



Gulfport Community Update

March 16-22, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Thirty volunteers collected three hundred thirty six pounds of trash and debris from Clam Bayou during the **Keep Pinellas Beautiful** cleanup event on March 15 (photos below). A special thank you to Site Captain Elsie Crimaldi for signing volunteers, distributing t-shirts and keeping track of the garbage count! Councilman Fridovich and Councilwoman-Elect Yolanda Roman, her brother and a large group from the Blueberry Patch pitched in as well. The yellow bags collected were scheduled to be picked up for use in a USF sculpture project.



Upcoming Events:

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 South. For more information call 893-1071.

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

You'll be sure to find something special at **First Friday Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District April 4, 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy one of a kind vendors, live music and many food choices at local restaurants. For more information call 322-5217.

Eat all you can for \$5 during the next **Lions Club Pancake Breakfast** at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive on Saturday, April 5, 7 - 11 a.m. For more information or to volunteer call 327-2100.

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. Bring gently worn clothing items to donate or trade during the next **CASA Clothing Swap** at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on April 8 For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

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

Support your favorite team and have fun during **Relay for Life**, hosted by The American Cancer Society, Stetson University College of Law and the City of Gulfport, at the Micheal J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center 5730 Shore Boulevard on Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information on how to start your Gulfport team, call Tracy Connolly at 545-3753 or email Tracy.Connolly@cancer.org.

Enjoy a fun and whimsical day at **SpringFest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** at Clymer Park, 5501 27th Avenue on Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Live music, beer garden, costume contest, garden art, plant sale and much more! For more information call 322-5217 or visit www.sikpromotions.com.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. - noon at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera to capture a photo with Peter Cottontail.

Bring a chair to Gulfport Beach to enjoy the **Gulfport Yacht Club Multi-Hull Regatta** Friday - Sunday, April 25-27. For more information visit www.gulfportyachtclub.com, call 215-7982 or email hobiebob@aol.com.

Free Oral Cancer and Prostate Screenings will be offered in the Walgreens parking lot on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 322-5669.

Local chefs are put to the test at the **Top Local Chef Competition** at the Gulfport Casino on Sunday, April 27, 5 - 7 p.m. For tasting tickets visit www.LocalShops1.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	176
Officer initiated calls for service	310
Offenses	32
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	35

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Administrators at Gulfport Elementary School reported on March 13 that a student's bike was stolen from the bike rack the day before, and they had the juvenile suspects on video. The suspects were identified and Officer Marshall recovered the bike at their residence. The victim's mother declined to prosecute.

Officer Novak, acting on a tip from a suspect who arrested on a stolen scooter, located an abandoned house in the 4900 block of 14th Avenue that was being used to store stolen scooters. He recovered two scooters in the detached garage and located evidence that several other scooters were brought to the location to be stripped.

The manager of Joy Food Mart reported on the morning of March 14 that sometime overnight someone broke the front window of the store with an unknown object. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the Save-A-Lot store on the evening of March 15 after employees reported an intoxicated man at the business causing a disturbance. Police made contact with the man who at first gave them a false name. They determined that his real name was Tony Tucker, and that he had an outstanding warrant for violation of probation. He was arrested.

A resident visiting Gulfport Beach reported on the evening of March 15 that someone took her unattended beach bag which contained her car keys. The car was also taken.

A man reported that he left his girlfriend's car in the 3000 block of 49th Street, unattended with the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition. When he returned the car was gone.

An intoxicated subject attempted to open the back door of a house in the 2800 block of Clinton Street on the evening of March 17 and began cursing and demanding to be let in. The resident called 911 and police found the man, 22 year-old James Barton in a neighbor's yard. Barton insisted he was at his own home in St. Pete Beach. He was arrested for loitering & prowling.

Officers responded to the area of 49th Street & 14th Avenue on the afternoon of March 18 after a juvenile male advised that he was approached by another male who asked him if he could borrow his skateboard. An altercation ensued, but the juvenile does not remember what happened because he "blacked out." When he woke up a few minutes later, his skateboard was on the ground next to him, his mouth was bleeding and his front teeth were chipped.

An unknown subject damaged the rear entry door at a residence in the 4900 block of 13th Avenue and apparently made entry. Nothing appeared to have been taken.

Officer Langston advised that a group of juveniles fled from SRO's and campus monitors. Sergeant Vandenberg located the group at Jersey Avenue & 55th Street.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 5.5 hours this week with 3 vessel stops and contacts made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):

New Cases:	17
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	8
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements Received:	20
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	2
Cases Still Active:	10

Detective Pham arrested Ryan Farris for burglary to a vehicle and fraudulent use of a credit card. Farris used stolen credit cards at various businesses in Pinellas County. He also had multiple charges from SPPD for similar offenses. During a search of Farris's residence, Detective Pham located numerous electronics in his bedroom, and is attempting to determine if they were stolen. Detective Pham also arrested a juvenile for burglary to a vehicle in which a Dell laptop was taken. He interviewed the juvenile who admitted to the crime, and recovered the laptop at his residence. The juvenile was transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Detective Jennifer Crowson investigated a burglary in which the suspect was located and questioned; however, due to a lack of prosecution by the victim the case was exceptionally cleared. She also discovered that a runaway juvenile was recovered by Clearwater PD, and closed the missing person case. Additionally, Detective Crowson interviewed the suspects in a criminal mischief and suspended the case due to lack of evidence, and submitted forms to the IRS regarding a tax fraud.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Motte mediated several altercations, broke up fights, assisted with the recovery of a runaway, Baker Acted a student, mentored several students, assisted a teacher with a class project and arrested 3 students in two unrelated narcotics cases: two students were arrested for possession, and one for selling narcotics.

SRO Langston investigated a report of a small fire set by an unknown party; located a juvenile that was reported runaway from St Petersburg; responded to a fight which was handled by the school with no further involvement from police; provided information to a parent who was concerned due to her child skipping school and wanted to know how the SROs got involved, and; instructed the Police Explorers on the topic of Police Professionalism and Integrity. She also observed three students leaving campus, and notified the day shift supervisor who located the students and recovered narcotics from two of them. Additionally, Officer Langston investigated the theft of a purse at the school.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed pawn checks on 10 cases with a named suspect or property with a searchable description or known serial number; conducted a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure the proper documentation and that the item had been entered into FCIC/NCIC, and; created two bulletins for Sgt. Woodman that were distributed to GPD officers and other local agencies. One bulletin was an attempt to ID a suspect in a theft case and the other was an attempt to ID two suspects in a counterfeit currency case. She also created a bulletin with crime prevention tips for identity theft that will be published on the GPD website and Facebook and updated the sex offender display in the police lobby, removing one offender who was sentenced to two years in prison on drug charges.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	14
Supplements reviewed:	144
Public records requests:	27
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	47
Citizens assisted:	22

MARINA

Pumped two thousand two hundred eighty nine (2,289) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred forty eight (1,448) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred three (103) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 44' motorboat, 36' motorboat, a 26' motorboat and nine vessels from the Bradenton Yacht Club this week.

Staff Activities:

- Repaired pump out hose on pier six, and hole in concrete in front of fuel dock.
- Read and calculated electrical readings.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Repaired shade umbrellas on patio.

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-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Attended and assisted with Clam Bayou Cleanup event.
- Continue planning for Relay for Life event.
- Distributed April event calendar to City facilities.
- Delivered weekly City information at the Tuesday Market.
- Attended web training.
- Assisted Recreation staff assistant with web training.
- Updated web calendar with April information.

- Commenced preparation of May calendar and new City brochure.

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.

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

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

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

Mike & Harold present **The Joe Koehler Variety Show** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Monday, March 24 at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy singing, dancing, a bit of comedy and a few other surprises! Tickets are \$6 each or 2 for \$10 in advance. Appetizers provided by Brentwood of St. Pete will follow the show.

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

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

Find great deals at the **First Friday Mini Flea Market** on Friday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon. The Senior Center also accepts donations such as costume jewelry and small items. For more information call 893-2237.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a free **Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is on April 7. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Whether dealing with crisis or planning the future, **A Place for Mom** Senior Living Advisors can guide you through finding senior care and housing options for you or your loved one. Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 7 to learn more.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. The next screening is April 8.

Join your Senior Center friends for a relaxing day on the pristine beach, tour the historic fort, or fish the beautiful waters of Fort DeSoto Park during our next **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday, April 8. Call GEMS at 893-2242 before April 2 to reserve your seat. GEMS members \$10 / Non-members \$12. Fee includes transportation, parking, admission, and boxed lunch.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 8.

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

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our monthly **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and let's explore the world together! The group hosts a new guest speaker every month.

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

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

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

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

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, March 9	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & ballroom dance (Turnout 49)
Tuesday, March 11	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 16) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 64)
Wednesday, March 12	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance with Keith Jones & the Makeshifts (Turnout 481)
Thursday, March 13	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera

	8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 34)
Friday, March 14	6 p.m. Wedding reception (Turnout 117)
Saturday, March 15	5 p.m. - Sanderlin Middle School Fundraiser (Turnout 220)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

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

Sunday, March 9	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 79)
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Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m. - *It was a Very Good Year: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra*. Tickets \$20, available at the Gulfport Casino & Beach Bazaar.

Thursday-Saturday, April 3-5, 10-12 & 17-19, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 6, 13 & 20, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Stepping Out*, a comedy by Richard Harris. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique and the Gulfport Casino, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, March 9	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 31) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, March 11	All day - Local & Special Election polling location
Thursday, March 13	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

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

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

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, March 10	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 12) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, March 11	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 24)
Wednesday, March 12	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 26)
Thursday, March 13	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 12)
Friday, March 7	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 10, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 10, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Tuesday, March 11 - *Special General Election* polling location.

Wednesday, March 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, March 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, March 12, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, March 13, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Friday, March 14, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Friday, March 14, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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

Every first Tuesday of the month beginning April 1, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts*: Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. FMI, contact gratefulashly@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 8. 11 a.m. - *Guardian ad Litem Program*: Informational presentation on volunteering. For more information email Kristi.Tolmer@gal.fl.gov.

Saturday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library Services/Statistic March 9-15, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,184	713
Sun. 3/9	Library closed	
Mon. 3/10	505	134
Tue. 3/11	372	122
Wed. 3/12	278	115
Thu. 3/13	365	137
Fri. 3/14	422	116
Sat. 3/15	232	76

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 3-7 p.m. Saturday March 15 for a baby shower with 40 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 1-5 p.m. Saturday March 22 for a Women's Conference/Church event.

Programs, Classes & Activities

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

Eighteen (18) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

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

Eighty one (81) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Four regular **Teen Councilmembers** were in attendance for the monthly meeting on March 14. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and Councilwoman Christine Brown were also in attendance. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of the December minutes, Change in meeting day to the second Friday of each month, Upcoming Events, Old Business and New Business.

Staff Activities

Nicole Latragna attended website training at City Hall on Thursday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez attended a Budget meeting with the City Manager on Friday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Lee Feldman from Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows and CERT coordinator Bob Worthington to discuss the *Fun in The Sun Day* event.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday afternoon.

Shanoah Washington worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

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

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport a group of Gulfport Montessori students to Great Explorations Museum in St. Pete on Wednesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 22 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1098 totaling \$155,482.76
- On-Line Water payments: 208 transactions totaling \$9749.75
- Bright House payments: 24
- Utility Bills Mailed 1636
- Payroll 03/14/2014: 159 transactions totaling \$192,798.39

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 1 Final FACP Test
- 1 Fire Investigation

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

CERT will offer coffee & donuts for sale during the morning hours of the Nautical Flea market on Saturday, March 22, and hotdogs & cold drinks for lunch.

Staff Activities:

- GFD has commenced 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 and the City Manager are working on the FY 2014/15 ALS First Responder Agreement with the Pinellas County Fire & EMS Administration.
- Chief Marenkovic conducted a Final Fire Alarm Control Panel Acceptance Test at the Stetson Law College Campus this week. The FACP and devices passed successfully.
- Chief Marenkovic and the Fire Investigator from St. Petersburg Fire Department Investigated a Garage Fire at 4815 29th Avenue. The cause is undetermined, but arson does not appear to be a factor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Cleaned Senior Center & Theater awnings.

- Replaced compressor in Senior Center lobby air conditioning unit.
- Installed remote sensor on exterior handicap entrance button at Theater.
- Cleaned carpet at Neighborhood Center.
- Received 3 bids for replacement of upstairs railing at Recreation Center.
- Performed monthly pest control at all City Buildings.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Set up and trash & recycling containers for Clam Bayou Cleanup and St. Patrick's Day, and removed following events.
- Replaced volley ball poles and net on beach behind Recreation Center.
- Removed playground and fencing at Caldwell Park.
- Removed rubber mulch and added/graded thirteen yards of fill dirt for new exercises area at Caldwell Park.
- Trimmed trees on Beach Boulevard.
- Continued repair of tree lights on Beach Boulevard.
- Laid out for bench, trash can and sidewalk placement at Clymer Greenway Park.
- Repaired fence at Little League field and replaced fence post at Hoyt Field.
- Removed old cigarette butt cans throughout City in preparation for replacement.
- Relocated electrical outlets for trees on Beach Boulevard.
- Delivered water tanks to Caldwell Park in preparation for concrete mix & pour.
- Continued sod & weed removal at Hoyt & Little League fields, and tilled/reworked clay.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned City Complex, Dog Park & Scout Hall building.
- Cleared branches, palm fronds & debris from parks following storm.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and rebuilt carburetor and sharpened blades on hedge trimmer.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell Park & Dog Park.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed and trimmed Neighborhood Center grounds, Marina/Lions Club area, Tomlinson Park and Clam Bayou.
- 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.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Removed debris piles from Gulfport Boulevard.
- Cleaned and reset storm water cover at 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced stop sign and post at 54th Street & Tangerine Avenue.

- Removed playground and fencing from Caldwell Park in preparation for renovation, and hauled fill to set grade for concrete pad.
- Delivered extra garbage and recycling containers to Shore Boulevard for St. Patrick's Day events.
- Removed and disposed of garbage following weekend events.
- Assembled street signs for replacement.
- Installed drain plaques throughout City to facilitate stormwater flow into Bay.

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 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 96 miscellaneous service orders generated by Customer Service Department
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 17 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Installed new water service at 5960 Bayview Circle.
- Replaced water service lines and installed backflows at 5202 & 5202½ 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.
- Installed rebuilt pump #1 at Lift Station #1.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5621 16th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired hydraulic oil leak on Sanitation Truck #46 grabber arm.
- Replaced heater valve, repaired windshield washer, and repaired bin arm on Recycle Truck #44
- Reset computer for transmission on Sanitation Truck #44
- Replaced driveshaft on front-end loader
- Replaced brake caliper and both batteries on GEMS Bus #08.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. For more information regarding business tax receipts call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continue in 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.

The number of code enforcement cases for February was 145 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 868. The number of citizen complaints was 18 for a YTD total of 76. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.8 percent.

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

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.

April 1, 2014 and April 15, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

1737 49th Street South; Proposed easement vacation for the relocation of City utilities and the development of a box store development.

April 9, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- 6102 10th Avenue South; Variance request to:
 1. Reverse the frontage orientation and associated yard setback requirements for an existing single family house that was built prior to City zoning codes; and
 2. Reduce the front yard setback 0.3', from 25' to 24.7' to recognize the existing encroachment for the reverse orientation of the existing house.
- 5831 24th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.74 feet, from 6 feet to 4.26 feet for the construction of a proposed 6' x 16' accessory structure to be attached to the principal structure.