



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *March 15 - 21, 2015*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

A beautiful, sunny Saturday created the perfect backdrop for shopping for marine related items at the Nautical Flea Market on March 21. Animals in need found their new forever homes during the Get Rescued Bark-B-Que pet adoption event, while over at the Casino free wellness screenings were offered during the City's annual Health Expo (photos below). Don't miss another Gulfport event! Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [www.mygulfport.us/enews](http://www.mygulfport.us/enews).



Hosts of the Nautical Flea Market, Tony Fields and Gulfport Marina Director, Denis Frain



Hundreds got great deals on nautical gear from fishing poles to boats from over 40 vendors.



Boca Ciega Jazz High School Jazz Band entertained on the Historical Gulfport Casino deck.



Forty Health related vendors, free screenings were available at the Health Expo at the Historical Gulfport Casino. Almost 700 attended.



Theo gets a new home at Get Rescued Bark-B-Que



Cooking it up at the Get Rescued Bark-B-Que

## Upcoming Events:

The Genesis Worship Center Church at 1601 49<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Beach Boulevard. For more information please call Cultural Facilities Events Supervisor Justin Shea at 893-1066.

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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

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.

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.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Dispatch calls for service       | 147 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 411 |
| Offenses                         | 30  |
| Arrests                          | 5   |
| Traffic citations                | 23  |

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

A resident in the 1000 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of March 20 that someone entered their unlocked vehicle sometime overnight and stole several items. Nearby residential surveillance footage showed five subjects lurking in the area.

A woman claimed that she was walking on the Pinellas County Trail when another woman jumped out of the bushes, beat her, and robbed her of a large sum of cash. When officers inquired about

specific details of the incident, the victim felt that they were asking too many questions and refused to cooperate.

Officers responded to the 1100 block of York Street after a BCHS student reported she was attacked by another student. The fight continued for a few minutes until the attacker fled on foot. She is being sought on battery charges.

Officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street after a resident reported that a group of subjects had entered an unlocked vehicle and stole a wallet. A neighbor saw the group and followed while shouting at them, causing them to flee the area.

Officer Marshall made contact with a suspicious person hiding behind a car in a driveway in the 6300 Block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue early March 22. While speaking with the subject, Officer Marshall saw him throw a pipe to the ground. The substance inside the pipe tested positive for marijuana. Scott Bonneau was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Officers were dispatched to the 6200 block of Vista Verde Court after a caller reported that she went to her boyfriend's home to check on him and discovered him dead on the floor. There were no obvious signs of forced entry or struggle, but detectives are treating the case as a suspicious death.

A resident in the 1000 Block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street reported on March 23 that someone broke into her house while she was out of town and stole a laptop computer.

Officer Ross was contacted by a CVS employee who recognized a possible Gulfport burglary suspect in the store. Officer Ross, with assistance from St. Petersburg Officers arrested Peter Lahr for burglary and misuse of a credit card.

A gun was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 6200 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue sometime between the evening of March 23 and the morning of March 24. Forensic evidence was collected from the scene.

A man who rents a fenced-in lot in the 5000 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue that he uses for storage reported that the license plate was stolen from a trailer parked there. He had not used the trailer since October 2014 and did not know when he plate was stolen.

Officers responded to a call regarding a subject threatening someone with a knife during an argument. One of the subjects struck Morris Arme in the face, knocking him to the ground causing him to drop the knife. Arme was arrested and charged with aggravated assault.

An officer responded to a suspicious person in the 1900 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on March 25. Anthony Walters was arrested after he refused to cooperate with the officer.

The marine unit was on the water for 10 hours this week. Ten contacts and two stops were made. Officer Cavanah also conducted training with Probationary Officer Roxanne Affeldt.

**Investigations:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| New cases:                      | 8 |
| Cases assigned:                 | 5 |
| Cases suspended-no leads:       | 4 |
| Cases cleared with arrest:      | 1 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared:    | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime:       | 0 |
| Cases referred back to patrol:  | 1 |
| Supplements received:           | 9 |
| Cases cleared with arrest:      | 0 |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 3 |
| Cases suspended/no leads:       | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime:       | 0 |

Cases exceptionally cleared: 1  
Cases still active: 5

Detective Pham completed three investigative supplement reports; closed a case with arrest; conducted a follow up investigation at the Juvenile Detention Center, and; developed probable cause for two juveniles for grand theft.

Detective Crowson interviewed a previously arrested armed robbery suspect to positively identify additional suspects; attended Forensic Statement Analysis training, and; investigated the theft of a wallet from a residence in which probable cause was established for the theft. The suspect was charged with felony theft.

School Resource Officer Motte was flagged down regarding drug use at Walgreens and arrested a juvenile for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia; mentored two students; found a small baggie of marijuana on the ground at BCHS and submitted it into property and evidence for destruction, and; conducted the weekly Explorer Post meeting.

School Resource Officer Langston Investigated the alleged theft of a phone that was recovered. She also investigated the theft of money and a simple battery; assisted SPPD with a suspicious occupied vehicle; assisted with a scheduled school evacuation drill; assisted Officer Motte with a mental health assessment; assisted with identifying two students involved in an after school disturbance; viewed school video footage in search of a report of someone possibly tampering with bikes; escorted a noncompliant student off campus, and; made contact with students skipping class, redirecting them to the appropriate areas.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 12 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description; researched subjects involved in a possible fraud for Sgt. Woodman, and; completed a review of property report stolen between February 28 & March 15 with a known serial number to ensure that all items were entered into FCIC/NCIC.

### **Records Section**

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed         | 12 |
| Supplements reviewed:    | 70 |
| Public records requests: | 3  |
| Reports disseminated     | 15 |
| Background checks:       | 6  |
| Bike registrations:      | 3  |
| Fingerprints             | 0  |
| Subpoenas processed:     | 12 |
| Citizens assisted:       | 45 |

### **Professional Standards**

Lieutenant Stone graduated from the FBI National Academy and has returned to his office. Sergeant Vandenberg, who had been the acting Professional Standards Lieutenant, is back to his regular assignment as Bravo patrol squad supervisor.

### **MARINA**

Assisted in sixty five (65) pump outs evacuating one thousand one hundred forty five (1,145) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand four hundred thirty two (4,432) gallons of gas and two thousand three hundred forty five (2,345) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty one (151) vessels.

## **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 33' motorboat, 24' motorboat, 26' sailboat, 25' sailboat, 43' sailboat, and a 39' motorboat this week.

## **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-640](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, upcoming events and Recreation Center, Senior Center & Community Development information on City website.
- Continued working on PowerPoint project for Youth Forum, and preparations for St. Pete Pride Parade, and Art Sculpture Dedication.
- Provided photographic coverage for Nautical Flea Market.
- Distributed April calendar to City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- Met with Gulfport Neighbors President and Parks Lead to plan logistics for Clymer Park Sculpture dedication.

### **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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

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.

Come laugh with Gulfport's very own **improv group** on Tuesday April 14 at 6:30 p.m., and support the growth of performing arts.

Learn to protect yourself against identity theft with the **Stetson Department of Elder Law Identity Theft & the Importance of Proper Document Destruction** informational on Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m.

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 15      6 p.m. - Carol Baker's Dance Like the Stars Ballroom Dance (Turnout 84)

- Tuesday, March 17      Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 20)  
                                  7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 74)
- Wednesday, March 18   6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 307)
- Thursday, March 19     6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 35)
- Saturday, March 21     10 a.m. - Health & Wellness Expo (Turnout 693)  
                                  6 p.m. - Maggio Total Sound 70s Theme Dinner Dance (Turnout 124)

**Casino (upcoming events):**

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

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

- Sunday, March 15      2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Kitchen Witches*  
                                  (Turnout 120)  
                                  7 p.m. - Starlights Performance Arts Alumni present "Reunited" 35<sup>th</sup>  
                                  *Anniversary Celebration* (Turnout 170)

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

Sunday, March 29 - *It Was a Very Good Year: A musical multi-media Frank Sinatra Tribute.*  
 Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino & Beach Bazaar, or online at  
[www.ItWasAVeryGoodYearShow.com](http://www.ItWasAVeryGoodYearShow.com).

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

- Sunday, March 15      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 33)  
                                  6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Tuesday, March 17     10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)  
                                  7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Thursday, March 19    10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)
- Saturday, March 21    10 a.m. - Family reunion (Turnout 76)

**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 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Monday, March 16 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center  
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 31)

Tuesday, March 17 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, March 18 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 33)

Thursday, March 19 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, March 20 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 16, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, March 17, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 17, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, March 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, March 18, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, March 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, March 18, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline D'Engle* over coffee & light refreshments, facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Friday, March 20, 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.

Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 873-3919 for more information.

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto:rriddell@gmail.com).

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

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

### Library Services/Statistic March 15-21, 2015:

#### Items Circulated Patrons

|                     |                |     |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 794            | 578 |
| Sun. 3/15           | Library closed |     |
| Mon. 3/16           | 154            | 106 |
| Tue. 3/17           | 122            | 90  |
| Wed. 3/18           | 135            | 91  |
| Thu. 3/19           | 126            | 105 |
| Fri. 3/20           | 136            | 87  |
| Sat. 3/21           | 91             | 74  |

### 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 for a photo with Peter Cottontail.

The multipurpose room was rented 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, March 21 for a Banquet with seventy five (75) in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 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 and Gulfport Pirates Coaches on Thursday morning to discuss the Pirates Football practice schedule. She also attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport a group of Gulfport Elementary students to Great Explorations on Wednesday morning.

## **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:**

- 45 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash

### **Life Safety:**

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections
- 1 Fire Door Consultation

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

- Chief Marenkovic and the City Manager met with the IAFF 4966 on March 26 to continue contact renewal discussion.
- GFD continued their March 2015 St. Petersburg College online EMS/CME This months topic is Airway Management Part I which provides a review of the fundamentals.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Health and Wellness fair at the City Casino on March 21, providing information on the Vial of Life, Hurricane Evacuation Forms, Poison and Burn Care, and Fall Prevention for the elderly. He also assisted the Pinellas County Sherriff's Office with collecting old medication for disposal.
- Pinellas County Hospitals will provide Fire Departments with feedback on recent STEMI Alerts. The aim is to have patients in the Catherization Lab and treated in less than 90 minutes. Door to balloon time was 62 minutes. It is incredible to see examples of how our system can affect the lives of our patients. Job well done.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Timothy Burton received his State of Florida Pump Operator Certificate. Students learn basic safety requirements, preventive maintenance, pump check procedures, and basic pump operations such as an understanding of friction loss, pumping capacities, static versus pressurized supply systems, and hydraulics. Students also participate in various pumping scenarios to demonstrate competency in operating pumps. Congratulations on a job well done Tim!
- Firefighter/Paramedic Fernandez and Firefighter/Paramedic Burton manned a Special Rescue at the Get Rescued Animal Event on Saturday March 21.
- Inspector Lundh met Dave Stotz from Gulfport Shores Condominiums on March 25 regarding the main corridor office area fire door.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Rebuilt faucet in mop sink at Senior Center, and set up rooms for daily activities.
- Painted main room in Historical Building.
- Rekeyed two office doors at City Hall, and Casino outside men's restroom door.
- Delivered 15 card tables to Casino from Senior Center; returned following event.
- Repaired parking lot lights at Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Installed NO PARKING signs for events.
- Painted Hoyt Field concession stand, and continued painting dugouts.
- Built temporary ramp for water department roadway job.
- Installed upcoming events banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at Recreation Center.
- Repaired bench at Clymer Park.
- Fabricated and painted decorative poles for Art Sculpture dedication.
- Removed graffiti from beach picnic tables and Tonkin Park playground equipment.
- 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, Tomlinson, Clam Bayou & Wood Ibis Parks, Senior Center, Library, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, City Complex, Hoyt perimeter, Gulfport Beach, Marina, Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, Dog Park, York Street & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, and Tangerine greenway.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, repaired tires on aerator, replaced spark plugs and tuned up generator.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library, Senior Center and 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 alleys between 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Gulfport Boulevard and between 55<sup>th</sup> & 58<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Disposed of old tires and debris from City Garage.
- Replaced broken lids on 300-gallon trash containers at Seaside Villas.
- Completed roadway work on 55<sup>th</sup> Street between 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Avenues.

## **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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 70 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 10 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.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Installed 520 feet of 2" temporary water line to service 6100 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Repaired 4" water break at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### **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.
- Hand operated sewer Lift Station #1 while 150' of 24" liner was installed on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced clutch cable in Parks Department Toro utility vehicle.
- Delivered Building Maintenance vehicle #24 to shop to be repainted.
- Installed tube steps on Code Enforcement vehicle #55.
- Installed rearview mirror mounted camera in Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced air parking brake valve in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Installed new tire on Sanitation vehicle #46 and on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Removed and plugged tire on Police vehicle #4.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

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.

Beginning in April Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> Street. 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).

#### **April 8, 2015 Board of Adjustment:**

- V15-13; 28/31/16/67572/023/0010 (southeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 56<sup>th</sup> Street South); Variance request to reduce the required side yard setback on the secondary street by 6 feet, from 12 feet to 6 feet to allow for a larger footprint for a proposed new single-family house.
- V15-14; 5624 & 5626 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance requests:
  - I. Existing Duplex Structure
    1. To recognize the current front yard encroachment of the existing primary structure (duplex) by 8 feet, from 25 feet to 17 feet; and
    2. To recognize the current side yard encroachment on the secondary street side of the existing primary structure by 3.31 feet, from 12 feet to 8.69 feet.
  - II. Proposed Deck #1
    3. To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 10 feet, from 25 feet to 15 feet; and
    4. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 4 feet, from 12 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck and stairs.
  - III. Proposed Deck #2
    5. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 11.31 feet, from 12 feet to 0.69 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck.
  - IV. Existing Accessory Structure (Garage)
    7. To recognize the current encroachment into the rear yard setback requirement of the garage by 1.79 feet, from 15 feet to 13.21 feet; and
    8. To recognize the current encroachment into the required separation distance between an accessory structure and principal structure of 8.2 feet, from 12 feet to 3.8 feet.
  - V. Proposed New Carport
    1. To reduce the required separation distance between an accessory structure (roofed carport with open beams) and principal structure by 9 feet, from 12 feet to 3 feet, and;
    2. To reduce the required rear yard setback requirement for accessory structures by 1 foot, from 15 feet to 14 feet to allow for the construction of the proposed roofed carport.

