



Gulfport Community Update

March 23 - 29, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport Senior Center, Senior Center Foundation, Vice Mayor Dan Liedtke, City Councilmembers Michael Fridovich & Yolanda Roman and City Manager Jim O'Reilly honored volunteers during a special breakfast at the Gulfport Casino on March 26 (photos below). Attendees enjoyed made-to-order omelets, fresh fruit & muffins. More than 150 seniors volunteer at the Center, and many of our programs would not be possible without their support.



Upcoming Events:

Join the 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 & 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 will be put to the test during 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	169
Officer initiated calls for service	323
Offenses	42

Arrests	5
Traffic citations	32

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5600 block of Newton Avenue reported in the early morning hours of March 20 that she heard her car alarm go off, went outside to investigate and saw someone running from the area. Entry was not made to her vehicle.

A man advised he was attacked in the area of 26th Avenue & York Street by 3 subjects who took his money. The evidence, however, does not support the allegation.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of 15th Avenue after a male reported that his former boss hit him because he owed him money. He had minor redness under this eye. The boss stated the male was trespassing on his rental property and tried to attack him so he defended himself.

Patrol officers observed a van sitting through multiple cycles at the traffic light at the intersection of 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard in the early morning hours of March 21, and discovered the driver passed out at the wheel. After providing a breath sample the driver was arrested for driving under the influence. His BAC results were .106 and .107.

A resident in the 700 block of Fremont Street reported on the morning of March 22 that his bicycle was stolen from his front porch sometime overnight. The suspects cut through a cable lock. The bike is registered with the Gulfport PD with sticker #D0058.

Sergeant Marotta stopped a car at 20th Avenue & 59th Street for a tag violation, and discovered the passenger had an outstanding traffic warrant. The passenger was arrested.

A resident in the 1600 block of 52nd Street reported on the morning of March 23 that someone entered her home and took her jewelry. The suspect(s) entered through a window after removing the screen.

A woman reported that a dog chased her and was running loose in the 5000 block of 26th Avenue. Officers discovered the dog's owner had been warned recently about his dog being unrestrained, and he was issued a City ordinance violation for dog at large.

A resident in the 5200 block of 11th Avenue reported that while investigating noises in his backyard he saw a black male attempting to pull open a jalousie window. The resident turned on a light and the suspect ran away.

Officer Novak conducted a business check at Soapy's Coin Laundry in the early morning hours of March 24, and found debris from the lint traps all over the floor. A transient asleep in the bathroom denied any knowledge of what had happened and was released. Video surveillance showed Dennis Coble enter the building and pry open the machines to steal change. Coble was later located at the car wash at 49th St & Gulfport Boulevard and admitted to the crime. He was arrested for felony theft and criminal mischief.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 23rd Avenue after a resident reported that a friend discovered the front door had been removed from the hinges and set on the side of the house while the resident was out of town. The friend did a walk-through of the house and said that nothing appeared to be missing or disturbed.

A resident in the 2600 block of 49th Street reported someone entered her home and stole several items. The resident thought it was someone who had been doing work on the house, but a neighbor's video camera captured a black male suspect breaking into the home.

A resident in the 2000 block of 52nd Street called police to report that she discovered several possibly stolen items inside her home. She turned the items over to the officer and it was discovered they had been stolen from a car in the area.

An unknown subject climbed through the front window of an unoccupied house in the 5300 block of 31st Avenue, and stole money and jewelry from a bedroom.

Officers investigated a burglary in 5200 block of 29th Avenue in which a guitar was stolen from the residence. The suspect, a friend of the victim's daughter, confessed to stealing the guitar; however, the victim chose not to prosecute because the suspect gave him \$100 for the inconvenience and told him he pawned the guitar.

Officers were dispatched to the scenes of three separate vehicle burglaries on the morning of March 26. In the first, someone entered a vehicle in the 1500 block of 60th Street. Nothing was taken. Two vehicles in the 1900 block of 55th Street were entered, and a set of keys was stolen from one. Two vehicles were also burglarized in the 700 block of Gray Street, and cash and a GPS unit were taken. The vehicles had been left unlocked in all three incidents, however latent fingerprint evidence was recovered from all three, and surveillance video and DNA evidence was recovered from the Gray Street scene as well.

A Cadillac was speeding in the 5600 block of Newton Avenue in the opinion of a resident, so she yelled at the driver to slow down. The car stopped and the two engaged in a physical altercation before the vehicle left the area. An investigation is underway.

School Resource Officer Motte transported the Marine Unit to Pinellas Park High School to participate in their Law Day.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):

New Cases:	17
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	9
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	9
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	9
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	3
Supplements Received:	16
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	9

Detective Hanh Pham completed five supplements and closed two cases, one by arrest and the other exceptionally cleared. He also conducted an undercover surveillance detail on Thursday night in an attempt to apprehend auto burglary suspects, and interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail regarding a burglary to a vehicle.

Detective Jennifer Crowson interviewed two suspects in a criminal mischief case and suspended the case due to lack of evidence; investigated a credit card fraud and submitted seven subpoena requests in attempt to obtain IP addresses; identified a suspect in another credit card fraud, and; investigated a home invasion robbery, in which the firearm used in the commission of the crime was seized by the St. Petersburg Police Department during a traffic stop. SPPD processed the firearm for touch DNA and is sending the touch DNA to the lab for analysis. Detective Crowson also assisted in an undercover auto burglary surveillance detail.

School resource officers assisted with Patrol duties this week during Spring Break.

Analyst Palmisano transcribed a suspect interview for Sgt. Woodman. She also provided Chief Vincent with the PD's data for the City's annual operating indicators.

The Special Enforcement Team (SET) conducted a 4-hour vehicle burglary detail was conducted using members of CIS and SET, however, no crimes were observed.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	12
Supplements reviewed:	91
Public records requests:	26
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	37

MARINA

Pumped three thousand four hundred three (3,403) gallons of gas, and two thousand two hundred six (2,206) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty three (133) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 24' motorboat, 33' motorboat, a 26' sailboat, 43' sailboat and a 39' motorboat 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-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.
- Continued layout & preparation of new City brochure & May calendar.
- Compiling past event footage for creation of 2014 SpringFest commercial.
- Provided photographic coverage for Senior Center volunteer breakfast.

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.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is April 1. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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.

Debi McArthur returns at 2 p.m. Wednesday April 2 for **Life is in the Blood**, an informational discussion of the different types of blood cells.

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 next 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. 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 16	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Singles Dance Party with DJ Mel (Turnout 68)
Tuesday, March 18	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 69)
Wednesday, March 19	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 301)
Thursday, March 20	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 30)
Saturday, March 22	5 p.m. Wedding reception (Turnout 130)

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
Friday, March 28	6 p.m. - The Impacs Rock Roll & Remember Admission \$15
Saturday, March 29	5:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango workshops & Milonga La Playa Admission: Workshops \$30; Dance \$15

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

Thursday, March 20	7 p.m. - SunFlower School performance (Turnout 160)
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Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

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 16	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 22) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, March 18	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)
Thursday, March 20	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 8)
Saturday, March 22	Noon - Private function (Turnout 50)

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 17	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 13) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 26)
Tuesday, March 18	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 21)
Wednesday, March 19	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 21)
Thursday, March 20	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 10)
Friday, March 21	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

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 17, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Monday, March 17, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, March 19, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, March 19, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, March 19, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, March 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk* discussion of the book *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen over light refreshments.

Friday, March 21, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Friday, March 21, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, March 22, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop* facilitated by Cathy Salustri.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, April 3, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop*: Learn to use and enjoy new technology. Preregister for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

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

Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop*: Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited. Visit the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to preregister.

Thursday, April 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, coauthored by Alex Haley over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation

Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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 Monday 5:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters Teen Leadership Workshop*. For more information email kellymenges@hotmail.com.

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 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 by the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic March 16-22, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,216	714
Sun. 3/16	Library closed	
Mon. 3/17	338	103
Tue. 3/18	418	138
Wed. 3/19	436	135
Thu. 3/20	382	126
Fri. 3/21	322	101
Sat. 3/22	294	87

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 1-5 p.m. Saturday March 22 for a Women's Conference/Church event approximately seventy five (75) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty four (54) 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 two (82) 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.

Staff Activities

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

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Lt. Joshua Stone on Monday morning to discuss the possible installation of security cameras at the Recreation Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 11 new, 10 closed
- Water payments: 972 totaling \$16,9887.61
- Utility Bills Mailed 3/26/2014: 1313
- On-Line Water payments: 161 transactions totaling \$15,076.33
- Bright House payments: 14
- Accounts Payable 03/21/2014: 597 transactions totaling \$473,359.18
- Mail processed 03/21/2014: 480 pieces totaling \$703.50
- Purchasing Card: 226 transactions totaling \$31092.45

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 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 17 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic and Cher Johnson are working on the budget process for FY14-15 ALS First Responder Services. Final submissions are due to the County by April 18.
- Gulfport Fire Department wants to remind everyone that smoke detectors are provided by the City free of charge to the elderly and low income housing. Please stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.
- St. Petersburg College Paramedic student Zachary Ross continued his ride along this week with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford of the "B"-shift.
- Chief Marenkovic gave a Hurricane Preparedness presentation to the resident at Town Shores on March 21.

Plug Into the Facts

Electricity is there to help brew your morning coffee, operate your computer, heat your home, and run your television. We use electricity so often that we seldom think about the dangers.

Take a moment to think about how often you depend upon electricity and answer the following questions. Every question you answer with "no" is an opportunity for you to make your home a safer place to live.

- Are heat producing electrical appliances unplugged when you are not using them?
- Are electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?
- Are electrical outlets overloaded in your home?
- Are electrical cords kept out from beneath furniture and rugs?
- Do all outlets and light switches work?

Never use water on an electrical fire, you could get shocked. If the fire is small, turn the power off and use a multi-purpose (ABC) dry-chemical extinguisher to put out the fire. If you can't turn the power off, or the fire is large, evacuate your home and call 911 from a safe location.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired faucet in men's room, two cabinets & three tables at Recreation Center.
- Performed annual fire alarm and sprinkler inspection at Casino, and repaired men' room urinal & west entrance door.
- Replaced Masonite flooring on Theater stage.
- Replaced two ballasts at Library.
- Transported City vehicles to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Painted Administrative Services Department walls and main hallway at City Hall.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Trimmed oak trees around Historical Building in preparation for Hootenanny event.
- Poured concrete for sidewalks, benches & trash cans along Clymer Greenway.
- Repaired fence at Little League, replaced fence post at Hoyt Field, continued sod & weed removal at Hoyt & Little League fields, and tilled/reworked clay.
- Delivered water tank to playground installers at Caldwell Park.

- Trimmed trees on Beach Boulevard, continued repair of tree lights and relocated electrical outlets.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned City Complex, Dog Park & Scout Hall building.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and repaired stick edger, line trimmer & tires on batting cage.
- Repaired irrigation at City Complex & Recreation Center.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed hedges and raked City Complex, Dog Park & Scout Hall grounds.
- Mowed & trimmed Wood Ibis & Clymer Parks, City Complex, Senior Center, Library, Chase Block & trail spur.
- 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 City storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Removed glass from roadway at 49th Street & 23rd Avenue.
- Assembled and delivered automated recycling containers to Gulfport Elementary, beach pavilions, and Osgood Point.
- Repaired roadway at 52nd Street & 13th Avenue.
- Patched asphalt on 25th Avenue between 52nd & York Streets.
- Added fill and graded alleyways between 29th & 31st Avenue from 49th to 50th Street.
- Assembled new crosswalk signs in preparation for installation.
- Removed dumpster from Osgood Point following coastal cleanup.
- Replaced 4' metal grate at beach boardwalk.

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 28 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 96 miscellaneous service orders generated by Customer Service Department
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 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.

- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Installed new 2" meter and backflow at 711 58th 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.
- Replaced transducer and recalibrated LC-150 at Lift Station #2
- Responded to sewer stoppage call at 2414 York Street South, but was discovered not to be a City-related problem.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced coolant level sensor and sensor module on Sanitation Truck #46
- Replaced left front brake caliper, brake hose, front drive shaft universal joint, and center carrier bearing on Building Maintenance Vehicle #65
- Replaced center link for steering linkage and fuel tank pressure connector on Code Enforcement Vehicle #55.
- 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.

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 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries. 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.