



# Gulfport Community Update

March 9 - 15, 2014

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### Little League is alive and well in Gulfport!

Grand Marshall Lum Atkinson led the Opening Day Parade on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The crowds were out and the kids were ready to play ball!



## **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).

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 29th Avenue. For more information call 893-1071.

Enjoy a day of fun at the first ever **Gulfport Historical Society Hootennany** 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. For ticket information call 656-5420.

**GULFPORT COMMUNITY PLAYERS (GCP) present "Stepping Out" from April 3-20.** This is a comedy by Richard Harris Thursday-Saturday shows at 8:00 pm. Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 or at Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique & Casino, or call 727-322-0316.

Find your best deals at the Senior Center **Friday Mini Flea Market**, on Friday, April 4: 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m.- Noon. The Center also takes donations such as costume jewelry and small items. The Senior Center is located at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Contact: 727-893-2237.

You will be sure to find something special at the **Gulfport Art-Walk on Friday**, April 4 from 6 – 10 pm. The event is located on Beach Blvd. S. (Waterfront District), Enjoy one of a kind vendors, live music and many food choices at local restaurants. For more information, contact 727-322-5217.

Come on down for all you can eat **Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Lions Club** on Saturday, April 5 beginning at 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. The cost at the door is \$5 at the Lion's Den, 4630 Tifton Dr. S. For more information or how you can volunteer, call 727-327-2100.

The monthly **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA during Gulfport Fresh Market** is Tuesday, April 8 at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Blvd. S., 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information, go to [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or call 727-366-4086.

The monthly **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, April 12 at 9 a.m., Shelter #4, Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex.

Come support your favorite team and have fun at this mini power event **Relay for Life** on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. – Noon. The event is hosted by The American Cancer Society, Stetson University College of Law and The City of Gulfport at the Micheal J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center field (5730 Shore Blvd. S.) For more information on how to start your Gulfport team, contact Tracy Connolly at 727-545-3753 or email [Tracy.Connolly@cancer.org](mailto:Tracy.Connolly@cancer.org).

Enjoy a fun and whimsical day at **SpringFest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** located at Clymer Park on 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. on Saturday, April 12. SpringFest is from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Live music,

beer garden, costume contest, garden art and plant sale and much more! For more information, contact 727-322-5217 or online at sikpromotions.com

Spend your Saturday evening at the **Gulfport Art-Walk Saturday**, April 19 on Beach Blvd. S. (Waterfront District), 6 – 10 p.m. For more information, contact: 727-322-5217.

The annual “**Fun In The Sun**” **Day is Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. – Noon**. This children’s event is presented by the City of Gulfport Recreation Division and Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows. The event at the Gulfport Recreation Center (5730 Shore Blvd. S.). The FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 and under, a raffle for baskets, children’s activities, music, food and fun. Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver’s seat of their favorite city vehicle. Remember to bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera to capture a photo with Peter Cottontail.

**Free Oral Cancer and Prostate Screening** is on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Walgreens parking lot, 5701 Gulfport Blvd. S. Contact: 727-322-5669.

Watch the sailboats at Gulfport Beach from Friday-Sunday, April 25 -27 at the **GYC Multi Hull Regatta**, Gulfport Beach Complex. For more information go to <http://www.gulfportyachtclub.com/>, call (727) 215-9357 or email [hobiebob@aol.com](mailto:hobiebob@aol.com)

Local chefs are put to the test at the **Top local Chef Competition** on Sunday, April 27 from 5-7 p.m. at the Casino Ballroom on 5500 Shore Blvd. S. Register for tasting tickets at LocalShops1.com.

### **Weekly Casino Ballroom Events**

- Every Tuesday, 12 p.m.: Ballroom lessons, - \$7
- Every Tuesday, 7p.m.: Argentine Tango Dance/ Lesson - \$7
- Every Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Swing Dance/Lesson - \$7
- Every Thursday 6:30 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- Every Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7

### **Police Department**

#### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	152
Officer initiated calls for service	314
Offenses	44
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	33

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

Management at The Car Doctor to the 1000 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street South on Thursday, March 6 discovered two more thefts committed by former employee, Lewis Slaff. Slaff was fired from his job and arrested in February for multiple incidents of theft and fraud. He remains in jail on those charges and two more have been added.

Police responded to a call on Thursday, March 6 about a disturbance occurring in the street in the 5100 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in which two males were fighting. Upon arrival Officer Mills did not see a fight, but a car speeding recklessly in reverse. Officer Mills attempted to stop the vehicle but it fled the area.

Officers responded to the skate park reference a complaint on Thursday, March 6 of juveniles physically fighting. The juveniles indicated that they were just messing around, but due to a number of ordinance violations, the skate park was closed for evening.

Officers received a BOLO (Be on the lookout) for a Ford F150 driving east on Gulfport Boulevard from South Pasadena on the evening of Friday, March 7. The vehicle was said be driven by a white male who was possibly under the influence of alcohol. Officers located and stopped the vehicle after witnessing a traffic violation. The driver was in fact under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail where he refused a breath test.

Between Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8, four motor scooters were reported stolen. Two were near 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, and two were near 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Officer Novak stopped two juveniles on one of the stolen scooters on March 10, and the driver was arrested for grand theft auto. The stolen plate from another stolen scooter was found inside the scooter Officer Novak stopped.

On the evening of March 7 at 4700 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Officer Merriam stopped a car for an equipment violation. The driver, Da'lyn Kegler, did not have a valid license, and there was an odor of marijuana in the car. Keglar admitted he had a small amount of marijuana in his pocket. He was issued a notice to appear for possession of marijuana.

Officers responded reference the report of a stolen bicycle on Monday, March 10. The bicycle was not locked and was last seen in the possession of a juvenile. The bicycle is described as a purple mountain bike with a large basket attached to it.

On the evening of Monday, March 10, a resident called to report that he had been battered by a drunk male who was sitting on a bench. Richard Patten was drunk and had been harassing the victim. A witness saw Patten push the victim and follow him into a store when he said he was calling the police. Patton threw his fist at the victim inside the store in an attempt to hit him according to the witness. Patton was arrested for battery.

On Tuesday, March 11, a resident advised that sometime over night at the 5200 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, an unknown person smashed the back window on their vehicle.

Officers responded to a residence to locate a female on Tuesday March 11, who had two active felony warrants for her arrest. Both warrants were for violating her probation and for failing to appear in court for her hearing. The female was located and placed under arrest without further incident.

On Wednesday, March 12, a resident at the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue South reported that he believes a person he knows stole his wallet out of his pants pocket. He wasn't wearing them at that the time and the wallet contained cash and credit cards.

The **marine unit** was used for 1.25 hours this week.

**Investigations:**

Documented Follow-Ups:	29
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	11
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	21

Detective Hanh Pham completed six supplements. He investigated a burglary to a vehicle in which a couple of credit cards were stolen from the vehicle. Detective Pham received a tip from SPPD detectives that they had arrested a subject by the name of Ryan Farris. During a lawful search of Farris's residence, the detectives found several stolen credit cards, including a credit card reported stolen from Gulfport case. Detective Pham discovered the stolen credit cards were compromised at several businesses in St. Petersburg. Detective Pham was able to obtain video evidence from one of the businesses. The suspect, Ryan Farris, and co-defendant, Diane Dutro, were captured on video using the victim's stolen Bank of America credit card. Detective Pham will attempt to locate both subjects and take them into custody for Burglary-vehicle and Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card.

Detective Jennifer Crowson located George Milliot and arrested him on two charges of contracting without a license, which is a felony. Detective Crowson also identified two suspects in a fraud case, in which an EBT card was illegally obtained and used. Detective Crowson also completed numerous supplements and worked on several other cases.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated altercations preventing several fights from occurring, broke up two fights, and mentored several students. Officer Motte and Langston also spotted several students completing a drug transaction in the men's restroom at the school. Two student were arrested, one for sale and possession of marijuana, resisting arrest with violence, and battery on a law enforcement officer, and the other student was arrested for possession of a felony amount of marijuana and violation of probation for burglary.

School Resource Officer Langston taught a class on how to process a crime scene to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Gulfport Elementary. She responded to a disturbance upon request from the campus monitor. She observed three females who frequently leave campus skipping school. She located the students at one of the student's home. The students were advised to return to school. Officer Langston responded to a trespass call regarding a former student who was on campus causing a disturbance. The student was arrested for trespassing. Officer Langston assisted a juvenile probation officer with meetings with his probationers. She responded to a medical call involving a student who was having a seizure. She provided intelligence information to the school regarding a gang fight that occurred over the weekend. She spoke with a student regarding unwanted text messages that she had been receiving. Upon checking an abandoned book bag at the school she located drugs in the student's wallet. The incident was referred to school officials for resolution. Officer Langston observed a drug transaction in progress--narcotics were recovered and several students were arrested. Officer Langston also responded to a fight that occurred during lunch. One student was arrest for violation of probation.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	69
Public records requests:	14
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	45

### **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand one hundred thirty two (2,132) gallons of gas, and eight hundred ninety four (894) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one ninety five (95) vessels.

Assisted in twenty nine (29) pump outs evacuating three hundred and twenty (320) gallons of waste.

### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 40' motor boat, a 28' sail boat, a 26' sail boat and a 25' sail boat this week.

### **Staff Activities:**

- Install two electrical pedestals on the transient dock
- Purchased drinks for resale
- Completed pump out maintenance
- Replaced water valve fuel on dock two
- Installed a new nozzle diesel three

## **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 weekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Attended meeting for another potential sound company for upcoming events
- In process of promoting and organizing Clam Bayou event.
- Continue planning for Relay for Life event
- Sound set up for Little League Parade and Opening Day
- Completed April event calendar and sent to printers
- Attended meeting with relay for Life organizer
- Drop off weekly City information at the Tuesday Market
- Continue working on compiling Department reports for Leisure Services

### **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, & 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 **Neighborhood 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 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 27th Avenue South for more information.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Get a better understanding of how **Medicare Savings & Extra Help Programs** work and how you can apply for them. Presented by Humana on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

**Reverse Mortgage – Busting the Myths.** Do you have questions about reverse mortgages? Pat Smoot will be on hand to bust the myths surrounding reverse mortgages and answer your questions on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

Where have you been? Italy? Bahamas? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips with others at our new **Bon Voyage – Travel Discussion Group** on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:00 pm. Guest speaker every month. Explore the world together in this new Discussion Group.

**Mike & Harold present The Joe Koehler Variety Show.** Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at the Catherine Hickman Theater enjoy a show full of singing, dancing, a bit of comedy, and a few other surprises! Tickets are \$6.00 each or 2 for \$10.00. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Appetizers to follow show provided by Brentwood of St. Pete.

Learn about strategies, safety and exercises to help prevent falls at this month's **HCA Health Talk** on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. Strength, flexibility and increased balance each contribute to preventing falls and injuries.

Everyone is invited to **A Day of Pampering with Mary Kay** on Tuesday, March 25 at 11:00 am. The first 10 to sign-up will receive a personal lip and hand treatment, plus a mini skincare spa experience to soften skin for the winter season. *Space is limited.* Call Rachel at 893-1231 to sign up.

The last Thursday of every month, Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers the **Blood Pressure Clinic** to Senior Center members.

## **SERVICES**

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 every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. 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 organization for reuse, recycle or education.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Gulfport Neighborhood Center Casino & Scout Hall (*last week's events*):**

#### ***Casino (Last Week's Events):***

Sunday, March 2	6 – 7 p.m. – Ballroom Dance Lesson with Carol Baker 7–10 p.m.– Mario Deleon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 52)
Tuesday, March 4	12 – 2 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 25) 2-3 p.m. – Dancing            Admission \$7
Tuesday, March 4	7 – 11 p.m. - Argentine Tango Dance 7 – 8 p.m. - Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steven 8 – 11 p.m. – Milonga/Dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 62)
Wednesday, March 5	6 – 11 p.m. – Swing Dance 6 – 7 p.m. - Bonus Lesson with Swingtime 7 – 8 p.m. Swing Dance Lesson 8 – 11 p.m. – Swing Dance    \$7 (Turnout 334)

Thursday, March 6  
6:30 – 8 p.m. – Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera, Beginner & Intermediate  
8:00 – 10 p.m. – Salsa Dance  
Admission \$7 (Turnout 27)

Saturday, March 8  
5:30 – 10:00pm – Hartshorn - Lewis wedding  
(Turnout 135)

### ***Casino (Upcoming events)***

Every Sunday  
6 – 7 p.m. – Ballroom Dance Lesson  
7 – 10 p.m. – Band & Ballroom Dance  
Admission \$7

Every Tuesday  
12 – 2p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lessons with Carol Baker  
2 - 3p.m. – Dancing  
Admission \$7

Every Tuesday  
7 - 11p.m. - Argentine Tango Dance  
7 – 8p.m. - Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steven  
8 – 11p.m. – Milonga/Dance  
Admission \$7

Every Wednesday  
6 – 7p.m. - Bonus Dance lesson with Swingtime  
7 - 8p.m. Beginner Swing Lesson with Swingtime  
8 – 11p.m. – Swing Dance Admission \$7

Every Thursday  
6:30 - 8p.m. – Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera, Beg. & Inter.  
8:00 - 10p.m. – Salsa Dance Admission \$7

Wednesday, March 12  
6:00 – 11:00pm – Swing Dance with live music – Keith Jones & the Makeshifts  
Admission \$10 admission

Sunday, March 16  
6:00 – 10:00 – Singles Dance Party with Carol Baker & JD Mel  
\$7 admission  
Cha Cha lesson, mixers, line dances, demonstrations  
(Couples welcome)

### ***Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events)***

Sunday, March 2  
2:00pm - GCP present "Visiting Mr. Green" (Turnout 59)

Thursday, March 6  
8:00 pm - GCP present "Visiting Mr. Green" (Turnout 48)

Friday, March 7  
8:00pm - GCP present "Visiting Mr. Green" (Turnout 67)

Saturday, March 8  
8:00pm - GCP present "Visiting Mr. Green" (Turnout 86)

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

Sunday, March 23  
Sinatra

2:00pm – “It was a Very Good Year” musical tribute to Frank

Tickets \$20, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar

April 3 -20  
Thurs. – Sat., 8p.m.  
Sunday matinee 2p.m.

Gulfport Community Players present  
“Stepping Out” a comedy by Richard Harris  
Tickets \$15 Available at the Gulfport Casino,  
BeachBazaar, Couture’d Resale Boutique and the Gulfport  
Chamber of Commerce.

Call the Players for Will-Call tickets at 727-322-0316

### **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, March 3, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 3, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Tuesday, February 4, 5:45 p.m. *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, March 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, March 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, March 5, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 6, 10:30 a.m. - *StoryTime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, March 6, 1-3 p.m. – *Beginning Ipad Workshop*

Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m. – *The String Quartet: From Roots to Ragtime*

Friday, March 7, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Friday, March 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Through March 26 – Senior Artist Workshop paintings on display in our Frances Purdy Friends Room.

Saturday, March 15, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.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.

Thursday, March 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hiroshima* by John Hersey over coffee and light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, March 22, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop*: Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to pre-register.

Every Monday beginning March 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters Teen Leadership Workshop*. For more information email [kellymenges@hotmail.com](mailto:kellymenges@hotmail.com).

### **Library Services/Statistic March 2 - March 8, 2014:**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Circulated</b>	<b>Patrons</b>
Weekly Circulation	2145	719
Sun. 3/2	17	14 (Lib. closed)
Mon. 3/3	441	142
Tues. 3/4	345	132
Wed. 3/5	413	133
Thu. 3/6	320	91
Fri. 3/7	385	118
Sat. 3/8	224	89

### **Recreation Center**

#### **Contractual Classes**

Contractual classes that are currently in session are: 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.

#### **Rentals**

There was a room rental on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-7:00 p.m. for a Birthday Party. There were approximately forty-five (45) people in attendance.

There is a room rental scheduled for Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-7:00 p.m. for a Baby Shower.

There is a room rental scheduled for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00-5:00 p.m. for a Women's Conference/Church Event.

#### **School Year Child Care Program**

The School Year Child Care Program is for children entering Kindergarten thru age 14. It is also a quality program which provides a nurturing atmosphere where each child has the opportunity to experience many recreational, social, creative and enriching activities at a cost affordable to families. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Currently, there are fifty-two (52) children registered in the program. Out of those registered, nine (9) children are in-service and three (3) are non-residents.

### **Skate Park**

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, all skaters/bicyclists need to purchase a new Skate Park Sticker. Currently, there are six (6) registrations for the Skate Park. Out of those registered, two (2) are non-residents.

### **Staff Activities**

John Lapham drove the school bus for a field trip by the Tot Time/VPK Program on Friday morning. He took the group to the SPCA in Largo.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham attended an Active Net Meeting on Monday morning in Silver Springs.

Marivel Gutierrez opened up the Recreation Center on Tuesday morning for the Elections.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Week of March 6 – March 12, 2014

Customer Service and Finance

Account Activity (Water and/or Marina):	22 New & 16 Closed
Water payments:	1283 totaling \$200,611.73
On-Line Water payments:	162 totaling \$10,663.30
Bright House payments:	15
Accounts Payable 3/7/14:	641 transactions 132 checks=Totaling \$378,302.67
Mail processed 3/7/14:	1642 pieces totaling \$337.84
Purchasing Card 3/7/14:	226 totaling \$31092.45

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Collapse
- 3 Fire Alarms

- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Gas Leak

### **Life Safety:**

- 1 C.O
- 1 Plans Review

The Community Emergency Response Team of Gulfport will hold the monthly meeting at the Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave S., on Thursday, March 20, 2014 @ 7 p.m. For more information, please call Bob Worthington at 727-916-8014.

- The Gulfport Fire Department will be starting annual Large Diameter Hose and Ground Ladder testing at the Gulfport Marina with Treasure Island Fire Department rotating their apparatus through. Waterway Fire Services L.L.C. is facilitator again this year.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association (PCFCA) meeting in Largo on March 6. Discussions were about EMS Response times.
- Chief Marenkovic and the City Manager are working on the ALS First Responder Agreement with the Pinellas County Budget for FY 2014/15.
- St. Pete Beach FD, Gulfport FD, Treasure Island FD, and Madeira Beach FD have expressed interest in a combined Lt. Assessment. The Chiefs of each department will get together and review the key items for in requesting quotes from vendors.
- Zachary Ross is a new Paramedic student with the St. Petersburg College Paramedic program continues doing his ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford of the Gulfport Fire Department on the "B"-shift.

### **Parks Department**

- Mowed Senior Center, Library, Clymer Park, Chase Block, Scout Hall, Historical Building, Recreation Center, Tangerine greenways and Wood Ibis ditch area
- Adjusted reels on reel mowers at the ball fields
- Repaired and replaced fuel lines on generators
- Irrigation repairs on Little League fields, Hoyt Field, Library and Police Compound
- Continued removing sod and weeds from baselines and cleaning up. Tilled and reworked clay areas at Hoyt and (Lum) Little league fields
- Set up and break down for Little League Opening Day
- Graded out volleyball courts for Volley Tournament on Gulfport Beach
- Checked and repaired the outside lighting at the Library
- Delivered 30 chairs to the Library from Neighborhood Center
- Replaced latch and adjusted gate at Gulfport Beach playground
- Repaired fence and gate at Tonkin Park
- Replaced flag and hardware at Little League Field

- Replaced three broken bench slats at Tomlinson Park
- Trimmed oak trees on Beach Boulevard
- Replaced 1000' of lighting and bulbs on Beach Boulevard
- Removed some of the old lighting on Beach Boulevard
- Repaired fence at Recreation Center
- Replaced fence post at Hoyt Field

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

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

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

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved 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 49th Street to 58th & 59th 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).