



Gulfport Community Update

March 2 - 8, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Find great bargains during the **Spring Citywide Yard Sale** on Saturday, March 8. Eighty four Gulfport participants have registered their address for this year's map, available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South, Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue, or online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. Be sure to stop by the Gulfport Historical Museum at 5310 28th Avenue to peruse their offerings as well! Thank you to the Gabber and Olympus Printing for sponsoring this year's event! For more information call 893-1118.

Upcoming Events:

Enjoy live music while perusing the arts, shops, restaurants and more during **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 7. For more information call 322-5217.

Celebrate with our sluggers at **Gulfport Little League Opening Day** on Saturday, March 8. The parade begins at Shore & Beach Boulevards at 10 a.m., followed by opening ceremonies and league games at Lum Field, 1820 55th Street.

Join the Gulfport Lions Club for a traditional **Shrimp Boil** on Saturday, March 8, 4 - 8 p.m. and get a half-pound of peel & eat Gulf shrimp, homemade hushpuppies & slaw for \$9. BYOB. The Lion's Den is located at 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information or to volunteer call 327-2100.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 for **Municipal Election Day**. For more information visit www.mygulfport.us/electioninformation.

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 call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email gulfportmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. - noon. Snacks will be provided to dedicated volunteers! Call 893-1118 for more information.

Stroll down to **Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 15. For more information call 322-5217.

Looking for some unique nautical gear? The **Nautical Flea Market** at the Gulfport Marina will offer a variety of items for sale on Saturday, March 22, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10x10 vendor spaces will be available for free to slip renters, and \$10 for non-slip renters. Bring your own table. The Gulfport Marina is located at 4630 29th Avenue South. For more information call 893-1071.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	151
Officer initiated calls for service	307
Offenses	42
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	34

Significant incidents or calls this week:

The owner of Mariners Cover Marina reported that sometime between February 20 & 27 someone spray painted what appeared to be gang graffiti on the wall of the boat storage building near the seawall. There are no suspects.

A vehicle stopped behind a PSTA bus near the intersection of 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard was rear ended by a maroon Honda. The driver of the Honda stopped to see if the victim was ok, and told her to pull into the Walgreens parking lot. He then sped northbound on 58th Street.

Officer Merriam ran a tag on a car and discovered the registered owner, who was also the driver, had a suspended driver license and was listed as a habitual traffic offender. She was arrested.

Officers responded to the 900 block of 51st Street on the evening of February 28 after a resident reported that a friend hit him over the head with a bottle and threw a brick through his car window during an argument. The complainant did not wish to prosecute and the other party involved left the area in a cab after speaking with officers.

A resident in the 1200 block of 58th Street returned home after being away overnight and discovered the back door smashed open and the house ransacked. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of 53rd Street on the evening of March 1 after a caller reported her brother took her car without permission, allegedly to go buy drugs. When he returned with the vehicle he admitted having drug paraphernalia and narcotics in his pockets, and was arrested on drug charges. His sister did not wish to prosecute for the car theft.

Officers were dispatched to the 6300 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a caller reported that a spider monkey ran in front of his car and headed into the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club. The monkey was not located.

A resident at Town Shores reported on the morning of March 2 that she saw smoke coming from a power boat in Boca Ciega Bay, and it appeared the occupants were in trouble. Officer Cavanah responded with the patrol boat and discovered the boat had an old motor that belled a cloud of smoke when the owner started it up.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of 49th Street after a caller reported that his ex-girlfriend, who left the scene before officers arrived, was a habitual traffic offender. She was located driving north on 49th Street and a check of her driving history confirmed the caller's allegation. She was arrested on traffic charges and issued a trespass warning for her ex-boyfriend's residence.

The Gibbs High School Resource Officer notified GPD on the morning of March 3 that a juvenile wanted by GPD for burglary was in class that day. Officer Cavanah responded to the school and made the arrest with the assistance of the SRO.

A woman reported that her ex-boyfriend, who had stabbed her in the past, was again stalking her. Police made phone contact with the man who told the officer that he was going to find the

victim and was not concerned with the police. The suspect is wanted for stalking. A BOLO (be on the lookout) was issued to other local police agencies.

Alex Fort was arrested on the morning of March 4 after a resident inside her apartment saw movement outside her front window and opened the door to find Fort on her porch, stealing her bicycle. Ofc. Novak located Fort sitting on the bench in front of the Walgreens, next to the stolen bike. He admitted to stealing the bike because he needed a ride home.

A resident in the 5600 block of Tangerine Avenue reported that sometime between March 1 & 4, someone took his bicycle from his carport inside an enclosed yard. Ofc. Novak located the bike later in the day being ridden by a BCHS student. He claimed the bike was left in the street in front of his home 3 days earlier. The juvenile was released to his mother.

Christopher Nickerson was arrested on March 5 after a resident reported that he would not stop bothering her. Nickerson was transported to the County Jail after Officer Merriam discovered he had an active warrant for violation of probation for grand theft.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 6 hours this week: one hour for a possible water rescue, and five hours for training.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):

New Cases:	21
Cases Assigned:	5
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	10
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	4
Supplements Received:	21
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	3
Cases Still Active:	11

Detective Pham is on vacation this week.

Detective Jennifer Crowson interviewed three subjects possibly involved in a number of recent burglaries and auto thefts. All three subjects are currently in the Juvenile Detention Center on related charges. She also attended a meeting with other law enforcement agency Explorer advisors to discuss this summer's Multi-Jurisdictional Police Explorer Academy, completed seven supplements, and worked several other cases.

Officer Motte mediated several altercations, mentored students, and assisted the St. Petersburg Police Department in an attempt to locate a subject who was later determined to not be in school. He also taught the Explorers how to properly investigate a crime, and attended a community meeting regarding the Pinellas trail and educating park rangers on how to properly report crimes.

Officer Langston continued to investigate a bicycle theft that occurred at the school and arrested the person who stole the bike, charging him with grand theft. She also investigated a student report regarding another student who was bragging about robbing a drug dealer. The complainant also believed that the student was dealing drugs to other students on campus. The student was searched and no drugs were discovered. Additionally, Officer Langston met with a parent regarding her son skipping school, and investigated a report of a student with a knife. The student was searched but no weapons were discovered. She also forwarded information to

Detective Crowson regarding a possible Police Explorers recruitment opportunity at the school, and exceptionally cleared a battery case.

Analyst Palmisano finished an analysis of recent vehicle burglaries. It is likely the subjects Det. Crowson interviewed at JDC were involved with many since the trend has decreased upon their arrests. They would not admit to any crimes in Gulfport, however, and there is forensic evidence linking them to only one burglary. Analyst Palmisano also completed the open case list and conducted pawn checks. One check revealed a match to a stolen Playstation.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	12
Supplements reviewed:	154
Public records requests:	9
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	65

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are currently in the review process: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 200 - Standards of Conduct and Discipline; 345 - Automated External Defibrillators; 427 - Death, Serious Injury or Serious Illness Notification, and; 525 - Forfeitures and Seizures.

Lieutenant Stone registered one officer to attend a blood stain interpretation course. Another officer was registered to attend a course on the use of social media to aid in investigations.

Lieutenant Stone & Sergeant Parks successfully qualified a newly hired officer in the use of firearms.

Lieutenant Stone is coordinating training for the following topics: Scenario Based Use of Force; Active Shooter; In-service Driving, and; Fair & Impartial Policing.

Fourteen Police Officer applicants are being processed. Three other applicants are in the final phase of the process and have been given conditional offers of employment. Another is in the pre-field training program.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand nine hundred ninety four (2,294) gallons of gas, and one thousand two hundred sixty nine (1,269) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred six (106) vessels.

Assisted in thirty two (32) pump outs evacuating four hundred (400) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 60' motorboat, 36' motorboat and a 24' motorboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Installed two electrical pedestals on transient dock.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Performed pump out maintenance.
- Replaced water valve fuel dock two.
- Replaced nozzle on diesel pump three.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Attended St. Patrick's Day planning/logistics meeting.
- Continued preparations for March 8 Clam Bayou Cleanup.
- Provided control room coverage of March 4 City Council meeting, March 5 Planning & Zoning meeting and March 6 City Council Workshop. Uploaded videos to Granicus and rebroadcast meetings on GTV-615.
- Continue planning for Relay for Life event.
- Updated City Clerks, Fire Department, Public Works & Recreation Center information pages on City website.
- Distributed Citywide Yard Sale brochures to all City facilities.
- Provided technical support for Little League Parade and Opening Day ceremonies.
- Commenced preparation of April event calendar.
- Met with Suzi King & Justin Shea to discuss upcoming events.

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.

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 March 10. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Attention Baby Boomers: Have you given any thought to wills or trusts? Don't take a chance with so much at stake. Join Attorney April Hill at the Senior Center at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 to discuss **Estate Planning**.

Join us for our next Gulfport Getaway to **John's Pass Historic Fishing Village & Boardwalk** on Tuesday, March 11. Roundtrip transportation and parking included in the \$6 fee for GEMS Members, \$8 for Non-GEMS Members. Call 893-2242 before March 5 to reserve your seat.

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 March 11.

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

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13.

Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader Jaclyn Moore will cover the basic functions during the next **iPad class** at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 14. Space is limited so register today. Don't forget to bring your iPad and passwords!

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, March 14. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

Get a better understanding of how **Medicare Savings & Extra Help Programs** work and how to apply for them at 2:30 p.m. Monday March 17. Presented by Humana.

Questions about reverse mortgages? Join Pat Smoot at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 for **Reverse Mortgage: Busting the Myths**.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** the third Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. The group will host a new guest speaker every month. Join us for our first meeting on March 20, and let's explore the world together!

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.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures, and tips with others at the new **Bon Voyage** discussion group at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Ester from Four Seasons Travel and Cruise will offer great tips and insider information. Don't miss out!!

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

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

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

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, February 23	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & ballroom dance (Turnout 53)
Monday, February 24	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 153)
Tuesday, February 25	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 52)
Wednesday, February 26	10 a.m. - Health & Wellness Expo (Turnout 262) 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 304)
Thursday, February 27	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 28)
Saturday, March 1	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 148)

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
Wednesday, March 12	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with live music by Keith Jones & the Makeshifts

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

Sunday, February 23	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 71)
Thursday, February 27	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 52)
Friday, February 28	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 58)
Saturday, March 1	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Visiting Mr. Green</i> (Turnout 70)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, March 6-8, 8 p.m. and Sunday, and March 9, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Visiting Mr. Green*: a gripping drama about Jewish tradition and family values. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, February 23	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 12) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, February 25	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)
Thursday, February 27	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday & Thursday	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

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

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, February 24	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 13) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 30)
Tuesday, February 25	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 25)
Wednesday, February 26	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 26)
Thursday, February 27	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 27)
Friday, February 28	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
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Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
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, February 24, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, February 24, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Tuesday, February 25 - *SCORE Counseling.*

Tuesday, February 25, 5:45 p.m. *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, February 26, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, February 26, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, February 26, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 27, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Annual meeting.*

Friday, February 28, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Friday, February 28, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Friday, February 28, 6 p.m. - *Senior Artists Reception.* Paintings on display at the Library through March 26.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, March 13, 6 p.m. - *Greenlight Pinellas:* Join PSTA CEO/Executive Director Bradford Miller for an informative session on the vision for future transportation in Pinellas County.

Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.* Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Movies begin at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Thursday, March 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hiroshima* by John Hersey over coffee and light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, March 22, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop:* Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to pre-register.

Every Monday beginning March 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters Teen Leadership Workshop.* For more information email kellymenges@hotmail.com.

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

Every 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, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

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

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

**Library Services/Statistic February 23 - March 1, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,261	730
Sun. 2/23	Library closed	
Mon. 2/24	393	127
Tue. 2/25	427	132
Wed. 2/26	342	100
Thu. 2/27	413	143
Fri. 2/28	408	122
Sat. 3/1	264	86

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, March 1 for a baby shower with approximately forty five (45) in attendance.

The game room is reserved 2-7 p.m. Saturday, March 8 for a birthday party.

The multipurpose room is reserved 3-7 p.m. Saturday March 15 for a baby shower, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday March 22 for a Women's Conference/Church event.

Programs, Classes & Activities

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

Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Sixteen (16) 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.

Seventy five (75) 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 an ELC Provider Outreach meeting in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Wires Down

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plans Review

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department is taking practical exams and reviewing for recertification testing of ITLS in the March 2014 CME. International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) final Certification will be in April 2014. ITLS courses combine classroom learning and hands-on skill stations. Scenario assessment stations enable Paramedics to put their learning to work in simulated trauma situations. ITLS courses are designed, managed and delivered by course directors, coordinators and instructors experienced in EMS, pre-hospital care and the ITLS approach.
- March 2-8 is National Severe Weather Preparedness Week. This year's theme is *Be a Force of Nature: Take the Next Step*. Take the proactive steps of knowing your risk,

being prepared and taking appropriate actions before, during and after extreme weather. Even more than that, being a force of nature means saving lives by inspiring others to do the same through social media and face-to-face conversations with your friends, family and neighbors.

- St. Petersburg College Paramedic Program student Zachary Ross continues his ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford on the “B”-shift.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced belt on City Hall computer room air conditioning unit.
- Patched Casino roof.
- Met with architects for Recreation Center Roofing Project.
- Replaced A/C condenser and thermostat in Senior Center Room #107.
- Replaced ballast in ladies restroom at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced paper towel machine in City Hall men’s restroom.
- Replaced A/C compressor in Senior Center lobby.
- Replaced A/C filters at all City facilities.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Prepared fields for mowing & lining, and set up generators for Little League Opening Day.
- Removed old conduit from pavilion 7 at Beach Complex.
- Repaired hole in surface at Skate Park, and fence & gate at Tonkin Park.
- Delivered thirty chairs to Library in preparation for Friends Annual meeting and returned to Neighborhood Center following event.
- Replaced latch and adjusted gate at Beach Playground, three bench slats at Skate Park, flag and hardware at Veterans Park and six fence caps at Library outside reading area.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned City Complex.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library, Veterans, Caldwell & Clymer Parks and Neighborhood Center.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and repaired blower, line trimmer & stick edger.
- Inspected and fueled generators.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed and trimmed Beach area, Neighborhood Center grounds, 55th Street medians and Tomlinson Park.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children’s playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Removed barricades following drain grate/radius upgrades at 54th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Paved alleyway at 22nd & 23rd Avenues between 56th & 57th Streets.
- Patched asphalt at 5226 9th Avenue, and 52nd Street & 8th Avenue.
- Graded and added fill to the alleyways between the following locations: 54th Street & Beach Boulevard, Gulfport Boulevard & 23rd Avenue, 19th & 20th Avenue between 54th & 55th Street.
- Repaired school crosswalk at 51st Street & 20th Avenue.

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 54 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 15 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Started semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired water break at Seaside Villas.

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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced two transmission speed sensors and grabber arm hydraulic hose on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Replaced hydraulic fitting on Lightning Loader #29.
- Reprogrammed and recalibrated ECM settings on Lightning Loader #88.
- Repaired A/C system on GEMS Vehicle #03.
- 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 have moved to 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.

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 5, 2014 Planning and Zoning Board and March 18, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

Application #EV14-01; 1737 49th Street South; Proposed easement vacation for the relocation of City utilities and the development of a box store development; first reading of the ordinance vacating this easement will be April 1, 2014, and the second reading and public hearing will be noticed for April 15. P&Z RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.