



Gulfport Community Update

March 8 - 14, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Public Works Director Don Sopak was named **Public Works Director of the Year** by the Florida West Coast Branch of the American Public Works Association at their annual meeting on March 10. The APWA Florida West Coast Branch covers a seven county area with over three hundred members, and was established in 1984. Congratulations Don!

The streets of Gulfport were bustling with the annual **Little League Parade**, 600 visitors for the **Pink flamingo Home Tour** and bargain hunters for the **Citywide Yard Sale** on March 7 (photos below).



Duke Energy is installing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient LED (Light-Emitting Diode) streetlights throughout the City. The project is already underway along 49th Street. To celebrate the installation, the City of Gulfport has scheduled a ribbon cutting at The Gulfport Marina parking lot at 4630 29th Avenue on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m.

Public Works Director Don Sopak announced the addition of LED lighting during the July 15, 2014 City Council meeting. The upgrade will save the City approximately \$2,500 a year. In addition to the savings these fixtures last longer and put out a cleaner, brighter light. LED streetlights use significantly less electricity than traditional lamps. LED streetlights turn on instantly and the light source lasts ten to fifteen years compared with three to six years for traditional sodium-vapor and metal-halide lamps, which means fewer trips for lamp burnouts and lower maintenance costs. Many residents will appreciate the more complimentary color temperature of LED lighting as it makes the streets appear brighter and clearer.

There will be minimal impact to residents throughout the conversion process, as all work will be done in roadways. Residents will see uniformed Duke Energy contractors wearing reflective vests and badges that identify themselves as working with Duke Energy. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 893-1089.

Upcoming Events:

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

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

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.

Interested in unloading some nautical equipment or searching for cool nautical gear? Look no further than the **Gulfport Marina Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 21, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10'x10' spaces are available for \$10 (free for slip renters). Space is limited, so sign up now at the Gulfport Municipal Marina, 4630 29th Avenue. Please bring your own table. For more information call Harbormaster Denis Frain at 893-1071.

The Genesis Worship Center Church at 1601 49th Street in Gulfport will host an Open House on Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Meet your neighbors for snacks, drinks, music and entertainment.

The City of Gulfport will dedicate the **Clymer Park Art Walk and Sculpture Garden** with a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28. The Sculpture Garden is one of the largest municipal outdoor installations of public art in Pinellas County. The sculptures are located along a walking path that weaves through two adjoining parcels of the park. The walk includes seating at each installation and is surrounded by a variety of trees enabling visitors to enjoy each art piece in a serene setting. The artistic elements combined with nature create a compelling invitation to the park which connects the City's downtown waterfront, shops and restaurants to Gulfport Boulevard. The first phase of the art walk and sculpture garden was commissioned by

the City in 2014, and contains ten pieces of varying inspiration and materials. Several of the pieces are designed to enable visitor interaction. The artists who contributed to the project, Owen Pach, Tom Pitzen, Jonathan Schork, Frank Strunk III and Susanne Vernon will be present at the dedication to discuss their works and creative process. The dedication is co-hosted by the Gulfport Neighbors and will take place on 25th Avenue at Beach Boulevard. For more information please call Cultural Facilities Events Supervisor Justin Shea at 893-1066.

The City of Gulfport will host a **Youth Open Forum** with presentations and discussion of youth activities offered by the City of Gulfport. Join us in City Hall Council Chambers at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. Find information on City parks & playgrounds and the many programs offered by the Recreation Center, Library and Gulfport Police Department as well as various youth groups in and around the City. For more information call 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	132
Self-initiated calls for service	382
Offenses	25
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	35

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on March 5 regarding a fight involving two males. During their investigation they discovered Joshua Rousseau had an outstanding warrant, and he was arrested for failure to appear for an open container violation.

Officers responded to the 4800 block of 29th Avenue on March 4 regarding a fight between two roommates and arrested Paul Leonhardt for simple battery.

Gregory Lay was arrested for misuse of the 911 system after he called the emergency number and stated a known person was using drugs on his front porch. When officers arrived they determined he was mad at an individual who owed him money and was trying to get him in trouble.

While conducting an unrelated investigation on March 8 officers made contact with Brian Williams who had a warrant for failure to appear on a trespassing charge. Williams was arrested.

Officers responded to an animal call in the 1800 Block of 50th Street and found a dog and a puppy chained behind a vacant building. Both dogs were malnourished and the adult dog had no access to food or water. The suspect, Mark Holloway was located and arrested.

A resident in the 4900 Block of 9th Avenue called to report she found her father deceased. Detective Sergeant Woodman responded to the scene and is investigating. There are no obvious signs of foul play.

A resident in the 4900 block of 24th Avenue reported on March 9 that when he and his family returned home after being out all day, they discovered a rip in a window screen and approximately \$12 in quarters stolen. Several windows had been left open by the resident.

Alpha Squad assisted School Resource Officer Motte at Boca Ciega High School on March 10 when a disorderly student resisted arrest. They took the student into custody with no injuries.

The driver of a Harrington Air Conditioning van backed up in the drive through at McDonald's and hit a car behind him, then left the scene. The victim followed him to a nearby gas station

and called 911. Police arrived on scene and John Connolly was issued a citation for leaving the scene of a crash with property damage.

A resident in the 6300 block of 9th Avenue reported that the passenger side window on her vehicle was shattered. The window appeared to have been broken by a small circular projectile, possibly from an Airsoft gun.

A resident in the 1400 Block of 56th Street reported that her credit card was used to purchase items online without her permission.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 12th Avenue after a 65 year old man was battered by his roommate's stepson. The suspect is still at large.

While investigating an unrelated incident an officer determined that Windel Kentish had outstanding warrants for failure to pay child support and operating without a contractor's license. He was arrested.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 15th Avenue reported on March 11 that a PA system valued at \$300 was taken from his residence, possibly by a known subject.

The marine unit was on the water for 9.5 hours this week. Eight contacts were made and Officers Cavanah and Marshall assisted the Coast Guard with a water rescue.

Investigations:

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	13

Detective Pham completed seven investigative supplement reports; administered Physical Abilities Test (PAT) for police applicants and officers, and; conducted follow-up investigations at various locations.

Detective Crowson completed a subpoena request for a fraud case; received a warrant affidavit for a dealing in stolen property case in which the suspect is currently in prison, and; completed several records/pawn checks on persons of interest in three theft cases.

School Resource Officer Motte conducted traffic stop training for the Explorer Post and scheduled firearms range time; mentored two students; arrested a student for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest without violence, and another for battery; investigated a criminal mischief case, and; assisted the school with the search of a student due to the odor of marijuana. Marijuana residue was found in his pocket and the school reassigned him to an alternative school with the requirement of attending a drug program.

School Resource Officer Langston conducted surveillance of bike racks attempting to identify theft suspects; investigated one found property case; completed a probation check on request of the school; located two trespassers on campus; responded to two fights in progress in which one arrest was made; monitored the area of 11th Avenue near 57th Street following complaints of

speeders; made contact with students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; spoke with a parent regarding her son refusing to attend school; spoke with a student regarding his progress in school; spoke with a parent about a criminal mischief to her daughter's car; assisted Officer Motte with the Explorer meeting, and; completed patrol bike training.

Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin to attempt to ID a suspect in a burglary to an occupied residence, and completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report.

An SET member, a CIS member, and Lieutenant Farrand conducted a surveillance detail. No in-progress crimes were detected.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	13
Supplements reviewed:	58
Public records requests:	21
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	47

Professional Standards

The following policies are in the review process: 341 - Report Writing; 416 - Traffic Homicide Investigations; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 315 - Promotions; 106 - Juvenile Procedures; 422 - Field Interviews; 426 - DUI Arrest Procedures; 610 - Property and Evidence Facilities; 612 - Property; 804 - Juvenile Records; 131 - Interview Room Procedures, and; 103 - Facility Security.

Eleven Police Officer applications are being processed, including that of a former Gulfport Police Explorer.

Officer Roxanne Affeldt joined GPD on March 10 and is in the Pre-FTO program.

GPD is pursuing an agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to assign an officer to the County's Major Accident Investigation Team.

Officer Mills has also been citing and following up with businesses on 49th Street concerning trash and litter on their properties.

MARINA

Assisted in thirty two (32) pump outs evacuating four hundred (400) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand eight hundred sixty eight (1,868) gallons of gas and one thousand nine hundred forty seven (1,947) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifteen (115) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed two 43' trawlers, a 60' motorboat and a 36' motorboat this week.

Staff activities:

- Replaced ventilation fans in men's restroom.
- Installed line hanger on pier five, slip 16.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Replaced lights in electrical pedestals.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640. 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, agendas & minutes, upcoming events and Recreation Center & Senior Center information on City website.
- Continued working on PowerPoint project for Youth Forum.
- Provided control room coverage for March 11 Board of Adjustment meeting. Upload video and link to City website and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Provided photographic coverage for Tour of Homes.
- Trained City staff member to use GTV equipment for live broadcasts.
- Sent April calendar to printer.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

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

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

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

GEMS members: \$26.50, nonmembers: \$28.50. Price includes round trip transportation and admission.

Mike & Harold present **The Joe Koehler Variety Show** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m. Enjoy singing, dancing, a bit of comedy and a few other surprises! Appetizers will follow the show. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE: MUST have a ticket PRIOR to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee and donuts in a relaxed setting during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 7.

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*):

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|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 1 | 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 80) |
| Tuesday, March 3 | Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 30)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 67) |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 337) |

Thursday, March 5 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 40)

Saturday, March 7 Noon - Wedding reception (Turnout 160)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$7

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

Sunday, March 5 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 73)

Thursday, March 5 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 77)

Friday, March 6 4 p.m. - *Melissa Lowe photo exhibit & reception* (Turnout 55)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 53)

Saturday, March 7 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 100)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Friday & Saturday, March 13 & 14, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Kitchen Witches*. Tickets: \$15, available at Beach Bazaar online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org, or at the door one hour before performance.

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

Sunday, March 1 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 32)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, March 2 7 p.m.- Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, March 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 18)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 5 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 30)

Saturday, March 7 5 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 45)

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, March 2 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 45)
Tuesday, March 3 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center
Wednesday, March 4 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 31)
Thursday, March 5 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
Friday, March 6 11 a.m. - Line dancing at Recreation Center

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, February 23, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K-5*: Attention young scientists! Do you love exploring the world around you through hands-on activities? Come to Science Club at the playground behind the temporary Library at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue. 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! Let Cailey know if you and your young scientist plan to attend at cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Monday, March 2, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting* facilitated by Dave Mather.

Tuesday, March 3, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 3, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*
 Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*
 Wednesday, March 4, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*
 Wednesday, March 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
 Wednesday, March 4, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*
 Thursday, March 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
 Friday, March 6, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline D'Engle* over coffee & light refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5.* For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout:* Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at 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.

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera instruction at the Gulfport Historical Museum.* Capture those special moments! Digital is the way to go for easy & fast images. Cathy Salustri shows you how. Registration required, visit the Reference Desk to pre-register.

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera instruction at the Gulfport Historical Museum.* Work with Cathy to build on skills learned in the Beginning class. Visit the Reference Desk to pre-register.

Library Services/Statistic March 1-7, 2015:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	950	570
Sun. 3/1	Library closed	
Mon. 3/2	171	91
Tue. 3/3	134	95
Wed. 3/4	177	97
Thu. 3/5	196	101
Fri. 3/6	163	99
Sat. 3/7	89	72

Recreation Center

The Gulfport Recreation center will offer **full day activities during Spring Break**, March 30 - April 3 for children in Kindergarten to age 14. Hours are 7:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended

hours until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Registration fee: \$17 for residents, and \$110 for nonresidents. Daily fee: \$11 for residents, and \$22 for nonresidents.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - noon at the Michael J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center. 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 to capture a photo with Peter Cottontail.

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

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

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty two (52) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty two (22) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Seventy (70) 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 met with Mike Yakes and Maddy Gunther from the Michael Yakes Foundation on Wednesday afternoon to discuss children's activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account activity (Water and/or Marina): 25 new, 17 closed
- Water payments: 1,398 totaling \$217,562.06
- On-Line water payments: 184 transactions totaling \$12,546.91
- Bright House payments: 19
- Utility billed 1,256
- Accounts Payable 03/06/2015: 821 transactions totaling \$419,479.77
- Mail processed 03/06/2015: 239 pieces totaling \$215.87
- Purchasing Card 03/06/2015: 194 transactions totaling \$20,537.20

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 Plan Review
- 1 C.O.
- 2 Occupant Load Calculations

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

- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in annual Large Diameter Hose and Ground Ladder testing at the Gulfport Marina per NFPA 1962: Standard for the Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing, and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles. 1st American Fire Services facilitated this year.
- Chief Marenkovic and the Finance Director Cheryl Hannafin continued working on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2015/16.
- The Gulfport Fire Department commenced their March 2015 St. Petersburg College EMS CME. Airway Management Part I will provide a review of the fundamentals.
- Gulfport Fire Department Engine 17 participated in the Little League Parade on Saturday; we wish them a great year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Rehung toilet paper dispenser in men's restroom outside Casino.
- Painted Fire Station.
- Removed old furniture from Library.
- Pressure cleaned and sealed Public Services building in preparation for painting.
- Repaired faucet in men's restroom at beach.
- Replaced toilet handle in ladies restroom handicap stall at Dog Park.
- Assessed and adjusted fire alarm at Public Services building.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Installed "No Parking" signs in preparation for Pink Flamingo Home Tour.
- Commenced repairs on Casino bus stop shelter.
- Shelled paths at Clam Bayou.
- Repaired bench swing at bocce ball court and benches at Clymer Park.
- Removed clay from baselines at Hoyt and Lum fields.

- Reset timers at tennis courts, skate park, volleyball courts etc. due to day light savings.
- Continued cleaning concession stand at Hoyt field in preparation for painting.
- Installed upcoming events banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Sealed picnic tables at Recreation Center.
- Removed graffiti from tables and pavilions at beach.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Senior Center, Library, Chase Block, Scout Hall and City Complex, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Clymer Park, Tomlinson & Veterans Parks, Neighborhood Center green spaces, York & 49th Street termini, Lions Club grounds, Recreation Center green spaces and Tangerine greenway.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced lights on mule & trucks and repaired mower.
- Repaired irrigation at 49th Streetscapes, Recreation Center and Tonkin Park.
- 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.
- Posted road closing signs for Flamingo Home Tour, and removed following event.
- Disposed of old Library furniture.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood center.

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 #23, 24, 25 & 26 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 17 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 79 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.

- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Replaced fire hydrant at 17th Avenue & 55th Street.
- Repaired fire hydrants at 11th Avenue & 58th Street, 9th Avenue & 52nd Street and at 10th Avenue & 62nd Street.
- Repaired backflow broken at 3119 Beach Boulevard.

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 2101 54th Street.
- Set well points to dry ground where main sewer line to Library will be replaced.
- Replaced broken sewer clean-out at 6344 7th Avenue.
- Cleaned sewer mainline stoppage at 2709 Mariam Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced ruptured A/C hose on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced radiator cooling fan motor on Police vehicle #102.
- Replaced tire on Parks Division Toro groundskeeper mower.
- Removed and cleaned clogged EGR valve on Streets vehicle #38.
- Replaced broken lift arm retaining bolt on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Investigated and remedied malfunctioning dump bed on Streets vehicle #38.
- Replaced alternator on Building Department vehicle #13.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

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

The number of code enforcement cases for February was 156. The fiscal year-to-date total is 787. The number of citizen complaints was 10 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 67. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.5 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

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

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

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

March 11, 2015 Board of Adjustment results:

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