



Gulfport Community Update

March 1 - 7, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Pet lovers and their furry children braved the rain and chill to attend the **Get Rescued** event on February 28 (photos below). Gulfport Police Officer Zack Mills demonstrated the new pet microchip scanner. Owners of lost pets can call the Gulfport Police Department with their microchip number for a search of the data base. Due to weather conditions on the 28th, this event will take place again on Saturday, March 21.



Duke Energy is installing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient LED (Light-Emitting Diode) street lights throughout the City. The project is already underway along 49th Street. To celebrate the installation, the City of Gulfport has scheduled a ribbon cutting at The Gulfport Marina parking lot at 4630 29th Avenue on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m.

Public Works Director Don Sopak announced the addition of LED lighting during the July 15, 2014 City Council meeting. The upgrade will save the City approximately \$2,500 a year. In addition to the savings these fixtures last longer and put out a cleaner, brighter light. LED

streetlights use significantly less electricity than traditional lamps. LED streetlights turn on instantly and the light source lasts ten to fifteen years compared with three to six years for traditional sodium-vapor and metal-halide lamps, which means fewer trips for lamp burnouts and lower maintenance costs. Many residents will appreciate the more complimentary color temperature of LED lighting as it makes the streets appear brighter and clearer.

There will be minimal impact to residents throughout the conversion process, as all work will be done in roadways. Residents will see uniformed Duke Energy contractors wearing reflective vests and badges that identify themselves as working with Duke Energy. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 893-1089.

Upcoming Events:

Meet local Photographer Melissa Lowe at the Catherine Hickman Theater 4-6 p.m. Friday, March 6 for a reception and exhibit of works from her pictorial book *Gulfport Girls*. FREE Admission. Beer and wine cash bar. Tapas provided by Stellas. For more information call 893-1118.

If it's first Friday it's time for **Art-Walk** in the Gulfport Waterfront District on March 6, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

Find great bargains during the **Spring Citywide Yard Sale** on Saturday, March 7. Goodwill will have a trailer parked at the Recreation Center from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. for residents wishing to donate large items. Residents who wish to get rid of items after the sale should call the Gulfport Senior Center at 893-1231 to schedule a drop off time. In case of rain, the Yard Sale will be rescheduled to Sunday, March 8. Thank you to the Gabber and Olympus Printing for cosponsoring this community event. For more information call 893-1118.

Support your team during the **Gulfport Little League Parade** on Saturday, March 7. The parade begins at Lum Atkinson Field, 1820 55th Street at 10 a.m., and travels south on Beach Boulevard, then west on Shore and north on 58th Street. For more information call Paul Latragna at 214-4638.

Meet the Mural and artists Michael Eismont & Keith Stillwagon for a wine and cheese event sponsored by the South 49th Street Business Association (SO49) at Liberty Tax, 4920 Gulfport Boulevard at 5 p.m. Saturday March 7. Call 826-0821 for more information.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. - noon. Sign in at the volunteer tent the day of the event. City of Gulfport staff will be on hand with supplies for volunteers. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup on Saturday**, March 14, 9 a.m. - noon. If you are looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring a picker/grabber and gloves and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided. For more information, email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

Interested in unloading some nautical equipment or searching for cool nautical gear? Look no further as the City of Gulfport Marina hosts the **annual Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 21, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10'x10' spaces are available for \$10 (free for slip renters). Space is

limited, so sign up now at the Gulfport Municipal Marina, 4630 29th Avenue. Please bring your own table. For more information call Harbormaster Denis Frain at 893-1071.

The Genesis Worship Center Church at 1601 49th Street in Gulfport will host an Open House on Saturday, March 28; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Meet your neighbors for snacks, drinks, music and entertainment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	165
Self-initiated calls for service	369
Offenses	40
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	49

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1500 block of 54th Street reported on February 26 that a juvenile visitor stole her iPod. He was arrested later that evening, and the iPod was returned to the owner.

Officers took an intoxicated man into custody under the Marchman Act after he fell asleep on the sidewalk in the 5300 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident in the 5700 Block of 12th Avenue reported on the morning of February 27 that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole a bag containing \$20 and prescription medication.

A resident in the 5000 17th Avenue reported that someone entered their house through an unlocked window and stole two laptops. The following day the resident's father discovered two credit cards missing. One of the cards was used at a CVS in St Petersburg.

A woman reported that a subject on a bicycle came up beside her while she was walking in the 3000 block of 57th Street, and stole her purse. The purse was located by an officer in a nearby alley but her iPhone was missing.

A resident in the 5900 Block of Shore Boulevard reported that her ex-boyfriend had just confronted her, entered her vehicle without permission and stole her iPhone. Officer Lavigne located Jeff Mishko driving in the 3100 Block of 57th Street. He initially denied stealing the phone; however, Officer Nicita found it lying nearby. Mishko was arrested for burglary.

While on routine patrol early March 1 officers observed a Mazda parked at an angle in the Walgreens parking lot with the motor running. Upon further inspection they saw a man later identified as Christopher Moorehouse passed out in the driver seat. Officers woke Moorehouse but he refused to open the window and attempted to put the car into drive. He was physically removed from the car and charged with resisting an officer. While searching Moorehouse, officers found narcotics in his pockets and placed the evidence on the patrol car. Moorehouse tried to eat the evidence, resulting in an additional charge of tampering with evidence. His BAC was .237, nearly three times the level at which a driver is presumed to be impaired.

Gulfport officers assisted SPPD in an attempt to apprehend armed robbery suspects who fled in a vehicle. The vehicle crashed into the fence at Boca Ciega High School and the occupants fled into the neighborhood. Both were caught and the guns recovered. Burglary charges were added because they entered private property to hide from officers attempting to apprehend them.

A customer at McDonalds was upset because he felt his McNugget order was taking too long to prepare and he began arguing with the manager. The customer was issued a trespass warning and advised that he would need to go elsewhere to get his McNuggets in the future.

Officers on the Alpha Squad conducted a traffic detail between the 5200 & 5800 blocks of Gulfport Boulevard on March 2 as part of the national 'Click It or Ticket' campaign. Sixteen violators were stopped in 3 hours.

The Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center contacted Gulfport Police and reported that a juvenile on probation had absconded from an electronic monitoring program, and the GPS on his ankle monitor indicated he was at a house in the 1200 block of 52nd Street. Officers searched the house with the resident's consent but only found the ankle monitor stashed in the resident's daughter's bedroom. Further investigation revealed that the daughter who was supposed to be in school was truant. She is being sought for questioning.

A resident in the 6100 block of 9th Avenue reported her purse was stolen from her unlocked vehicle.

A man forged a check from a business and attempted to cash it at Regions Bank on March 3. Employees noticed discrepancies in the check and notified the business, and contacted police after the man left. Forgery charges were filed against the man, who has not been located.

Ernest Floyd threw a rock through the rear window of a resident's vehicle on March 4 while she and her five-year-old son were inside, and rode away on his bicycle. Charges were filed against Floyd for throwing a deadly missile.

Officer Lavigne stopped a car in the 4800 Block of 22nd Avenue for a traffic violation. The driver, Christopher Smalls refused to get out of the car after Officer Lavigne told him to do so because she smelled the odor of marijuana. After being told several times to exit the car he was physically removed by officers and arrested.

The marine unit was on the water for 4 hours this week and 2 contacts were made.

Investigations:

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	26
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	8
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	14

Sergeant Woodman interviewed a felony theft suspect at PJAC. He confessed to the crime and the stolen property was recovered.

Detective Pham completed 12 investigative supplement reports; administered the Physical Abilities Test (PAT) for police applicants and officers, and; closed one case as No Crime.

Detective Crowson investigated two fraud cases with Regions Bank; attempted to interview a suspect in two burglary cases, and; assisted patrol with completing a composite sketch and photo pack for a burglary case.

School Resource Officer Motte conducted an Explorer meeting with SPPD providing a K9 demonstration; met with SPPD, PPPD and PCSO preparing for the Multijurisdictional Police

Explorer Academy being held this summer; arrested a student for battery, and; mentored 2 students.

School Resource Officer Langston conducted surveillance of bike racks in an attempt to identify theft suspects; investigated a report of a possible narcotics violation, an animal call, two medical calls, three disturbances and one simple battery; continued monitoring the area of 11th Avenue near 57th Street following complaints of speeders; made contact with students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; mentored 3 students and; coordinated a bike donation for a homeless student to assist with school transportation.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano updated an analysis on vehicle burglaries and auto thefts; compiled and distributed the open case lists; created and distributed a bulletin for a subject with an active warrant who may be frequenting Gulfport; completed pawn checks for 13 cases with a named suspect, serial number or searchable property description; completed a review of stolen property with a known serial number to ensure the property was entered into FCIC/NCIC.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	13
Supplements reviewed:	143
Public records requests:	47
Background checks:	8
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	53

MARINA

Assisted in twenty five (25) pump outs evacuating four hundred ten (410) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand three hundred three (1,303) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred twenty (1,620) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty (50) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 53' powerboat, 38' powerboat, and a 40' 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-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 schedule, minutes and Recreation Center information on City website.
- Photographed Get Rescued event.

- Distributed Citywide Yard Sale brochure at all City facilities, and weekly newsletter & calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.
- Continued working on PowerPoint project for Youth Forum.
- Provided control room coverage for March 3 City Council meeting and March 4 Planning & Zoning meeting. Upload videos and links to City website and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Attended Little League Opening Day planning meeting, and Summer Artist Reception planning meeting.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center is one of four community-based organizations chosen to test a new initiative designed to demonstrate and evaluate a model of delivering high-quality nutrition education programs at senior centers. **Next Steps to Better Nutrition**, an educational collaboration between the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the [Walmart Foundation](#) and the [American Heart Association](#) (AHA) will be presented by Palms of Pasadena Hospital.

For older adults living on a fixed income, eating healthy can be a challenge. Many seniors choose cheap processed foods over the fruits and vegetables that are necessary for a healthy diet. Poor nutrition is a major factor that contributes to rising rates of obesity and chronic disease among adults aged 60+.

The program will show older adults how they can afford, purchase, and cook more nutritious foods. In a series of 6 one-hour classes, participants will learn about the relationship between nutrition and chronic disease, and how they can take steps to improve their diet and keep their heart healthy.

Classes begin on Monday, March 9 at 2:30 p.m. and continue weekly for 6 weeks. Call 893-5657 to register and become a part of this exciting opportunity.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

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

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

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

The Alzheimer's Association will offer FREE & confidential **Memory Screenings** on Monday, March 9, 9 - 11:30 a.m. MUST call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Join Barbara Newborn as she guides you to empower your whole being, nourish it, and give yourself exactly what you need. **Empowerment of Healing - Mind, Body, & Soul** is Monday, March 9 at 4 p.m. This month's topic: BODY.

Learn to reduce the risks of falling with **Catch Yourself before You Fall** on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. This lively, interactive, educational discussion is presented by Ageless Grace & sponsored by Arcadia Home Care.

Join your Senior Center friends at the Mahaffey Theater for Sarasota-based Southern gypsy funk band **Come Back Alice** on Thursday evening, March 12. The concert takes place outdoors. Reserve your seat by 3/6. GEMS members: \$6, nonmembers: \$8. Price includes round trip transportation.

Urinary Incontinence can be a very embarrassing condition to live with and can make working or even doing everyday things a battle. **HCA Health Talks *Living with Urinary Incontinence? You Don't Have To!*** is Wednesday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. Interstim Therapy may help! Join Dr. Meena Jain as she explains finding a solution to incontinence.

Calling all "Lucy" fans: Enjoy an evening of **I Love Lucy® Live on Stage** at Ruth Eckerd Hall Wednesday, March 25. This show will take you back to 1952 with the sidesplitting antics of America's favorite foursome - Lucy, Ricky, Fred, and Ethel. Reserve your seat by March 4. GEMS members: \$26.50, nonmembers: \$28.50. Price includes round trip transportation and admission.

Mike & Harold present **The Joe Koehler Variety Show** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m. Enjoy singing, dancing, a bit of comedy and a few other surprises! Appetizers will follow the show. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE: MUST have a ticket PRIOR to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee and donuts in a relaxed setting during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 7.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games every Monday at noon.

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone CAN do this, Everyone SHOULD!

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

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, February 22 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson (Turnout 182)
- Monday, February 23 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 136)
- Tuesday, February 24 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 30)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 67)
- Wednesday, February 25 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 281)
- Thursday, February 26 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 40)
- Saturday, February 28 7 p.m. - Tails at Twilight animal rescue fundraiser (Turnout 250)

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*)

- Thursday, February 26 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 77)
- Friday, February 27 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 36)
- Saturday, February 28 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Kitchen Witches* (Turnout 78)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, March 5-7 & 12-14, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 8 & 15, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *The Kitchen Witches*. Tickets: \$15, available online at

www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org at Beach Bazaar, or at the door one hour before performance.

Friday, March 6, 4 p.m. - *Melissa Lowe photo exhibit & reception* Free admission

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

Sunday, February 22 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 12)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, February 24 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
6:30 p.m. - Brownfields Outreach open forum (Turnout 6)

Thursday, February 26 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

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, February 23, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K-5*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, February 24, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, February 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, February 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, February 25, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class*.

Wednesday, February 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, February 25, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. - *LGBTQ Collection Committee meeting*, facilitated by Dave Mather.

Friday, February 27, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline D'Engle* over coffee & light refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

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.

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 February 22-28, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,234	670
Sun. 2/22	Library closed	
Mon. 2/23	260	127
Tue. 2/24	218	130
Wed. 2/25	317	129
Thu. 2/26	198	105
Fri. 2/27	142	92
Sat. 2/28	64	69

Recreation Center

The Gulfport Recreation center will offer **full day activities during Spring Break**, March 30 - April 3 for children in Kindergarten to age 14. Hours are 7:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Registration fee: \$17 for residents, and \$110 for nonresidents. Daily fee: \$11 for residents, and \$22 for nonresidents.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - noon at the Michael J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera to capture a photo with Peter Cottontail.

The game room is reserved 4-8 p.m. Saturday, March 14 for a Baby Shower.

The multipurpose room is reserved 4-9 p.m. Saturday, March 21 for a Banquet, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, March 28 for a Wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty two (52) 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 two (22) 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. Fifteen (15) Tot Time/VPK Program participants and five (5) adults visited the Fresh Market in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

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 attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 21 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,053 totaling \$479,613.72
- On-Line Water payments: 192 transactions totaling \$13,461.59
- Bright House payments: 20
- Utility billed 1,310
- Accounts Payable 02/20/15: 797 transactions totaling \$484,983.43
- Mail processed 02/20/15: 5,301 pieces totaling \$830.13
- Purchasing Card 02/20/15: 220 transactions totaling \$29,561.35

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 16 Fire Inspections
- 9 Re-Inspection

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, March 19. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The City Manager and Chief Marenkovic met with IAFF 4966 on March 4 with to continue discussion of the Firefighter contract renewal.
- Chief Marenkovic attended WEB EOC training for Municipalities at the Public Safety Complex in Largo on March 5. The topic was the server-based incident management system that will be used by Pinellas County EOC. He also attended the PCFCA meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on March 5.
- Chief Marenkovic and Finance Administrator Cheryl Hannafin are working on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2015/16.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Steindl and Firefighter/EMT Lesley Jordan worked a Special Detail at the Get Rescued event on February 28. Fire Inspections were conducted by the on-duty crews with no violations noted.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced screws in push plates on Recreation Center gym and game room doors, repaired art room a/c unit, and adjusted men's restroom urinal.
- Repaired east gate at Police Department.
- Replaced handle on urinal and rebuilt flushometer on two toilets in Neighborhood Center in men's restroom.
- Installed hand dryer in Library restroom.
- Commenced pressure washing and prepping Fire Station for painting, and repaired urinal in men's restroom.
- Repaired ceiling fan at Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Inspected bus stop at Casino for repairs.
- Cleaned out shed at Gulfport Little League.
- Cleaned concession stand at Hoyt Field in preparation for painting.
- Installed upcoming event banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Repaired benches at Skate Park.
- Removed graffiti on benches at Recreation Center.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard, and replaced timer.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Senior Center, Library, Chase Block, Scout Hall and City Complex, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed City Complex, Library, Senior Center, 28th Street signage area, Clymer & Wood Ibis Parks, Marina & Beach green spaces, Clam Bayou, Trail Spur, Chase block.

- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, painted frame holder for reel mowers and replaced carburetor on line trimmer.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell, Tonkin & Veteran's Parks.
- 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.
- Replaced storm box on Gulfport Boulevard between 59th & 60th Streets.
- Cleaned and removed debris from Stetson alleys.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Posted road closing signs for "Get Rescued" event, and emptied and removed garbage and recycling containers following event.
- Assembled and installed speed limit signs on Shore Boulevard.
- Performed storm line vacuum cleaning at various locations throughout City.

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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 46 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 88 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 9 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 2 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 1602 54th Street, 5814 28th Avenue & 6619 Flamingo Way.
- Collected D.E.P. bacteriological analysis samples.

- Chlorinated new water mains and collected clearance bacteriological samples for Pasadena estates water improvement project.

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.
- Jetted and televised sewer lateral at 5101 15th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced A/C compressor, alternator, serpentine belt, and fuel filters on Streets vehicle #38.
- Replaced alternator on Parks Division vehicle #53.
- Adjusted door on Fire Engine #E17.
- Replaced strobe light on Fire Department vehicle #C17.
- Arranged warranty repairs on Police vehicles #4 and #102.
- Drained and replaced coolant in Lift Station #1 generator.
- Replaced dump bed momentary switch in Parks Division “mule”.
- Replaced front tires on Police vehicle #16.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints

can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

To review the Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

March 4 Planning and Zoning Board and March 17 City Council/CRA meeting results:

C15-01; 2902, 2908 & 2914 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional use application with a site plan for proposed additional outdoor seating for the Art Village Courtyard. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL

March 11, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

- V15-08; 5413 Shore Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the required separation distance between an accessory structure and principal structure by 6 feet, from 12 feet to 6 feet to allow for the continued use of an existing tent structure.
- V15-09; 2902, 2908 & 2914 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to: 1) reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 5 spaces, from 7 to 2 to reflect the current off-street parking spaces provided; and 2). to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 4 spaces from 4 to zero for sixteen additional outdoor seating for the Art Village Courtyard.
- V15-10; 6220 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 14 feet 7 inches, from 45 feet 9 inches to 31 feet 2 inches to allow for the construction of a new catwalk and installation of a proposed new boat lift.
- V15-11; 2841 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to: 1) reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 8 feet 2 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 18 feet 6 inches to reconstruct the existing dock in its existing footprint adjacent to the seawall; and 2) to reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 7 feet 2 inches, from 26 feet 8 inches to 19 feet 6 inches to allow for the reconstruction the existing catwalk in its existing footprint.
- V15-12; 4747 Trade Winds Drive South; Variance request to: 1) acknowledge the encroachment of the existing house, front porch and stairway into the front yard setback requirement by 9 feet, from 25 feet to 16 feet; and 2) To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 4 feet, from 25 feet to 21 feet for the construction of a proposed front deck to be attached to the principal structure.