 hours on January 31 to assist with Gasparilla festivities in Tampa.

## **Investigations:**

New cases:	23
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	22
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	15

Detective Pham completed ten investigative supplement reports and closed two cases by arrest.

Detective Crowson completed 12 investigative supplement reports and closed one case by no crime involved.

School Resource Officer Motte hosted an Explorer Post meeting, recruited for the post, and began coordinating the Explorer Summer Camp; mentored two students; assisted SPPD with the arrest of a student at BCHS for grand theft auto; provided security for a basketball game and a soccer game; and; taught a Driver's Education Class at BCHS.

School Resource Officer Langston conducted 3 theft investigations and arrested 2 trespassers on campus; identified a subject involved in a past disturbance on campus; responded to a fight in progress; investigated a possible weapons possession on campus; made contact with students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; spoke with two parents and students regarding ongoing issues the students were having with each other; collected and dropped off donated nonperishable food items at the Senior Center, and; provided security for a basketball game and a soccer game.

Margaret Palmisano completed an analysis to be used in a plan of action to combat vehicle burglaries; updated the sex offender display in the police lobby and the flyer, removing one offender who moved out of the City and adding an offender who moved into the City; completed a review of property listed as stolen in ACISS with a known serial number for proper documentation that the items had been entered into FCIC/NCIC; compiled and distributed the open case list; and; created and distributed a bulletin for Det. Pham to attempt to ID a suspect in a retail theft.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	15
Supplements reviewed:	62
Public records requests:	16
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	12
Citizens assisted:	40

## **Professional Standards Section**

The following policies are currently in the review process: 122 - Crime Scene Processing; 144 - Ride Along Program; 312 - Fiscal Activities; 326 - Use of the Internet; 341 - Report Writing; 349 - Civilian Volunteer Program; 350 - Explorer Post Procedures; 414 - Traffic Direction and Control; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 517 - Search Warrants; 314 - Line and Staff Inspection; 425 - Bicycle Patrol, 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. He also attended a meeting at Town Shores with Senior Center Supervisor Rachel Cataldo to present information on the Gulfport Reassurance Program.

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 covered the monthly Crime Watch meeting for Ofc. Mills.

Ofc. Mills is organizing the Coffee with a Cop program and plans to implement the program in March. He will be attending the Advanced Traffic Homicide Investigator course for the next two weeks.

## **MARINA**

Assisted in twenty one (21) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty (340) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand one hundred seventy one (2,171) gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred thirty eight (1,338) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty six (66) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 23' sailboat, 32' sailboat, 36' sailboat, 13' powerboat, 21' powerboat and a 28' sailboat this week.

### **Staff activities/Marina maintenance:**

- Installed backflow protectors on new pedestals.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Repaired pump out fuel dock.
- Removed weeds from fence line.

## **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, upcoming events and Casino & Recreation Center information on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for February 3 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued accepting and organizing Yard Sale registrations.
- Distributed newsletter & calendars to City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- Received training on table application for website.

## **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.

The world is full of abundance & opportunities. Master Life Coach Kathy Lane discusses how you can create a fulfilling life with **Law of Attraction: The Secret to Abundant Living** on Wednesday, February 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Bring your cell phone to the **Cell Phone Q&A** on Thursday, February 12 at 2 p.m. when Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution will answer your questions.

Join us for **Healthy Aging w/Heidi Crocket: Seniors & Sexuality in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 your 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.

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, January 25    | 9 a.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 325)<br>6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Ellis Hale's Band (Turnout 54) |
| Monday, January 26    | 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance (Turnout 54)  |
| Tuesday, January 27   | Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 31)<br>7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 70)           |
| Wednesday, January 28 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 291)   |

Thursday, January 29 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 39)

Saturday, January 31 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 75)

**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 & Sunday 10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show. Free admission, cash bar.  
February 7 & 8

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

Sunday, January 25, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 172)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):**

Friday, February 6, 6 p.m. - Senior Center Art reception. Free admission. Cash bar.

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

Sunday, January 25 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 13)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, January 27 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)

Thursday, January 29 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)

**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, January 26, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, January 26, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, January 27 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, January 27, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, January 27, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, January 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, January 28, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class*.

Wednesday, January 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, January 28, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers*.

Friday, January 30, 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 Chatauquan 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.

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.

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.

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](mailto:rriddell@gmail.com).

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

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

### **Library Services/Statistic January 25-31, 2015:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,286	754
Sun. 1/25	Library closed	
Mon. 1/26	467	155
Tue. 1/27	401	127
Wed. 1/28	338	131
Thu. 1/29	386	129
Fri. 1/30	265	103
Sat. 1/31	304	96

### **Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room is reserved 12:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, February 7 for a Family Reunion, and 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 six (66) 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**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport fifteen (15) Tot Time/VPK participants and five (5) adults to Fresh Market in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 1 closed
- Water payments: 1,351 totaling \$289,136.31
- On-Line Water payments: 225 transactions totaling \$14,694.65
- Utility Bills Mailed 1,258
- Bright House payments: 14
- Payroll 01/30/15: 159 transactions totaling \$195,930.34

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

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

#### **Life Safety:**

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections

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, February 19. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Chief Marenkovic and Fire Inspector Lundh issued a Stop Work Order/Code Violation at 4934½ 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on February 3 for a business operating without a License.
- 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.
- Lt. Huffman attended a Training Committee meeting at the Pinellas County Drill grounds on February 4 for Transitional Fire Attack concept.
- The Gulfport Fire Department commenced their February St. Petersburg College EMS Continuing Education training. This month's topic is Documentation and Medication Administration.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Resealed windows, replaced drywall and plaster on east wall of Senior Center Room #107, and set up rooms for daily activities.
- Repaired toilets in ladies restrooms at beach & fire station.
- Resealed windows of Room #107 at Senior Center & in Theater lobby.
- Repaired outside lights at Library.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Tilled baselines and pitcher's mound at Hoyt & Little League fields, cleaned out storage areas and repaired door, attached fabric to fence and replaced gate latch at Hoyt Field, and replaced pulls on 2 doors at Little League Field.
- Set up tables, chairs, A/V equipment and trash/recycling containers in preparation for Arbor Day and MLK Day of Service events.
- Sanded, primed and painted fire hydrants at Dog Park.
- Repaired GFCL on tree lighting at Peninsula Inn.
- Repaired handrail on Beach boardwalk.
- Fastened picnic tables at Beach.
- Filled gap under Casino and installed "Danger, Keep Out" sign.
- Replaced metal hardware on swing behind beach playground.
- Repaired bench at Bocce court.
- Painted dog box and bike rack at Tomlinson Park.
- Continued cleaning and removed weeds and grass from base lines, tilled baselines and pitchers mounds, reworked clay and cleaned warning tracks, removed clay from turf areas and cleaned dugouts.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued trimming palms along Beach Boulevard and trees and shrubs at Clam Bayou.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Beach, Recreation Center, Casino, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed, Beach green spaces, Recreation Center grounds, Hoyt Perimeter, Chase Block, Dog Parks and City Hall.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced spikes on Sand Pro at Hoyt Field.
- Repaired irrigation at Balls Fields, Clymer Park and 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes.
- 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.
- Replaced stop signs and poles at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Beach Boulevard.
- Completed roadway work at York Street & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at the Neighborhood Center.
- Removed old tires and parts from City garage.
- Cleaned and removed debris from truck wash area.

## **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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 30 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 129 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Collected Quarterly TTHM's and HAA5's samples on water distribution system.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Repaired water break and replaced main line valve at 5938 Tangerine Avenue.
- Replaced 6' of 1½" water main under driveway at 5938 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed new water service and meter at 1900 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 5938 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired water break at 5210 25<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 1922 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **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.

- Performed preventative maintenance on GEMS vehicle #1.
- Reassembled headlight assembly on Streets vehicle #71.
- Performed preventative maintenance on Police vehicle #2.
- Performed preventative maintenance on Water/Sewer vehicle #22.
- 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](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** have moved to 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.

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).

### Planning and Development

#### February 11 Board of Adjustment:

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.

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

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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).