



Gulfport Community Update

March 6 - 12, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Library director David Mather was named Librarian of the Year by the Florida Library Association. He was selected from a significant pool of nominees and accepted his award during closing session at the Association's Annual Conference in Daytona on March 3 (photo below).

Since Mr. Mather began employment with the City of Gulfport in 2012, he has been involved in creating the first LGTBQ collection in a public library in Florida, growing the children's programming by hiring a Youth Librarian and raising funds and spearheading renovations of the new, improved library, and works closely with multi-generational programming for all. He also holds the title of Interim IT Director for the City of Gulfport.

In an interview with the Tampa Bay Times, he said "It's hard to accept something like this because so many people are involved in making the library work. Of course, anything that helps promote the Gulfport Library is good for the community. Just make sure people know it's really about the staff." Congratulations David and your staff for such a prestigious award.



Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households** within Gulfport City limits. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. - noon. Wear comfortable clothes. A limited number of gloves and pickers will be available. Snacks and water will be provided to volunteers. Register on site the day of the event. Cosponsored by City of Gulfport & Keep Pinellas Beautiful. For more information call 893-1118.

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

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.

Time to pull out those hidden away items for some cool cash! Gulfport residents are invited to register for the semiannual permit free **Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, March 19. In the event of rain, the sale will take place on Sunday the 20th. The City of Gulfport is accepting addresses for this year's brochure. Register on line at www.mygulfport.us/city-wideyard-sale no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 11.

Interested in unloading some nautical equipment or searching for cool nautical gear? Look no further than the **Gulfport Marina's Annual Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 19, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10'x10' spaces are available for \$10 (free for slip renters); bring your own table. Sign up at Gulfport Municipal Marina, 4630 29th Avenue. Space is limited. For more information call Marina Director Denis Frain at 893-1071.

Get healthy and learn more about health services, while getting some free screenings at the same time during the **Health and Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday March 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This free, all ages event will provide a wealth of information to empower your mind, body and soul. For more information call 810-334-9460.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. - noon at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera for a photo with Peter Cottontail.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	150
Self-initiated calls for service	344
Offenses	38
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	49
Ordinance violations	50

Members of Alpha Squad assisted school resource officers at Boca Ciega High School on March 3 after a large fight broke out among students. There were no injuries reported.

A resident in the 5200 block of 17th Avenue reported someone has been using information from her driver's license to make returns at Walmart locations throughout the state.

A resident in the 5600 block of 17th Avenue returned home after being away for several months, and discovered that someone had been living in their home. Cigarette butts and beer bottles were found inside. Several items were collected and submitted for processing.

A man reported that he left his keys in his van while he was conducting business at Clam Bayou Park, and upon return discovered a woman crouched behind the van. She ran away when he approached and was not found. He believes she had the keys and was trying to unlock the trailer from the hitch.

A resident in the 2700 Block of 54th Street reported that her 10 year old granddaughter's cell phone was stolen by two males while she was in a local park.

An elderly resident reported on March 6 that she received a call from the "Canadian Embassy" telling her that her grandson had been arrested in Mexico and she needed to send money via green dot card to pay for his lawyer. She sent two separate payments in excess of \$900 to Mexico before realizing it was a scam.

A resident in the 5000 Block of 15th Avenue reported on March 7 that someone entered her unlocked car and took her purse. Officer Lavigne found the purse in a trashcan behind Save on Seafood. A small amount of cash and a set of car keys were not located.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of 49th Street on March 8 after a caller reported that his car, which he left running while he was inside a business, was stolen. The thief left a bicycle at the scene.

Sergeant Burkhardt stopped a vehicle with a nonworking headlight in the 5600 block of 11th Avenue and discovered the driver Brad Hyman has 7 prior driving while license suspended convictions, and is considered a habitual traffic offender. Hyman was on probation for resisting an officer without violence, and is also a sex offender from St. Petersburg. He was arrested for felony driving while license suspended/revoked and violation of probation.

A resident in the 5700 block of 13th Avenue loaned her van to Jason Swoyer for what was supposed to be 1 hour. He did not return the van and could not be contacted. He was observed driving the van in the Clearwater criminal courts complex parking lot the following day, and was arrested. Swoyer was also charged with driving on a suspended license and probation violation.

Several fights broke out in the Boca Ciega High School cafeteria. Officers from Alpha Squad helped school resource officers restore order. One student was arrested and at least 15 were suspended.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	1

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, a dealing in stolen property case and a lewd & lascivious battery; followed up on a theft of mail case in Largo; attempted to locate stolen property at a local pawn shop, and; attended a sex crimes intelligence meeting.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a robbery case, a fraud, a grand theft auto and a criminal mischief; interviewed a suspect in a criminal mischief investigation, and; interviewed a juvenile suspect in an auto theft case.

School Resource Officer Motte Baked Acted a student; counseled two students; hosted a safety meeting; arrested a student for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest with violence.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 19 cases with a named suspect, a known serial number or a searchable property description; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper documentation that the item had been entered into FCIC/NCIC; completed the CIS monthly report; assisted Ofc. Sigsbee with research in reference to a theft investigation; processed and distributed 36 case agent review forms, and; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report.

Records

Reports reviewed	9
Supplements reviewed:	37
Public Records requests:	32
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	40

MARINA

Assisted in twenty three (23) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifty five (355) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand two hundred sixty four (3,264) gallons of gas and one thousand seven hundred ninety seven (1,797) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eleven (111) vessels.

Staff Activities:

- Repaired leak in pump out system on Pier 4.
- Repaired Casino courtesy dock and Coast Guard Auxiliary dock.
- Performed weekly pump out maintenance.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, February 29, 11 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Monday, February 29, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Monday, February 29, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Monday, February 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 1, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, March 1, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, March 1, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, March 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, March 2, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, March 2, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, March 2, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, March 3, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, March 3, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Friday, March 4, 10 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance*.

Friday, March 4, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Friday, March 4, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. - *Suddenly in Command* Coast Guard boating safety class.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, March 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. - *Making Waves*: Concert performance by local choral group.

Saturday, March 26, 1 p.m. - *Ukulele Workshop*: Learn to play one of the most popular musical instruments in our area. Hosted by the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, March 31, noon - *Lunch & Learn with Paul Stonebridge*: A world traveler takes us on a virtual tour through Iceland and points unknown. Paul will also provide small samplings of regional cuisine. Pack a lunch, we'll provide the beverage refreshments.

Tuesday, April 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Tuesday, April 12, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club*. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month. Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Every Monday, 9:30 a.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. through April 1 - *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 - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Informal gatherings to brush up on conversational skills. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to practice and improve. Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Monday - French; Tuesday - Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

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. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistics February 28 - March 5, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,472	820
Sun. 2/28	Library closed	
Mon. 2/29	463	139
Tue. 3/1	403	125
Wed. 3/2	376	141
Thu. 3/3	447	142
Fri. 3/4	446	144
Sat. 3/5	301	103

PARKS & RECREATION

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-640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us.
- Continued preparation of April calendar.
- Continued updates on Social media sites.
- Continued training intern on app inputs.
- Attended weekly City App meeting.
- Assisted with creating *Points of Interest* brochure, and distributed to City facilities & local organizations
- Organized Departmental information for *Welcome to Gulfport* event.

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.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) 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 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, 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 Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **many 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.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is March 14. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. The next meeting is March 14.

Join local real estate planning and elder law attorney April Hill for **Five by Sixty-Five** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 when she will discuss the five most important documents all people should have in place by the time they turn 65.

Learn the basic functions of the Apple iPad during **Tech Talk** on Wednesday, March 16 at 2 p.m. Bring your iPad & passwords. Preregistration required. Call 893-5657 for more information.

Buon Appetito! Satisfy your Italian palate on Thursday, March 17 when the **Out-to-Lunch-Bunch** visits Mazzaro's Italian Market. This one of a kind market offers a deli, bakery & gelato, cheese room, coffee bar, and more all under one roof. SPACE IS LIMITED. Reserve your seat by March 11. GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Price includes roundtrip transportation.

CarFit, a national education program created by AARP, AAA and the American Occupational Therapy Association is coming to the Gulfport Senior Center on Saturday, March 19. As we age, physical changes in vision, flexibility and strength, etc, may make us less comfortable in a car, and may change your control of the vehicle. Simple solutions like learning about your car's safety features or adaptive devices may help you continue to stay safe on the road. CarFit is a parking lot activity in which trained volunteers use a checklist of items related to vehicle comfort and safety. The team may make recommendations, but won't make changes to participants' vehicles. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Understand your options and the information you need to make an informed decision during the **Insurance Workshop** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 23. Presented by Senior Benefit Solutions.

Join us for our next **GEMS Gulfport Getaway** on Thursday, March 24 when travel to **Johns Pass**. This quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village offers over 100 merchants with unique retail shopping and restaurants. Space is limited; reserve your seat by March 18. GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7. Price includes round-trip transportation.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, March 25. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5.

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.

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.

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 organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, February 28 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 39)

Tuesday, March 1 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 25)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 61)

Wednesday, March 2 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 42)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 326)

Thursday, March 3 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 30)

Friday, March 4 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 33)
6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 120)

Saturday, March 5 8 p.m. Birthday party (Turnout 200)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

Saturday, March 12 6:30 p.m. - Sock Hop with Joey Dee & The Starliters and the Impacs.
Tickets: \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

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

Thursday, March 3 8 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Supporting Cast* (Turnout 24)

Friday, March 4 4 p.m. - Senior Center Art Reception (Turnout 50)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Supporting Cast* (Turnout 47)

Saturday, March 5 2 p.m. - GCP presents *The Supporting Cast* (Turnout 32)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Supporting Cast* (Turnout 70)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday & Saturday, March 11 & 12, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Supporting Cast*, a comedy by George Furth. Tickets \$16 at Beach Bazaar, online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org or at the door within one hour of performance.

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

Sunday, February 28 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, March 1 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 18)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 22)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, February 28 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 14)

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

Monday, February 29 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)

Wednesday, March 2 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 28)

Thursday, March 3 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 40)

Friday, March 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 28)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 2:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5 for a birthday party with 80 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 6-11 p.m. Saturday, March 12 for a bridal shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Sixty three children are registered for the **2015/16 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. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Fourteen children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten 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 the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Forty two teens are registered for the **2015/16 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, Karate, Japanese, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Spanish, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga AM and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest
- 1 Vehicle Fire

Life Safety:

- 19 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 Permit Review

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their March 2016 CME Face to Face training; basic review of equipment in the system.

GFD SCBA mask Annual Fit Testing took place on March 8 & 9. NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program 2007 Edition mandate the test.

New Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Barber is completing his Pre-Employment Physical. He will join the C-shift on March 22.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic, attended a Level of Service meeting with County staff and other fire chief's to look at call data for improving the system as a whole.

Piper Fire Protection performed an annual fire alarm system test and standpipe test at the Fire Station on March 10. There were no violations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Staff continues daily water quality testing at Gulfport Beach, Gulfport Shores and the Marina. Gulfport Shores remains under advisory for in-water activities until further notice. The results of March 10 are provided below. Visit www.mygulfport.us for the most up-to-date information.

Gulfport Casino

Sample ID	Date/Time
1607006-01	3/3/16 8:44 a.m.

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
4 U	4	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Fecal coliform - SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
10 U	10	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Gulfport Marina

Sample ID	Date/Time
1607006-02	3/3/16 8:53 a.m.

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
60 B	4	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Fecal coliform - SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
10 B	10	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Gulfport Shores

Sample ID	Date/Time
1607006-03	3/3/16 9:02 a.m.

Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
120	4	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Fecal coliform - SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)

Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
10 B	10	3/10/16 9:40 a.m.

Enterococcus Results Description

Good

0-35 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water
0-35 CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean

Moderate

36 – 104 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water

Poor*

105 or greater Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water
36 and over CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean

Fecal Coliform Results Description

Good

0-199 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

Moderate

200-399 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

Poor*

400 or greater fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

*A poor rating may result in a resampling event to confirm poor conditions; otherwise a Health Advisory or Warning will be issued immediately. These indicate that contact with the water at this site may pose increased risk of infectious disease, particularly for susceptible individuals. A reading of NR means "No Result". This could indicate that no sample was taken at this point because of weather or other factors, or that an analysis result was not obtained from the laboratory.

Building Maintenance

- Replaced ballast in Theater Lobby, and rebuilt flushometer on men's room urinal.
- Replaced receptacle at Recreation Center.

- Installed p-trap drain in Dog Park men's room.
- Repaired south gate at Police Station parking compound.
- Disposed of several items and moved boxes at City Hall.
- Removed graffiti on Scout Hall deck.
- Completed installation of fire panel wiring and hardware at City Hall/ Police Department.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Repaired lights at beach playground, and fencing & gates at Lum field.
- Cleaned up trail and shelled path at Clam Bayou.
- Seeded playing field and installed new exercise equipment at Recreation Center.
- Added clay and tilled Hoyt Field.
- Remove dead sod from Veterans Park.
- Replaced past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard with upcoming events banners.
- Cleaned debris from Wood Ibis Park lake fountain screens.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed City complex, Lions Club, beach, Recreation Center & Marina green spaces, Clam Bayou, Pinellas Trail spur, Wood Ibis, Gulfport York Street & 49th Street termini.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation, Library & Senior Center green spaces.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, repaired broadcast seeder and replaced ignition coil on back blower.
- Continued tilling clay areas at Hoyt and Lum fields.
- 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.
- 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, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Removed loads of debris from 49th Street holding area delivered to landfill.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Graded and laid sod in easement at 54th Street & 10th Avenue.
- Removed barricades following sidewalk installation at 53rd Street & 25th Avenue.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 09, 10, 11 and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 22 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 62 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2 including (Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily rain fall check and documentation (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (including Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Police Station/City Hall.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Repaired broken irrigation, added soil to establish positive drainage to seawall and replaced sod at Pasadena Place.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 2001 56th Street.
- Installed 2.5" electrical conduit from pedestal to new Marina building.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced battery in GEMS vehicle 1.
- Rotated tires, and chiseled 2 faulty lug nuts off on Police vehicle 101.
- Replaced leaking valve stem on Streets vehicle 69.
- Removed front spring on Sanitation vehicle 40, and drilled out broken shock mount bolt.
- Delivered broken spring to Tampa Spring for repair, and picked up following repair.
- Replaced 2 tires on Sanitation vehicle 30.
- Replaced rear brake air chamber Sanitation vehicle 29.
- Replaced hopper camera Sanitation vehicle 31.
- Replaced heater hose, and refilled cooling system in Police car 12.
- 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, 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 activities continued this week in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

The number of code enforcement cases for January was 116. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 503. The number of citizen complaints for January was 10, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 34. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.8 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

Planning and Development

March 9, 2016 Board of Adjustment results:

V16-04; 6108 Kipp's Colony Drive West; Variance request to reduce the right-hand one third setback requirement by 13.5 feet, from 30.2 feet to 16.7 feet to allow for the proposed installation of a new boat lift. APPROVED

V16-05; 6230 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; The following setback variances are requested due to the proposed razing of the existing dock and boat lift, and the construction of a new dock, lower landing, catwalk, and boatlift (on the right-hand side):

- 1) To reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 1.5 feet, from 30.5 feet to 29 feet to accommodate the construction of the lower landing;
- 2) To reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 12 feet, from 30.5 feet to 18.5 feet to allow for the installation of a boat lift and the construction of a catwalk; and

- 3) To allow the proposed dock to extend 5.75 feet beyond one-half of the property width (45.75 feet) to a length of 51.5 feet. ALL APPROVED

V16-06; 6124 Kipp's Colony Drive West; The following setback variances are requested due to the proposed razing of the existing dock and construction of a new dock, catwalk, and two boatlifts:

- 1) To reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 8.2 feet, from 30.2 feet to 22 feet to accommodate the construction of the dock;
- 2) To reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 6.2 feet, from 30.2 feet to 24 feet to allow for the installation of a boat lift and construction a catwalk; and
- 3) To allow the proposed dock and boatlift to extend 4.7 feet beyond one-half of the property width (45.3 feet) to a length of 50 feet. APPROVED

V16-07; 6005 Kipp's Colony Drive East; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 21.8 feet, from 28.4 feet to 6.6 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a catwalk and installation of a new boat lift. APPROVED