



Gulfport Community Update

April 5 - 11, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

More than eight thousand eggs were scooped up in record time by the hundreds of children who attended the 10th Annual City of Gulfport/ Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day**. This year a raffle was held for 9 prize baskets for children and 3 for adults.



Basket winners: 0-2 Victoria Carron, Chloe Brody; 3-6 Elizabeth Sharpe, Melia Gonyer; 7-9 Jack Helms, T.P. Wasor; 10-12 D'Anasia Albritton, Nolan Gosch; 13-17 Victoria Wilson, Jada Zook; Adults Emily Clark, Matt Zook and Nejole.

The Gulfport Merchants Association (GMA) will host a **public art dedication ceremony** in front of the Gulfport Casino at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18. The GMA commissioned artist Stephen Oliver to create the sculpture entitled *Best Kept Secret*, one of a growing number of pieces added to the Gulfport landscape in recent years, joining a roster of public art including ten sculptures in Clymer Park commissioned by the City of Gulfport, and a pair of sculptures at Beach Boulevard & 29th Avenue commissioned by the GMA.



Upcoming Events:

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup on Saturday**, April 11, 9 a.m. - noon. If you're 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.

Enjoy a day of fun and whimsy at **SpringFest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** in Clymer Park, 5501 27th Avenue on Saturday April 11, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The greenway will be transformed into an "enchanted village" inhabited by costumed faeries, sprites, gnomes, ogres and trolls. Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume will entertain attendees, and visitors are encouraged to join in the spirit by donning wings, faerie finery, Renaissance flair or any imagination-inspired attire. Two costume contests, one for the little ones and another for grownups will recognize the most colorfully-clad visitors. This free event is pet and family-friendly. A wide variety of activities and entertainment will include a May pole dance, faerie house contest, garden art & plant sale and live music. A children's area will offer tiara-making, face painting, pixie dusting, bubble blowing and more. For more information, visit Springfest on Facebook/ or call 322-5217.

MY Foundation will host **Rockin' at the Casino**, an electrifying fundraising event at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, April 11. This event will feature Florida legends of rock & roll The Impacs, light hors d'oeuvres provided by O'Maddy's, a fashion show by Botiki, and all the fun the night will allow!!! Show your "Rockin at the Casino" ticket anytime April 11 to enjoy 20 percent off your lunch or dinner at O'Maddys. Tickets: \$25 in advance at the Gulfport Casino, Botiki or online at www.mygulfportfoundation.org, or \$30 at the door. For more information call 656-2701.

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.

Community members will join together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to the disease, and fight back against cancer through the **American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Gulfport/Stetson** at the Michael J Yakes Recreational Center at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18. The Relay for Life brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, faith-based groups - people from all walks of life - all aimed at furthering the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and help finish the fight against cancer. To find out how you can get involved and meet others who want to make a difference in our community, email Jamie Barbetto, at jamie.barbetto@cancer.org, call 260-3949 or visit www.relayforlife.org/gulfportfl.

The **Large Dog Park will be closed for maintenance** Monday, April 20 through Monday, May 4. Large dogs may use the small dog park on Tuesday & Thursday while small dogs will have the Monday, Wednesday & Friday schedule. Call Tim Connor at 893-1092 for more information.

The Boca Ciega Yacht Club at 4600 Tifton Drive invites area residents to the **BCYC Fun Day** on Saturday, April 25, 1-4 p.m. There will be free hot dogs while supplies last, club tours and demonstrations, exhibits, a coloring contest for kids ages 1-12, and door prizes. Free sailboat rides will be offered on a first come first served basis. A membership team will provide information on how easy it is to become a member and enjoy the club's boating, social and community service activities. Membership is open to sailboat owners, wannabe sailboat owners and anyone who loves sailing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	140
Self-initiated calls for service	465
Offenses	30
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	28

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2300 block of 51st Street reported on April 2 that someone had broken into his house through a window and ransacked the place. A camera was stolen.

Officers were dispatched to Scout Hall early April 3 after the cleaning crew discovered two men sleeping in cardboard boxes on the back porch. One of the two, James Hjeltness had an outstanding warrant from Sarasota County. The other, Christopher Pacheco had no photo ID or permanent address. Hjeltness was arrested for the warrant and Pacheco was arrested for violation of the City ordinance prohibiting loitering.

A resident in the 5200 block of 29th Avenue reported that his vehicle was stolen from the street in front of his home. There was no broken glass at the scene or other signs of forced entry, although the victim said the car was locked.

Officers responded to a business in the 4900 block of 9th Avenue after the owner reported he found the door to his shop damaged. There are no suspects.

The St. Petersburg Police Department located a vehicle that was reported stolen from Gulfport. The car was found in the 200 block of 19th Avenue.

A resident in the 4900 Block of Newton Avenue reported on April 4 that her license plate was stolen from her vehicle.

Officers took an extremely intoxicated man into custody under the Marchman Act early April 5 after a caller reported he was pounding on the door of a home. The man believed he was at his mother's home, although he was unable to provide an address or the name of someone who could take care of him.

Joseph Gonzalez was arrested after an officer issuing trespass discovered that he had an outstanding warrant out of Ohio for child support.

A man called 911 from the Walgreen's on Gulfport Boulevard and reported that he was tackled, and his wallet and cell phone stolen while he was escorted to Wood Ibis Park by a prostitute he had picked up. The man had significant injuries to his face from the suspect punching him.

Officers responded to a traffic crash in the intersection of 15th Avenue & 49th Street on April 6 after a car that was turning left was struck by a car traveling south on 49th Street. According to witnesses, the two occupants of the southbound car fled before officers arrived. Two people were transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

A caller reported a sick or injured possum lying in the parking lot of a vacant business in the 5500 block of Gulfport Boulevard on April 7. Officers located the possum which offered no resistance as it was placed in a pet carrier and turned over to the SPCA for treatment.

A bicyclist was hit by a sport utility vehicle at the intersection of 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard. When a witness said she was calling police, the driver of the SUV fled. Paul Wayne Turner was later located and positively identified as the suspect. He was issued a notice to appear for leaving the scene of a crash. The bicyclist was not injured but his bike was damaged.

A resident in the in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole a gift card. The keys to the car were on the floorboard.

A resident 1600 block of 52nd Street discovered on the morning of April 8 that her Honda Civic had been stolen from her driveway overnight.

A motorcycle crashed into a sport utility vehicle stopped for a pedestrian in the crosswalk in the 6100 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The rider was thrown through the back window of the SUV. He was wearing a full-face helmet and leather jacket, and was unharmed. The SUV occupant and pedestrian also escaped injury.

Officers responded to a traffic crash in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a vehicle struck the rear of another vehicle waiting for the light to turn green, pushing it through the intersection and into a parking lot where it struck a parked car. The other car fled the scene. There were no injuries.

A resident in the 5900 block of Pelican Bay Plaza reported that an unknown subject filed a tax return using his social security number. The case will be forwarded to the IRS.

Officers responded to a traffic accident involving a vehicle that backed into another vehicle twice. The driver appeared to be intoxicated. Officers conducted a DUI investigation and arrested John Cataldo for driving a vehicle under the influence.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week. Marine unit officers made 10 contacts and 3 vessel stops with 1 citation issued. **Additionally**, Officer Cavanah and Probationary Officer Affeldt displayed the vessel at the annual Fun in the Sun Day event.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	64
Public records requests:	14
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	49

MARINA

Assisted in twenty three (23) pump outs evacuating three hundred (300) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand six hundred thirty (4,630) gallons of gas and two thousand six hundred thirty three (2,633) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred five (205) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 33' motorboat, 43' motorboat, 26' sailboat, 28' sailboat, and a 30' sailboat 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 schedules, agendas & minutes, Recreation Center, Bids, Events and Code Red information on City website.
- Continued preparations for St. Pete Pride Parade & 5k, and Rays Trolley promo.
- Provided control room coverage for April 7 City Council meeting and April 8 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video to City website rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Assisting GMA with preparations for art dedication.

Multipurpose Center

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

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 offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is April 13. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Want to get rid of old paperwork? A document shredding company will visit the Gulfport Senior Center April 21-23 to provide **free document disposal**. Stetson University College of Law invite you to shred unwanted sensitive documents & protect yourself against identity theft.

Join Debi Dietrich from Doctor's Choice Pharmacy for **Medication Safety Health Tips** on Wednesday, April 22 at 2 p.m. for information on avoiding medication errors.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, April 24. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Don't miss this month's **Gulfport GEMS Getaway to Biff Burger** on Friday evening, April 24. Travel back to the good old days as you grab a bite to eat & enjoy the longest running Car Cruise in Florida, live music, and fun for all. Space is limited so reserve a seat by April 17. GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8. Price includes round trip transportation.

Learn to turn your favorite photograph into a work of art during **Painting with Judith** every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No experience necessary.

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

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

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, May 5.

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

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

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

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

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

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, March 29	11 a.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 60)
Monday, March 30	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 116)
Tuesday, March 31	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 23) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 75)
Wednesday, April 1	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 269)
Thursday, April 2	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 48)
Saturday, April 4	6:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 90)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, April 11	7 p.m. - <i>Rockin' at the Casino Featuring The Impacs!</i> Silent Auction, raffles, door prizes, fashion show, light hors'duerves by O'Maddy's, full
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bar. All proceeds go to The Michael J. Yakes Foundation. Tickets: \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door, available at the Casino & Botiki or online at www.MYGulfportFoundation.org

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, March 29 2 p.m. - *It Was A Very Good Year* (Turnout 150)

Friday, April 3 6 p.m. - Senior Center Watercolor Class Art Reception (Turnout 45)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

Thursday-Saturday, April 9-11, 16-18 & 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 12, 19 & 26, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *Play On*, a comedy by Rick Abbot. Tickets: \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org, or at the door one hour before performance.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, March 29 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, March 31 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Scout Hall (last week's events)

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

Monday, March 30 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
 11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, March 31 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 1 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 18)

Thursday, April 2 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, April 3 11 a.m. - Line dancing at Recreation Center

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion
 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 30, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, March 31, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 1, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 1, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, April 1, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 1, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, April 3, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera instruction* facilitated by Cathy Salustri.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera instruction.* Work with Cathy to build on skills learned in the Beginning class. Visit the Reference Desk to pre-register.

Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a

copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 873-3919 for more information.

Thursday, April 23, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 3-10 year olds*: All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

Monday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project Program*: Learn how to cut costs from your electric bill. Presented by an expert with the Pinellas County Extension Service. Registration required. For more information call 873-3919 or visit the Reference Desk.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K-5*: Attention young scientists! Do you love exploring the world around you through hands-on activities? Come to Science Club at the playground behind the temporary Library at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue. We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Let Cailey know if you and your young scientist plan to attend at cklasson@mygulfport.us.

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 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 near the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic March 29 - April 4, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	827	540
Sun. 3/29	Library closed	
Mon. 3/30	122	82
Tue. 3/31	117	85
Wed. 4/1	180	113
Thu. 4/2	156	110
Fri. 4/3	164	85
Sat. 4/4	58	50

Recreation Center

The Multipurpose room is reserved 3-7 p.m. Saturday, April 18, and 2-6 p.m. Saturday April 25 for baby showers.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Registration for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program** is underway for Gulfport residents and non-residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. Non-resident registration begins Monday, May 19 for a maximum of 30 children. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Fifty eight (58) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty four (24) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Seventy three (73) 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 and John Lapham interviewed three Summer Program Leader applicants on Thursday, and one Summer Program Junior Counselor applicant on Tuesday.

Marivel Gutierrez, John Lapham, Nicole Latragna, Alton Hooker, Joanne McRoberts, Kimberly Titara, Montana Brightbill, Ariel Storch, Jaylissa Williams & Shanoah Washington worked the "Fun In The Sun" Day event on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.'s VPK Informational meeting in Pinellas Park on Tuesday, and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday morning.

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

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Emerald Mancini manned the bounce house during the Fun in The Sun Day event on Saturday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 3 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 1 Plan Review

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

- Chief Marenkovic and Community Development Director Fred Metcalf attended the Pinellas County meeting on April 9 in Largo. This the topic was operations for Countywide Damage Assessment using Storm Impressions located in the MDT of Fire Department's apparatus (and 911web) for Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) and the NEW ESRI application (Collector) developed for detailed damage assessment (DDA).
- Lt. Fuchs and Firefighter/Paramedic Grady displayed Pumper 17 at Fun in the Sun Day on April 4. The CERT team also brought RH17.
- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in April St. Pete College CME face to face training for Part II of Airway Management. Airway management can be divided into two categories: basic and advance airway management. Advance airway management is further categorized in increasing order of invasiveness into supraglottic devices, such as oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airways such as tracheal intubation and surgical methods.
- Inspector Lundh attended a site plan review for 3107 Beach Boulevard on April 7.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Painted Finance Director's new office.
- Replaced filters on all city a/c units.
- Replaced door latch on stall in ladies restroom at beach.
- Installed four rods and ceiling fans at Historical Museum.
- Disposed of several boxes from City Hall.
- Assisted with daily set-ups for activities at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up tables, chairs, trash & recycling bins & P.A. system for Sculpture Art Dedication at Clymer greenway, and removed following event.
- Posted upcoming closure notice at Dog Park.
- Installed gate at Casino right of way
- Repaired volleyball net on Gulfport Beach
- Removed past event banner and installed upcoming event banner on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at Recreation Center and beach.
- Repaired bench at Clam Bayou, and fences at Wood Ibis Park & Clam Bayou.
- Continued repair of bench swings at Wood Ibis Park.
- Treated Clymer Greenway for ants, replaced electrical outlets and built temporary fencing in preparation for Springfest.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at 49th Streetscapes, Neighborhood Center, Recreation Center & Veterans Park, raked leaves on Chase block & Scout Hall, and around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Recreation Center, Library, Senior Center & beach green spaces, Caldwell Park, Clymer Park & greenway, and 56th Street drainage area.

- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired stick edger and tires on sand pro unit.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell Park, Chase block, Dog Park & Beach Boulevard.
- 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.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Set up trash and recycling containers for Fun in the Sun event.
- Cleared debris from Gulfport Boulevard following automobile/motorcycle crash.

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).
- Disconnected water service at 31 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 14 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 90 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 16 backflow devices due in March.
- Replaced 3 old waters meter with new electronic water meters.
- Replaced fire hydrant at 47th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Relocated water meter at 5933 20th 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5133 Jersey Avenue South
- Cleaned sewer main line on Jersey Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired hydraulic leak on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced tires on Building Maintenance vehicle #65 & Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced damaged tire on Police vehicle #102.
- Replaced operating systems computer, main air supply line and engine oil dipstick assembly, and repaired air safety latch & engine oil fill hose on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Welded retrieval arm pin retainer on truck #42.
- Replaced upper radiator hose on Utilities vehicle #22.
- 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 continued this week in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for March was 156. The fiscal year-to-date total is 943. The number of citizen complaints was 12 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 79. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.4 percent.

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

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

April 8, 2015 Board of Adjustment results:

- V15-13; 28/31/16/67572/023/0010 (southeast corner of 14th Avenue & 56th Street South); Variance request to reduce the required side yard setback on the secondary street by 6 feet, from 12 feet to 6 feet to allow for a larger footprint for a proposed new single-family house. DENIED

- V15-14; 5624 & 5626 15th Avenue South; Variance requests:
 - I. Existing Duplex Structure
 1. To recognize the current front yard encroachment of the existing primary structure (duplex) by 8 feet, from 25 feet to 17 feet; and
 2. To recognize the current side yard encroachment on the secondary street side of the existing primary structure by 3.31 feet, from 12 feet to 8.69 feet.
 - II. Proposed Deck #1
 3. To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 10 feet, from 25 feet to 15 feet; and
 4. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 4 feet, from 12 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck and stairs.
 - III. Proposed Deck #2
 5. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 11.31 feet, from 12 feet to 0.69 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck.
 - IV. Existing Accessory Structure (Garage)
 7. To recognize the current encroachment into the rear yard setback requirement of the garage by 1.79 feet, from 15 feet to 13.21 feet; and
 8. To recognize the current encroachment into the required separation distance between an accessory structure and principal structure of 8.2 feet, from 12 feet to 3.8 feet.
 - V. Proposed New Carport
 1. To reduce the required separation distance between an accessory structure (roofed carport with open beams) and principal structure by 9 feet, from 12 feet to 3 feet, and;
 2. To reduce the required rear yard setback requirement for accessory structures by 1 foot, from 15 feet to 14 feet to allow for the construction of the proposed roofed carport. ALL REQUESTS APPROVED