



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 23 - March 1, 2014*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Representatives from numerous pet rescue groups shared important information and adoption options with thousands of attendees during the annual **Get Rescued** event in the Waterfront District on February 22. The dogs enjoyed a parade walk and costume contest (photos below).



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

### Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport

Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com).

Enjoy live music while perusing the arts, shops, restaurants and more during **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 7. For more information call 322-5217.

Find great bargains during the **Spring Citywide Yard Sale** on Saturday, March 8. Maps are available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or online at [www.mygulfport.us/yardsale](http://www.mygulfport.us/yardsale). For more information call 893-1118.

Celebrate with our sluggers at **Gulfport Little League Opening Day** on Saturday, March 8. The parade begins at Shore & Beach Boulevards at 10 a.m., followed by opening ceremonies and league games at Lum Field, 1820 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

Join the Gulfport Lions Club for a traditional **Shrimp Boil** on Saturday, March 8, 4 - 8 p.m. and get a half-pound of peel & eat Gulf shrimp, homemade hushpuppies & slaw for \$9. BYOB. The Lion's Den is located at 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information or to volunteer call 327-2100.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 for **Municipal Election Day**. For more information visit [www.mygulfport.us/electioninformation](http://www.mygulfport.us/electioninformation).

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. - noon. Snacks will be provided to dedicated volunteers! Call 893-1118 for more information.

Stroll down to **Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 15. For more information call 322-5217.

Looking for some unique nautical gear? The **Nautical Flea Market** at the Gulfport Marina will offer a variety of items for sale on Saturday, March 22, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10x10 vendor spaces will be available for free to slip renters, and \$10 for non-slip renters. Bring your own table. The Gulfport Marina is located at 4630 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information call 893-1071.

Enjoy a day of fun at the first ever **Gulfport Historical Society Hootenanny** on Saturday, March 29. The schedule of events includes: A boys vs. girls Scavenger hunt at the Museum beginning at 3 p.m. followed at 5:30 by a Texas-style picnic dinner with local celebrity bar tenders offering beer and wine for donation. The Urban Gypsies take the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance at Beach Bazaar or \$20 at door. For more information call 656-5420.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	269
Officer initiated calls for service	278
Offenses	47
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	22

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

Officer Mills has identified a vehicle burglary suspect using video footage and latent fingerprint evidence. The car was burglarized on February 16 while parked at Gulfport Liquors.

The owner of Siri's Gourmet Burgers and Pizza reported on the morning of February 21 that his business was burglarized overnight and the cash deposit stolen. Interior surveillance video

footage showed employee David Hill had intentionally left a window unlocked so he could climb in later and steal the money. Hill was arrested for burglary and grand theft.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Casino dock in the early morning hours of February 22 after a resident reported that two males stole his dinghy and headed out into the bay. Marine Unit officers assisted but were unable to locate the dinghy or the subjects.

Officers were dispatched to an apartment in the 3000 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street three times in the late evening of February 22 and early morning hours of February 23 regarding a couple having a dispute. On the third call the woman alleged that her boyfriend placed a large butcher knife to her back and threatened her. He was arrested.

Officers stopped two bicyclists in the 5000 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the late evening of February 23 for riding without lights. Both were in possession of open containers of alcohol, and were issued notices to appear for violating City ordinance.

On the morning of February 24 a woman reported that her wallet, keys and phone were stolen from her purse while she was at the Blueberry Patch on the evening of February 22.

Richard Sirrian was arrested on DUI charges after he ran a stop sign at the intersection of 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of February 24 and struck another vehicle and fence. His BAC was .353/.355.

A resident in the 2800 block of Upton Street reported that his wife allowed a man offering to clean windows into their home. While the man was left unattended in the foyer he took cash from the victim's wallet which was in the room, and fled the area.

Officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of Upton Street in the early morning hours of February 25 regarding a vehicle burglary after a resident reported that their unlocked truck was entered by unknown subjects. Nothing was reported missing. A PCSO helicopter and K9 deputy also responded to assist, but the subjects were not located.

A resident in the 4700 block of Baywood Point Drive reported that someone opened an unsecured widow at the rear of his home, reached inside and stole three packs of cigarettes.

A in the 1700 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street resident reported that she left a bag containing dive equipment unsecured in her carport for four days and someone took it. There are no suspects.

A resident in the reported that she left her window open when she left her house in the morning. When she returned home her screen was cut and approximately \$200 worth of costume jewelry was missing.

GPD received several reports of burglaries to unlocked vehicles this week. Police have identified Demetrious Hunter as the perpetrator in at least one, and are attempting to locate him.

Sergeants Burkhardt and Vandenberg used the Marine Unit boat in an attempt to locate a stolen dinghy during the early morning hours of February 22. Neither the dinghy nor the two suspects were located.

**Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):**

New Cases:	44
Cases Assigned:	7
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	28
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases referred back to patrol:	3
Supplements Received:	0
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	0

Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	0

Detective Pham completed an Investigating Crimes Against Children class this week, and continued following up on cases involving David Ryals who has been arrested on multiple charges, including scheme to defraud and burglary. After further investigation Detective Pham added more charges. An attorney from the State Attorney's Office (SAO) conducted a live invest at the Police Department and spoke with Ryals' victims, and will be filing charges.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated an altercation, and resolved several juvenile conflicts regarding missing property that was later located. While attempting to locate a runaway, Officer Motte determined the juvenile was at a friend's home in St Petersburg. He provided that information to the St Petersburg Police Department and the runaway was located.

School Resource Office Langston completed an Investigating Crimes against Children class this week, and responded to a disturbance involving a disruptive student. She also spoke with a student regarding a report of a battery occurring in Largo and notified the appropriate authorities. Additionally, Officer Langston assisted with a call of a trespassing student on school property, responded to an afterschool disturbance and investigated a report of a bicycle theft, recovering the bike and returning it to the owner.

During last week's pawn checks Analyst Palmisano identified a bicycle that matched the description of one reported stolen. The serial number on the pawned bicycle was identical to the one on the stolen bicycle with the exception to one character. After further investigation by Det. Crowson it was determined that the pawned bicycle was the one reported stolen and that the victim had made an error in the serial number provided. Analyst Palmisano conducted a review of reports with stolen property with a known serial number to ensure that the items were being properly entered into FCIC. She found that there were five items that had not yet been entered. She also started an analysis of vehicle burglaries and is reviewing all recent reports to determine any patterns or trends and to assist in identifying suspects.

**Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	110
Public records requests:	28
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	54

**MARINA**

Pumped three thousand three hundred sixteen (3,316) gallons of gas, and one thousand eighty five (1,085) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred ten (110) vessels.

Assisted in nineteen (19) pump outs, evacuating two hundred thirty four (234) gallons of waste.

**Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 42' trawler and a 34' motorboat this week.

## **Staff Activities:**

- Installed diesel nozzle on pump three.
- Repaired concrete in front of Marina office.
- Removed piling from Casino dock and staged new piling for installation.
- Prepared new dock pedestals for installation.

## **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.
- Scheduled planning meeting for St Patrick's Day event.
- Organizing and creating promotional materials for March 8 Clam Bayou Cleanup & upcoming Relay for Life event.
- Uploaded upcoming meeting agendas and new watering restrictions to City website.
- Provided photographic and technical assistance for Get Rescued event.

### **Parks**

Cleaned & restocked restrooms and set up barricades, cones & trashcans in preparation for Get Rescued event, and removed equipment following event.

Inspected/repared electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.

Replaced past event banners with upcoming event banners.

Reopened Skate Park and inspected lights & timers.

Repaired bleachers at Hoyt Field and received quote for fence repairs.

Replaced flags at all City facilities.

Repaired a bench swing at pier, and removed broken bench.

Repaired microphone cord for Senior Center and portable sound system.

Reset outside light timers on Senior Center building.

Cleaned restrooms at Little League building and outside Casino.

Repaired water fountains at Dog Park, Hoyt field & Recreation Center.

Painted over graffiti at beach pavilions.

Installed temporary electrical outlets for lighting at Library, and delivered chairs in preparation for Circle of Friends meeting.

Continued removal of dead/diseased plants along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape in preparation for spring planting.

Repaired irrigation at Little League field and replaced irrigation clock at 49<sup>th</sup> Street signage area.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced line trimmer, and adjusted chains & bed knife on reel mower.

Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, City complex, Clymer Park, Recreation Center grounds, Chase block & Dog Parks

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.

#### **Other Activities:**

- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

#### **Multipurpose Center**

Mayor Henderson stopped by last week to help us celebrate two very special Birthdays: Agnes is 102 and Johanka turned 100 (photo below) Happy Birthday Ladies!



The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at [www.mygulfport.us](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 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or

bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Join Barbara Newborn on Monday, March 3 at 2:30 pm for **The Empowerment of Healing**. Barbara will discuss methods and new insights into the amazing power of healing and what disability and illness can teach us about ourselves.

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

Join Joseph Raissi, MBA for **The Stock Market: Should You be Concerned About Investing?** At 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

You never know what treasures you might find at the next **First Friday Flea Market** scheduled for 9 a.m. - noon on March 7.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a free **Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is on March 10. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Attention Baby Boomers: Have you given any thought to wills or trusts? Don't take a chance with so much at stake. Join Attorney April Hill at the Senior Center at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 to discuss **Estate Planning**.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. The next screening is March 11.

Join us for our next Gulfport Getaway to **John's Pass Historic Fishing Village & Boardwalk** on Tuesday, March 11. Roundtrip transportation and parking included in the \$6 fee for GEMS Members, \$8 for Non-GEMS Members. Call 893-2242 before March 5 to reserve your seat.

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

Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader Jaclyn Moore will cover the basic functions during the next **iPad class** at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 14. Space is limited so register today. Don't forget to bring your iPad and passwords!

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

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

**SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)** is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center 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.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures, and tips with others at the new **Bon Voyage** discussion group at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Ester from Four Seasons Travel and Cruise will offer great tips and insider information. Don't miss out!!

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.

**Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center**

**Casino (*last week's events*):**

Sunday, February 16	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Mario Deleon's Band & ballroom dance (Turnout 52)
Tuesday, February 18	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 69)
Wednesday, February 19	10 a.m. - Health & Wellness Expo (Turnout 350) 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 304)
Thursday, February 20	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 30)
Friday, February 21	7:30 p.m. - Valentine Dance (Turnout 146)
Saturday, February 22	7 p.m. - Tails at Twilight animal rescue fundraiser (Turnout 250)

**Casino (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
Every Thursday	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera

	8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
Monday, March 12	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with live music by Keith Jones & the Makeshifts

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

Thursday, February 20	8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 21)
Friday, February 21	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 50)
Saturday, February 22	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 58)

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

Thursday-Saturday, February 27 - March 1, March 6-8, 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 23 and March 2 & 9, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Visiting Mr. Green*: a gripping drama about Jewish tradition and family values. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, February 16	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 15) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, February 18	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)
Thursday, February 20	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13) 7 p.m. - Pasadena Point HOA meeting (Turnout 7)

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

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

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

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, February 10	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 102) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 24)
Tuesday, February 11	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 24)
Wednesday, February 12	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 25)
Thursday, February 13	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 10)
Friday, February 14	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

### Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

### **LIBRARY**

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, February 17, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Monday, February 17, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Tuesday, February 18, 5:45 p.m. *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, February 19, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, February 19, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, February 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Thursday, February 20, 1 p.m. - Gulfport Garden Club *Coyotes in Urban Habitats: How They Adapt & Survive* presented by Lara Miller of the Pinellas County Extension Service.

Friday, February 21, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Friday, February 21, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Friday, February 28, 6 p.m. - *Senior Artists Reception*: Workshop participants kick off their exhibit of paintings which will be on display at the Library through March 26. Directed by volunteer art instructor Betty Staebell, each student has prepared new original paintings in watercolor, acrylic, and/or oil. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 for more information.

Saturday, March 1, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Readers & Writers Workshop* for parents and toddlers thru Kindergarten. Helps children develop reading and writing skills. Call the Library at 893-1073 or stop by the Reference Desk to register. For more information call Trace Taylor at 813-486-5437 or email [Tracetaylorpublishing@gmail.com](mailto:Tracetaylorpublishing@gmail.com).

Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m. - *The String Quartet: From Roots to Ragtime Concert*. Professional musicians offer comments and play music by Corelli, Telemann, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Borodin, Dvorák and Joplin. Join us for an evening of delightful performances. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Movies begin at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Tuesday, March 25 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday & Friday through April 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, photo ID and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [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 by the Easy books.

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

### **Library Services/Statistic February 16-22, 2014:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,920	658
Sun. 2/16	Library closed	
Mon. 2/17	248	77
Tue. 2/18	359	118
Wed. 2/19	301	105
Thu. 2/20	398	143
Fri. 2/21	359	117
Sat. 2/22	238	85

### **Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, March 1 and 3-7 p.m. Saturday March 15 for baby showers, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday March 22 for a Women's Conference/Church event.

The game room is reserved 2-7 p.m. Saturday, March 8 for a birthday party.

### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty two (52) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek

Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Sixteen (16) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

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

Seventy Four (74) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez met with the City Manager on Thursday to discuss the 2014/15 Leisure Services budget.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Bob from Smith Fence on Thursday and with John from USA Fence on Tuesday morning to get quotes for Caldwell Park fencing.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 31 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 943 totaling \$136,834.30
- On-Line Water payments: 150 transactions totaling \$8797.97
- Bright House payments: 18
- Accounts Payable 2/21/14: 528 transactions totaling \$455,623.11
- Mail processed 2/21/14: 515 pieces totaling \$336.35
- Purchasing Card 2/7/14 206 transactions totaling \$21576.70

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes

#### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Fire Inspection
- 2 Walk-Throughs
- 1 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 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Lt. Fuchs provided the Sea Scouts Heartsaver with AED training on February 25. All 13 participants passed and are recertified for the next two years.
- Firefighter/EMT Campbell & Firefighter/Paramedic Hays staffed Special Rescue 17 during the Annual Get Rescued event on February 22.
- Chief Marenkovic and Gerald Engel performed a walk-through of the Stetson Law College office project, and a final inspection at Yummy's Restaurant.
- Municipal Emergency Service Inc. is performing annual preventative maintenance on the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Compressor equipment following NFPA1500 requirements. Fit testing of SCBA Masks has been completed.
- The Gulfport Fire Department completed the February 2014 International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) CME. Practical exam and testing will begin for recertification.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Performed semi-annual inspection of Fire Suppression System at City Hall, and monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Adjusted men's room door closer and replaced hinge on storage door at Dog Park.
- Repaired air conditioning unit in Fire Station storage room.
- Installed new time clock for Parks Department.
- Ran several errands to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Reset "No Parking" signs on 51<sup>st</sup> Street between 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenues.
- Replaced "One Way" sign on northbound lane of Beach Boulevard at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Launched pilings in water in preparation for Casino Pier replacement.
- Replaced broken concrete storm water lid at Dupont Street & 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Graded beachfront and removed debris around outfall.
- Posted street closing signs and set up recycling & garbage containers in preparation for Animal Rescue event.
- Cleared lost debris from roadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of several loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Removed illegally dumped debris from Neighborhood Center recycling area and set up cardboard overflow recycling containers.
- Cleared sight obstruction at York Street & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- Installed new street signs at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Built new storm drain box with inset grate & concrete radius at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed flexstix on storm water lid at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **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 37 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 102 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 17 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Flow tested water meter at 4926 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue to insure accuracy.
- Repaired water breaks 2614 Beach Boulevard, 2814 Seabreeze Drive & 6221 Kipps Colony Drive West.

#### **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.
- Removed pump #1 at Lift Station #1 to repair upper oil seal leak.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 1713 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Annual calibration of sewer lift station flow meters was performed and certification sent to St Petersburg for their records.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced proximity sensor & cable and grabber arm hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced high pressure switch, pulled vacuum and recharged A/C system on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Replaced shocks on Recycle Truck #40.
- Replaced cleanout door on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Replaced hydraulic cylinder on back hoe.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various 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 regarding business tax receipts call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

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

### **WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:**

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.

- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

Beginning in March **Code Enforcement** activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets South.

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 5, 2014 Planning and Zoning Board and March 18, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:**

Application #EV14-01; 1737 49<sup>th</sup> Street South; Proposed easement vacation for the relocation of City utilities and the development of a box store development; first reading of the ordinance vacating this easement will be April 1, 2014, and the second reading and public hearing will be noticed for April 15.