



Gulfport Community Update

April 6 - 12, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that smoke detectors are available free of charge to elderly and low income households within City limits. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, April 12. Volunteers will meet at Shelter #4, Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex at 9 a.m.

Enjoy a day of fun and whimsy at **SpringFest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** in Clymer Park, 5501 27th Avenue on Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Live music, beer garden, costume contest, garden art, plant sale and much more! For more information call 322-5217 or visit www.sikpromotions.com.

The **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, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. - noon at the 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.

Stroll down to **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. April 19. For more information call 322-5217.

Bring a chair to Gulfport Beach to enjoy the **Gulfport Yacht Club Multi-Hull Regatta** Friday - Sunday, April 25-27. For more information visit www.gulfportyachtclub.com, call 215-7982 or email hobiebob@aol.com.

Free Oral Cancer and Prostate Screenings will be offered in the Walgreens parking lot on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 322-5669.

Local chefs will be put to the test during the **Top Local Chef Competition** at the Gulfport Casino on Sunday, April 27, 5 - 7 p.m. For tasting tickets visit www.LocalShops1.com.

Registration for the **2014 Summer Recreation Program** begins Friday, May 1 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. Registration fees are \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents. Summer camp program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	192
Officer initiated calls for service	319
Offenses	37
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	48

Significant incidents or calls this week:

GPD assisted St. Petersburg police with a possible domestic in the 600 block of 54th Way in the early morning hours of April 3 and determined that a no-contact order was in place for the male subject. SPPD officers arrested him for violation of pre-trial release.

Officers responded the 1300 block of 56th Street in the early morning hours of April 4 after a resident dialed 911 to report a subject slashing tires and threatening people with a knife. Suspect Tarvin Spinks threatened a female with a knife and slashed a male in the face, and caused major damage to his car, including stabbing the trunk with the knife and breaking the back windshield. Spinks was arrested.

Kerry Hawkins was arrested on the evening of April 4 after several patrons witnessed him taking a woman's purse from a chair at a restaurant in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. They detained Hawkins until officers arrived.

Officer Wodraska located Lynnette Youngren and George Baker at their Gulfport residence regarding a grand theft case the Pinellas Park Police Department (PPPD) was working. They were taken into custody and turned over to PPPD.

While on patrol in the early morning hours of April 5 Officer Priest observed a car with 2 occupants inside backed into a dark area in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue. Upon making contact with the pair he smelled marijuana. One of the occupants admitted to possessing marijuana and handed over two small baggies containing the substance. He was given a notice to appear for possession.

Officers responded to the 700 block of 58th Street on the afternoon of April 6 following a motorcycle crash. The driver was not injured, but appeared to be very intoxicated. He was arrested following a DUI investigation. His breath alcohol content was .21.

Officers responded to the 2800 block of 58th Street on the morning of April 7 after a resident reported that sometime overnight someone had destroyed a birdbath, glass table, flower pots, and hose in the front yard. They also informed Ofc Novak that they received a letter containing a dead lizard a few weeks ago, and a note tucked into their newspaper bag pertaining to the conflict in Ukraine. There are no suspects.

The owner of O'Maddy's turned in two counterfeit bills that were passed at the restaurant and not discovered until the ATM rejected them. They were sent to the United States Secret Service.

Chief Vincent ran a tag on a vehicle at the car wash at 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard and discovered there was an outstanding warrant for the registered owner. The driver initially provided her sister's personal information to avoid being arrested but finally came clean. As she was exiting her vehicle, a dollar bill that she had folded marijuana into opened and spilled onto her lap. Officer Marshall arrested the woman on two warrants out of Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties, and for possession of marijuana.

Officers responded to Tomlinson pond on the morning of April 9 after a subject driving his friend's vehicle westbound on Tangerine Avenue failed to stop at the stop sign at 54th Street and

struck the dock over the pond. The vehicle's passenger side front tire ended up in the water, and the driver was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign and driving with an expired license.

The Marine Unit was not in use this week. A leak in the structure was detected, and the boat was sent for repair.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):

New Cases:	12
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	4
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements Received:	22
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	63
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	11

Sgt Woodman responded to a suicide by self-inflicted gunshot wound. The case is still under investigation. He is also investigating two separate cases regarding allegations of tampering with a victim and violation of an injunction charges in a sexual battery case.

Detective Hanh Pham investigated an armed robbery and determined the allegations unfounded. He also interviewed a suspect in a grand theft case who is currently in the Pinellas County Jail on unrelated charges, and developed probable cause for the arrest. Additionally, Detective Pham assisted Detective Crowson with questioning suspects in Lakeland and Tampa regarding grand theft and criminal mischief case that occurred in Gulfport.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated an altercation, mentored students, searched for several reported runaways with negative results, completed a fire and lockdown drill at Boca Ciega High School, and attended a breath test operator recertification course and a County meeting regarding the Pinellas Trail and safety.

School Resource Officer Langston assisted day shift units with a suspicious person call in the neighborhood; located two BCHS students and transported them to school; responded to a disturbance/threat of fight that occurred after school; investigated a theft of money and completed a report, and; investigated an incident involving a school tutor who showed an obscene picture to two juveniles and arrested the suspect. She also assisted SPPD Detective Hawkins with a robbery investigation that occurred in his jurisdiction; spoke with a concerned parent regarding the robbery that occurred in St Pete; attended pursuit interruption technique training held by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and completed three Baker Act evaluations. Two of the students met the criteria for Baker Act and were transported to PEMHS.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	72
Public records requests:	35
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	4

Citizens assisted: 45

Professional Standards

The following policies are in the review process: 101 - Response to Resistance; 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 525 - Forfeitures and Seizures; 345 - Automated External Defibrillators; 423 - Fingerprinting Subjects in the Field; 430 - Animal Complaints, and 524 - Fraud, Worthless Documents and identity theft

Training

Three officers are in the initial field training program.

Lt. Stone is coordinating training for the following topics: Scenario Based Use of Force, Active Shooter, and Fair and Impartial Policing.

Two new officers have completed the pre-field training orientation program. Lt. Stone and Sergeant Matt Parks provided firearms training to both officers on April 4.

Sergeant Woodman attended an 8 hour Blood Stain Basics course this week.

Officer Obrart and Crime Analyst Palmisano attended an 8 hour Courtroom Testimony training course.

Detective Crowson and Officers Cavanah, Nicita, Langston & Wodraska attended Pursuit Intervention Technique Training.

Officer Mills and Officer Motte attended a Breath Test Operator recertification course.

Six officers are scheduled to attend Pursuit Intervention Technique training later this month.

Sixteen Police Officer applications are being processed. Three applicants have taken a polygraph examination.

Other Activities

Community Resource Officer Zack Mills is in the planning stages for the Gulfport Police Citizens Academy.

Lt. Stone is coordinating efforts for GPD's participation in the Boca Ciega Yacht Club Fun Day event.

MARINA

Pumped four thousand six hundred fifty one (4,651) gallons of gas, and one thousand seven hundred thirty five (1,735) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty one (151) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 26' sailboat, 30' sailboat, 28' sailboat, 33' motorboat and a 43' motorboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Installed backflow protectors on new pedestals.
- Procured drinks for resale.
- Repaired pump out fuel dock.
- Removed weeds from fence line.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Continued layout & preparation of new City brochure.
- Continued work on poster for Trolley transportation to Rays game.
- Completed May calendar and sent to printer.
- Compiling promotional gear list for upcoming events.
- Contacted past year's Hurricane Seminar vendors to invite them to upcoming seminar, created promotion materials and discussed technical needs with guest speaker.

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 **Neighborhood 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 April 14. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our next monthly **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and let's explore the world together! The group hosts a new guest speaker every month.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' April birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 18. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

Florida consistently leads the nation in pedestrian deaths. Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 21 for **Walk Wise Tampa Bay**, an informational presentation specifically for senior pedestrians.

The Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers a free **Blood Pressure Clinic** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next clinic is April 24.

If you only see one live performance this season, make it the **Joe Koehler Senior Follies** at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25. Tickets: \$6 each or 2 for \$10. This annual event sells out quickly, so get your tickets today!

Anyone can have a stroke no matter your age, race or gender. The good news is that up to 80 percent of strokes can be prevented, and the best way to protect yourself and loved ones from stroke is to understand personal risk and how to manage it. Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 28 for the **HCA Health Talks Stroke Prevention** seminar.

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, May 9. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

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 May 13.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, March 30	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 50)
Monday, March 31	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Ballroom Dance (Turnout 130)

Tuesday, April 1	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 19) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 47)
Wednesday, April 2	9 a.m. - Senior Center Volunteer Brunch (Turnout 54) 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 298)
Thursday, April 3	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 27)

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

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

Thursday, April 3	8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 42)
Friday, April 4	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 37)
Saturday, April 5	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 63)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, April 10-12 & 17-19, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 13 & 20, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Stepping Out*, a comedy by Richard Harris. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique and the Gulfport Casino, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, March 30	6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, April 1	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
Thursday, April 2	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, March 31	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 14) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 25)
Tuesday, April 1	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 14)
Wednesday, April 2	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 24)
Thursday, April 4	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 9)
Friday, April 5	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
Every Wednesday	10:30 a.m. - Yoga
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

National Library Week is April 13-19: Lives change at your library.

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

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 31, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 31, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Monday, March 31, 5:30 p.m. - *Teen Leadership Workshop.*

Tuesday, April 1, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, April 2, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, April 2, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, April 3, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, April 3, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, April 4, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Friday, April 4, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, 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.

Thursday, April 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, coauthored by Alex Haley over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Tuesday, April 22 - *SCORE Counseling*: Free & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate 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.

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

Tuesday, May 6, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts*: Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. For more information, email gratefulashly@gmail.com.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

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

Every first Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts*: Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. FMI, contact gratefulashly@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library Services/Statistic March 30 - April 5, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,060	716
Sun. 3/30	Library closed	
Mon. 3/31	443	147
Tue. 4/1	359	109
Wed. 4/2	288	113
Thu. 4/3	342	132
Fri. 4/4	320	107
Sat. 4/5	297	85

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 for a Wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty six (56) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Eighteen (18) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Fencing, Gymnastics, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Italian Conversation for Beginners, Italian for Travelers, Karate, Live in Color Mediation, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Eighty five (85) 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 the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting at Pinellas Park Station #35 on April 10.
- An EMT student with the St. Petersburg College EMS program continues her ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Gerard Grady on the "C"-shift.
- Gulfport Fire & Rescue trained in vehicle extraction with the upgraded Holmatro Tools, using two wrecked cars. A delicate approach is needed to minimize injury to the victim during extrication. This operation is typically accomplished by using chocks and bracing for stabilization, and hydraulic tools including the Jaws of Life. Standards and regulations can be found in NFPA 1670 and 1006.
- Pinellas County has established a Response Operations Coordination Group (ROC) to provide countywide coordination for planning and response to the imminent threat of a major hazard, such as a hurricane. The ROC will also serve to coordinate operations during and after a no-notice hazard where countywide coordination is required.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Painted Recreation Center art room, supply room, and activity room, and touched up wall paint at other City facilities.
- Reinstalled "panic bar" on Theater door, and replaced ceiling tiles in men's restroom.
- Performed semi-annual maintenance on all air conditioning units throughout City.
- Replaced emergency batteries in fire alarm panel at Fire Department.
- Replaced 4 ballasts in Senior Center room #106, drain pipe on kitchen sink, and ice machine.
- Installed fire sprinkler cover plates at Casino.
- Completed monthly air conditioning filter replacement at all City facilities.
- Replaced toilet handle in public women's restroom at City hall.
- Ran errands to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Installed benches and trash cans on concrete slabs at Clymer greenway and rail fencing around parking lot at Veterans Park.
- Installed green mesh on beach volleyball court fence.
- Removed past event banners and installed upcoming event banners.
- Inspected lights and timers on Beach Boulevard.
- Inspected electrical outlets along Clymer Greenway.
- Treated bocce ball court and Clymer greenway for fire ants.
- Trimmed palm trees and low branches on Clymer Greenways, removed sod, shelled planter beds, and poured sand & installed fencing in kiln area in preparation for SpringFest event.
- Cleaned mulched Neighborhood Center, Veterans Park and Recreation Center
- Sprayed weeds at Casino & Veterans Park.
- Cleared debris from City parks following storm.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced belts and drive chains on reel mowers, and adjusted carburetor on stick edgers and line trimmers.
- Repaired irrigation at Library & Veterans Park, and continued rerouting irrigation lines at Caldwell Park.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed hedges, weeded, cleaned & mulched planter beds & grounds at Scout Hall & Neighborhood Center.
- Mowed & trimmed Clymer Park & Greenway, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Recreation Center field & 28th Street signage area.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from City storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Patched asphalt at 49th Street & 21st Avenue and 53rd Street & 14th Avenue.
- Rebuilt barricade at the end of 44th Street following vehicle strike.
- Graded Beach parking lot.
- Removed sand from Shore Boulevard.
- Added millings and graded the roadway at 51st Street & 20th Avenue.
- Disposed of old tires from City Garage.
- Cleaned box and reset storm water lid at 58th 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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 24 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 27 miscellaneous service orders generated by Customer Service Department.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 12 backflow devices due in April.

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 right rear wheel seal, brake shoes and axle gasket on Recycling Truck #40.
- Replaced rear strobe light on Lightening Loader #29.
- Replaced alternator on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced front shield underneath Police Vehicle #6.
- Replaced both insulators and front shocks on Parks Department Vehicle #52.
- 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.

The onset of longer days means more time to work on home improvement projects. **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.pccclb.com.

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

The number of code enforcement cases for March was 241 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 1109. The number of citizen complaints was 12 for a YTD total of 88. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 7.9 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.