



Gulfport Community Update

March 15 - 21, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mayor Henderson, City Council and Gulfport citizens attended the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** and **LED Ribbon Cutting ceremony** on March 14 (photos below). Forty one volunteers removed 438 pounds of trash during the Clam Bayou Cleanup.



Upcoming Events:

Need to 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. For more information call Harbormaster Denis Frain at 893-1071.

Enjoy live music while perusing original art & craft vendors during **Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District from 6 until 10 p.m. every first Friday & third Saturday. Stay for dinner at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants. For more information call 322-5217.

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.

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	161
Self-initiated calls for service	384
Offenses	35
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	54

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2900 Block of Clinton Street reported on the morning of March 12 that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and ransacked the glove box and center console. Nothing was taken.

A resident in the 5200 Block of 6th Place reported that 2 black males entered a vehicle and stole a GPS and 2 remote controls for the in-car DVD system. The suspects were last seen jumping over the fence surrounding the property.

Officer Randazzo stopped a car for driving at a high rate of speed northbound on 58th Street. The driver, Nikki Mony did not have a driver license and was in constructive possession of a marijuana pipe. A juvenile passenger also admitted to possessing a small amount of marijuana and a pipe that was found inside the car. Mony was arrested for no valid driver license and possession of drug paraphernalia. The juvenile was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, and released to his mother.

Casey Leslie was arrested on a DUI charge early March 13 after a resident in the 3100 Block of Beach Boulevard reported someone slumped over the wheel of a car with the engine running. Leslie was sleeping when officers arrived. His breath alcohol content was .235/.245.

Officers responded to the 1200 block of 63rd Street on March 14 after a resident reported that his handgun was missing from his bedroom nightstand. The resident later sent the investigating officer an email stating that he found the gun in his closet and had forgotten he stored it there.

A Beachway Mobile Home Park resident reported that two bicycles were stolen from his carport overnight. Video footage of the neighborhood entrance provided images of the suspects.

A man reported that someone stole a frying pan and food from his boat anchored in Boca Ciega Bay. A short time later the victim reported that Joshua Rousseau was bragging about taking his things. Rousseau was arrested for burglary after admitting admitted to the theft.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of 58th Street after a caller reported juveniles who were not residents or guests using the pool. They were escorted off of the property.

Officers were dispatched to the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard after an intoxicated male who refused to leave a bar kept stating he had guns. He was advised that he was not allowed to return to the business.

Three males were seen by a resident in the 5500 block of 20th Avenue entering a neighbor's car in an apparent burglary attempt on March 15. The resident yelled at the suspects who fled on bicycles. The witness attempted to chase the suspects in his car but lost two of them before officers could catch up. The remaining suspect abandoned his bicycle and made his escape on foot through several backyards. The burglars were not able to steal anything.

A group of males entered an unlocked car parked in a driveway in the 2600 block of 49th Street and attempted to steal the car with a key they found inside. The key was a "lockout" key, and would not work in the ignition. Neighbors ran the suspects off before police could respond.

Officers responded to the Beach Way Mobile Park after a caller reported juveniles looking at vehicles. The juveniles ran into St. Petersburg as officers attempted to make contact.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of 20th Avenue after a woman reported that her boyfriend had choked and hit her. The male subject, Tyler Kemplin stated that he called her and asked her to come over, not thinking that anything would go wrong. Kemplin was arrested recently for domestic related charges and admitted that he knew he was not supposed to contact the victim. He was arrested and charged with violation of pretrial release for violating the no contact order.

Officers were dispatched to a 3 car crash in the intersection of 51st Street & 15th Avenue. No one appeared to be injured. One vehicle failed to stop rear ending the second vehicle which struck the third vehicle, which had stopped to make a turn.

An officer responded to the 2600 Block of 49th Street regarding burglary to a vehicle. The reporting party advised five juveniles who attempted to steal the vehicle earlier from the residence had returned. Officers caught one of the suspects running into St. Petersburg. The juvenile confessed to being an accomplice and was charged with attempted vehicle theft.

A woman out walking early in the early morning hours of March 16 saw a male sleeping in her neighbor's car in the 5500 block of 21st Avenue. She startled him and he fled on foot. The witness knocked on her neighbors' door and informed them of the situation. By the time officers

arrived, the suspect was gone. The victims' checkbooks had been removed from the glove compartment and tampered with by the suspect.

Officer Obrart stopped a car in the 2800 Block of 49th Street for an expired tag early March 17. The driver, Dianne Staerker appeared to be intoxicated. After a DUI investigation was conducted, she was arrested. Ironically, she was wearing a shirt that read: Gulfport is too small for a town drunk, so we all take turns!

Officers responded to the 5700 Block of Tangerine Avenue after a caller reported that her daughter who is pregnant and living with her boyfriend in Gulfport had been battered by him. The victim had obvious injuries and admitted that an altercation between her and her boyfriend had taken place. Regal Diab was arrested for felony battery on a pregnant woman.

City workers cleaning up after the St Patrick's Day festivities found a woman's wallet in the 5400 Block of Shore Boulevard and turned it over to the police. The owner of the wallet was located and her property returned to her.

Officers were dispatched to a convenience store in the 4900 block of 17th Avenue after an employee reported that a white female put items inside a cooler she had picked up inside the business and walked out without paying for the items or the cooler. A copy of the surveillance video was obtained.

The marine unit was on the water for 8 hours this week. Sergeant Woodman worked a 3-hour detail with FWC conducting inspections for marine sanitation devices. Thirty-seven vessels were checked, 8 contacts were made and 1 citation was issued. Detective Pham was out for 5 hours on Saturday. He made contact with two boaters and indicated windy and choppy conditions seemed to have an effect on the level of boating activity.

Investigations:

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	20
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	10

Detective Pham manned the Marine for 5 hours last weekend, and cleared a burglary case in which a laptop was stolen and later recovered. The victim did not wish to pursue charges.

Detective Crowson determined that a fraud case in which the victim's Social Security check was redirected to a bank account in California did not occur in Gulfport. This case was forwarded to the Social Security Administration Office for further investigation. She also determined that a fraudulent use of personal ID case did not originate in Gulfport, and possibly originated at a doctor's office in St. Petersburg. This case was forwarded to St. Petersburg PD for further investigation.

School Resource Officer Motte took 3 Explorers to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office shooting range for pistol training and practice; mentored 2 students; mediated an altercation preventing a fight from occurring, and; assisted the school in the recovery of missing property.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to a medical call; investigated the theft of a cell phone; escorted a trespasser off campus; completed a gang criteria report on one student; made contact with students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; spoke with a teacher regarding appropriate ways for disciplining his children; had a conference with a male student regarding threatening messages he sent to another student; spoke with a parent regarding an on campus incident; conducted Police Explorer meeting/training on defensive tactics and handcuffing; provided security at O'Maddy's on St Patrick's Day, and; arrested a student for possession of a taser at school.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed the open case lists and created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc Ross to attempt to ID a burglary/credit card fraud suspect.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	7
Supplements reviewed:	66
Public records requests:	12
Reports disseminated	22
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	13
Citizens assisted:	44

Professional Standards

The following policies are in the review process: 341 - Report Writing; 416 - Traffic Homicide Investigations; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 422 - Field Interviews; 426 - DUI Arrest Procedures; 450 - Special Operations, and; 615 - Evidence.

The following policies have been updated and are awaiting the Chief's signature: 315 - Promotions; 610 - Property and Evidence Facilities; 612 - Property; 131 - Interview Room Procedures.

The following updated policies have been approved by the Chief and distributed to personnel: 103 - Facility Security; 106 - Juvenile Procedures, and; 804 - Juvenile Records.

Acting Lieutenant Vandenberg is preparing the packets for the Accreditation on-site and has conducted a walk-through of the station to identify areas that need correction before the assessment.

Eleven Police Officer applications are being processed.

Officer Mills and Acting Lieutenant Vandenberg will be meeting with Pinellas County Sheriff's Officer Lieutenant Lazaris next week to discuss the requirements to move forward with the County's Major Accident Investigation Team assignment. Officer Mills has also been citing and following up with businesses on 49th Street concerning trash and litter on their properties.

MARINA

Assisted in twenty eight (28) pump outs evacuating three hundred sixty five (365) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand seven hundred thirty seven (4,737) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred seventy (1,670) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifteen (115) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 44' motorboat, 36' motorboat and a 26' sailboat this week.

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 & City Council information on City website.
- Continued working on PowerPoint project for Youth Forum.
- Provided control room coverage for March 17 City Council/CRA meeting, upload video link to City website and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Provided photographic coverage for Clam Bayou Cleanup & LED Ribbon Cutting ceremony.
- Distributed April calendar to City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- Registered Trolley for St. Pete Pride Parade, and assisted with logistics for 5k run.
- Commenced preparations for Art Sculpture Dedication event.
- Ordered stage & sound for Springfest, and contacted coordinator to discuss logistics.

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.

What do the elderly fear the most? Loss of independence! Learn how to age well in the place you call home with **Promoting Independence & Aging in Place** on Wednesday April 8 at 2 p.m. Presented by Glenn Fiore of Always There Affordable Home Care.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is April 13. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Learn to turn your favorite photograph into a work of art during **Painting with Judith** every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No experience necessary.

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

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

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, March 8 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time (Turnout 196)

Tuesday, March 10 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 26)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 80)

Wednesday, March 11 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 327)

Thursday, March 12 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 40)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

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

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

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

Saturday, March 21 10 a.m. - Health & Wellness Expo Health screenings, vendors, door prizes, entertainment. Free and open to the public
6 p.m. - 70's Theme Dinner Dance with Maggio Total Sound. Tickets: \$14 in advance/\$15 at the door

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

Sunday, March 8 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 111)

Thursday, March 12 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 73)

Friday, March 13 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 124)

Saturday, March 14 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 65)

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

Sunday, March 8 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 28)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, March 10 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 12 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

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 9 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 35)

Tuesday, March 10 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, March 11 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 35)

Thursday, March 12 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, March 13 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, March 9, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, March 10, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, March 11, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, March 11, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, March 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, March 11, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, March 13, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Every Monday, 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.

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 riddell@gmail.com.

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

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

Library Services/Statistic March 8-14, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	709	530
Sun. 3/8	Library closed	
Mon. 3/9	123	95
Tue. 3/10	119	85
Wed. 3/11	129	91
Thu. 3/12	118	89
Fri. 3/13	128	88
Sat. 3/14	87	71

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 was rented 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14 for a Baby Shower with fifty five (55) in attendance.

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 four (54) 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 four (24) 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 the City Manager on Thursday afternoon to discuss the FY2015/16 Recreation Division budget. She also attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Friday's Teen Council meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum in advance.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 30 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,167 totaling \$296,262.58
- On-Line Water payments: 194 transactions totaling \$10,984.32
- Utility Bills Mailed 1,634
- Bright House payments: 14
- Payroll 03/13/15: 160 transactions totaling \$191,710.77

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Citizen Assist

Life Safety:

- 19 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, April 16. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Chief Marenkovic and Finance Administrator Cheryl Hannafin have finished the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2015/16 and submitted for approval.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the monthly Pinellas Advanced Life Support Providers Association (PALS) meeting at Indian Shores on March 17. Yearly board member positions were voted on.
- Chief Jim Marenkovic and Firefighter/Paramedic Gerard Grady attended the Special Needs Coordinators meeting at the Pinellas County Public Safety Center in Largo on March 18. Topics of discussion: animal services and pet shelters; bus allocation for municipalities; the new State Registry, and; enhancement of the current Pinellas County registry.
- Inspector Lundh met with the Town Shores Master Association manager and maintenance supervisor at the Club House on March 13 to review means of egress.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired light fixtures above gas pumps in City yard.
- Painted Public Services building.
- Replaced gutter downspout behind Recreation Center.
- Picked up tags at DMV for new Code Enforcement vehicle.
- Finished sealing and painting Parks Division building.
- Repaired urinal in Recreation Center men's restroom.
- Completed monthly pest control service on all City buildings
- Replaced rope and flag on flagpole at Neighborhood Center.
- Installed cover plate on exposed hole on door at Historical Building.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up trash & recycling containers for Clam Bayou cleanup, LED light dedication and O'Maddy's & Salty's St. Patrick's Day celebration, and removed following events.
- Finished repairs to Casino bus stop shelter.
- Shelled paths at Clam Bayou.

- Repaired scoreboard, painted dugouts, and replaced base anchors and electrical outlets in concession stand at Hoyt Field.
- Installed upcoming event banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Continued sealing Recreation Center picnic tables.
- Repaired benches and removed graffiti from playground equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Senior Center, Library, Chase Block, Scout Hall & City Complex, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Clymer Park & Greenway. Caldwell Park, Senior Center, Library, 28th Street signage area, City Complex, Hoyt perimeter, Gulfport Beach & Recreation Center green spaces.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on line trimmer and pull cord on backpack blower.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library, Senior Center & Chase block.
- 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.
- Cleaned debris from City yard and truck wash area.
- Completed roadwork at end of Flamingo Road.
- Graded beach parking lot.
- Delivered two 300-gallon trash receptacles to Osgood Point for coastal clean-up.
- Completed parking lot striping at City Hall and Public Services building.
- Repaired lids on commercial trash receptacles at McDonald's.
- Replaced curb stops in Marina parking lot.
- Replaced lids on 300-gallon trash receptacles at Seaside Villas.
- Delivered additional trash & recycling receptacles for St. Patrick's Day event on Shore Boulevard.
- Cleaned and removed debris, trash and recycling containers following St. Patrick's Day event.

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 #31, 32, 33, and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 89 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired fire hydrant at 25th Avenue & 51st Street.
- Repaired water break at 5226 9th Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Removed trees, replaced sewer lateral and clean-out at 2408 51st Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced A/C compressor on Streets vehicle #69.
- Delivered new Code Enforcement vehicle #55.
- Replaced resistor coils on Code Enforcement vehicle #55, upper control arm on Police vehicle #54 and hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Researched and located replacement garage door motor for Fire Station.
- Reattached underbody plastic fairing on Police vehicle #2.
- Charged battery and adjusted idle on Parks Kawasaki mule.
- Replaced front tires, and repaired seat pressure safety device on Parks tractor #73.
- 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 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 off-street parking spaces 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 off-street parking spaces 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.

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. APPROVED.