



Gulfport Community Update

April 17 - 23, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits**. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Gulfport residents, are you looking to swap, trash or give away your old stuff and don't know where to start? Join the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport at the community **Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck (JITT)** event at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, April 23, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Swap, trash or give away your old furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for free. Please no firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries. Have some *Java with Zack & Josh* and get your bike registered. Kids will receive a free bike helmet (while they last). We'll also be collecting nonperishable foods, toiletries and pet food for the Gulfport Senior Center Food Pantry. A shredder truck will be onsite to shred unwanted documents (5 boxes per household maximum) from 10 a.m. until noon. Kids, decorate your reusable bags at the Gulfport Library at 10 a.m. and take the trolley to Junk in the Trunk. Volunteers who wish to donate two hours to help with this fun event please email Gulfport_Neighbors@yahoo.com or call 343-8428.

Gulfport's very own version of Flea Market Flip, sponsored by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce will take place in conjunction with the April 23 Junk in the Trunk event. For a \$10 entry fee, participants will pick one of three design challenges then search for their "treasure" at Junk in the Trunk. All entry fees will be considered a donation to Gulfport Neighbors. The winner of the challenge, the creator of the repurposed treasure to sell for the most money at the May 6 First Friday Art Walk will be awarded a special one-of-a-kind trophy and bragging rights. Contestants will retain 75% of the money they raise from the sale of their treasure and 25% will be donated to the Gulfport Neighbors. It's sure to be a good time and evolve into another Gulfport tradition. For more information, email karenlove317@charter.net.

Learn more about the Boca Ciega Yacht Club during the annual **BCYC Fun day** on Saturday, April 23, 1 - 4 p.m. Free sailboat rides (weather permitting); free hotdogs & soda while they last; tours and door prizes. The Yacht Club is located at 4600 Tifton Drive South. Visit their website at www.sailbcyc.org.

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

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.

Tickets for the **April 27 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Baltimore Oriels** game are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30.00 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips will begin during the 7th inning. All trolley trips this season will take place on "2 Hotdog Wednesdays". Tickets will also be available for the following games: Wednesday, May 25 vs.

Miami Marlins; Wednesday, August 24 vs. Boston Red Sox; Wednesday, September 21 vs New York Yankees. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for **Tampa Bay Rowdies home games**. Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at the Gulfport Casino for the following games: Saturday, June 4 vs. Ottawa Fury FC; Saturday, August 20 vs. FC Edmonton; Saturday, September 17 vs. Carolina Railhawks. Departure from the Casino begins at 5 p.m. and games are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Join us at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 27 for **Gulfport's Natural Estuary: Clam Bayou Forum - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**, moderated by Gulfport Ward 3 City Councilmember Yolanda Roman. Mark Luther, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Physical Oceanography, University of South Florida ("*Sea Level Rise Research: Clam Bayou Estuary Florida*"), Robert Weisberg, Ph.D., Distinguished University Professor Physical Oceanography, University of South Florida ("*The role of the estuary circulation on water quality in the Boca Ciega Bay region abutting Clam Bayou*"), Valerie J. Harwood, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Integrative Biology ("*Stormwater Impact on Surface Water Quality*") and Mary Yeargan, PG, District Director, Southwest District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("*Extreme Rainfall, Waste Water Issues and Challenges*") are guest speakers at the forum. Clam Bayou is an important part of our community, providing us with a rich nature park and an estuary that flows into the waters of Boca Ciega Bay. Since the rain events of August 2015, we have had a number of discussions on the health of Clam Bayou, the impact of the discharge, and what potential actions can be taken to protect it. A copy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection "2016 Clam Bayou Study" will be available to attendees. For more information, call 893-1012.

Visit art vendors, have dinner at any of our restaurants and enjoy a beautiful evening during **First Friday Art Walk** on May 6 at 6 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Dispatch calls for service | 172 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 265 |
| Offenses | 52 |
| Arrests | 7 |
| Traffic citations | 43 |
| Ordinance violations | 27 |

A resident was found deceased on the ground outside the door of his apartment building in the 2900 block of Dupont Street on April 15. Although there were no signs of foul play, the death was treated as suspicious pending autopsy.

The Gulfport Senior Center Director reported that someone has been taking tomatoes from the garden at the center.

A resident in the 6200 block of 7th Avenue reported that her iPod was taken from her car sometime overnight. She stated that she locked the car but there were no signs of forced entry.

Officer Sigsbee located a woman on April 16 who was caught on video stealing from Mermaid Bay in March. Barbara Rogers was positively identified by her codefendant and charged with multiple felonies related to the theft and burglary, and the subsequent illegal use of credit cards at Walmart. She also had an active warrant for grand theft.

A resident in the 3000 block of 51st Street reported that sometime overnight someone entered his fenced backyard and stole two bicycles and a backpack containing his wallet and car keys.

Officers were dispatched to an altercation between two individuals at the Casino dock. The complainant advised that he and Julio Berlin were involved in a scuffle, and Berlin took his phone when he tried to call police. When Officer Hutsko arrived Berlin was swimming in Boca Ciega Bay and refused to return to the dock. An off duty federal agent took Officer Hutsko in his boat to get Berlin. Berlin initially refused to cooperate but then got on the boat and was arrested for resisting an officer. After being handcuffed he attempted to jump into the water. Berlin continued to resist and attempted to force Officer Hutsko off the dock and into the water. He was taken to the police department where he complained that he didn't feel well. He was transported to the hospital and while there continued to be uncooperative, kicking Officer Hutsko in the leg. Berlin was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting an officer without violence, and tampering with a witness for not allowing the complainant to call police.

A woman reported on April 17 that she was doing laundry the night before and forgot a large sum of cash in a pair of shorts. She left the area and when she returned another customer told her that a white male had entered the machine and stolen the money from her shorts.

A resident in the 5000 block of 23rd Avenue reported that his lawnmower was stolen from his fenced backyard. Video from behind Pepperz showed a black male hopping the fence and leaving through the gate towing the lawnmower towards 49th Street.

Sergeant Vandenberg stopped Emily Greenwald in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard for speeding. Greenwald's license had been revoked for 10 years because she was labeled a habitual traffic offender. She was arrested.

Officers responded to a report of an altercation in the 1200 block of 51st Street on April 18 and observed Jessica Pentacoff arguing and fighting with her ex-boyfriend and another female. She continued to make a scene after being asked repeatedly to leave, and was arrested for disorderly intoxication.

Sometime overnight someone keyed a vehicle parked in the shared driveway of a residence in the 5700 block of 17th Avenue. The resident believes the tenants at the rear of the property were responsible, but there were no witnesses.

A resident in the 2800 Block of 53rd Street reported that someone entered his home and an inoperable vehicle on the property, and took multiple items including televisions and firearms while he was out of town for several weeks. He also reported that he told all of his neighbors he was going to be out of town.

Two vehicles parked in the 5500 block of 27th Avenue had their tires intentionally punctured sometime between the evening of April 18 and the morning of the 19th.

Officers responded to the Suncoast Food Mart after an argument between two men about a traffic incident that occurred down the road escalated into a physical fight in which one subject pulled a knife and stabbed the other twice. The suspect fled the scene while the victim was rushed to a trauma center. Police later identified and arrested John Reynolds at his residence for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Adam Graves was arrested for driving under the influence following a single car crash in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident in the 5300 block of 15th Avenue reported on April 20 that two bicycles and a lawnmower were stolen from his fenced backyard.

Two tires on a vehicle parked in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard were intentionally punctured sometime between the evening of April 19 and the morning of the 20th.

Shannon Clark was issued a notice to appear after she was caught shoplifting at the Dollar General store with her 5 month-old baby in tow. Clark had a multitude of new merchandise in her car that she admitted was stolen. The items were seized in an attempt to determine where they were stolen from.

The marine unit was on the water for one hour this week tagging at-risk vessels.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| New cases: | 9 |
| Cases assigned: | 3 |
| Cases suspended-no leads: | 4 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 1 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 1 |
| Cases referred back to patrol: | 0 |
| Supplements received: | 12 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 3 |
| Cases suspended-no leads: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded-no crime: | 0 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared: | 1 |
| Cases still active: | 8 |

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham was on vacation this week.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three theft cases, a burglary and a fraud; attempted to locate two suspects in a burglary case, and; attended a training course on the dark side of the internet.

School Resource Officer Motte counseled three students this week; met with the parents of two students; initiated a Baker Act; investigated and arrested a student for punching another student; assisted Officer Mills in the arrest of a third person in the gummy worm case; recovered a reported runaway; continued prepping the explorer team for state competition, and preparations for the summer multijurisdictional police explorer academy.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled the 2015 campus crime statistics for Chief Howard from Stetson College of Law; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC/NCIC, and; compiled and distributed a list of juveniles on felony probation living in Gulfport for our Reduce Adolescent Delinquency and Recidivism (R.A.D.A.R.) program.

Records

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed | 14 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 35 |
| Public Records requests: | 46 |
| Background checks: | 5 |
| Bike registrations: | 1 |
| Fingerprints | 0 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 34 |
| Citizens assisted: | 54 |

MARINA

Assisted in twenty seven (27) pump outs evacuating three hundred five (305) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand five hundred seventy three (3,573) gallons of gas and one thousand seven hundred sixty three (1,763) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred thirteen (113) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed six vessels of various type and size this week.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, April 11, 11 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Monday, April 11, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Monday, April 11, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*, facilitated by David Mather.

Tuesday, April 12, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, April 12, 1 p.m. - *Healing Thoughts Book Club.*

Tuesday, April 12, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club.*

Tuesday, April 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m. - *Poets of Gulfport.*

Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 13, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, April 13, 6 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 13, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, April 15, 11 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Friday, April 15, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, April 15, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. - *Earth Day Children's Activity:* Go green! We'll decorate reusable shopping bags for use as an alternative to disposable bags. This event is in part of the City's Junk in the Trunk event.

Monday, April 25, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night:* Alex invites everyone to share their varied talents. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology & the Art of Relationship:* Presented by Jennie Gilmore of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information email jennie@odetopluto.com or call 207-332-0787.

Tuesday, May 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of

the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulport.us for more information.

Saturday, May 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Selections intended for adults to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, May 10, 1 p.m. - *Healing Thoughts Book Club*: The group meets the second Tuesday of each month. If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body, this club is for you. For more information and title for discussion email klane@untieyourwings.com.

Tuesday, May 10, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club*. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month. Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Saturday, May 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Every Monday - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Informal gatherings to brush up on conversational skills. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to practice and improve. Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Monday - French; Tuesday - Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: 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! Email cklasson@mygulport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

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. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistics April 10 - 16, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,305 | 511 |
| Sun. 4/10 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 4/11 | 195 | 79 |
| Tue. 4/12 | 197 | 58 |
| Wed. 4/13 | 198 | 88 |
| Thu. 4/14 | 245 | 95 |
| Fri. 4/15 | 262 | 101 |
| Sat. 4/16 | 208 | 88 |

PARKS & RECREATION

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, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us.
- Continued preparation of May calendar.
- Continued updates on Social media sites.
- Continued training intern on app inputs.
- Attended weekly City App meeting.
- Updated calendar on City website.
- Continued contacting and registering Hurricane Seminar vendors.
- Finished May calendar and sent to printer.
- Filmed internal training video for Gulfport Police Department.
- Assisting with set up of Junk in the Trunk event.
- Commenced preparation of 2016/17 events list.
- Uploaded April 19 City Council meeting video to web and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Compiled informational items for Clam Bayou Forum.

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.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) 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 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, 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 Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **many 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.

Take a historic tour of Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, one of America's oldest and finest spa resorts during the next **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday, April 26. Could Safety Harbor, known to be a haven where "healing waters flow", be the Fountain of Youth that Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was looking for? Learn the rich history this resort was built upon. Enjoy lunch in the resort's Fountain Grille Restaurant. GEMS members \$15/nonmembers \$17. Price includes round trip transportation and guided tour. Lunch is ordered on individual tabs.

Help us welcome spring with hotdogs, sides, pink lemonade, music, & dancing during **2016 Spring Fling** on Wednesday April 27 at 2 p.m. Live entertainment provided by Danny Helou. Limit 2 complimentary tickets per person Tickets MUST be obtained PRIOR to the event.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure & health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next monthly **Mini Health Clinic** is April 28.

The Last Word - Writing an Obituary will be offered at the Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. every first & fourth Monday beginning in May. Learn the ins and outs of writing and placing an obituary in the local press from local writer, editor and instructor, Diane Craig. Call 893-5657 to register.

Learn to create a beautiful floral arrangement that will brighten your home during our next **Floral Design Class** on Tuesday, May 3 at 10 am. Call 893-5657 to register. Space is limited. Sponsored by Boca Ciega Center.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 3.

Learn what happens in the brain when you are grieving during the **Optimal Health Series with Heidi Crockett: Neurobiology, Grief, and the Brain** on Wednesday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Discover the great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on May 6 at 9 a.m.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is May 9. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** at 10 a.m. every second Monday of the month. The next meeting is May 9.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate May's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, May 27. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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.

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.

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 organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, April 10 6 p.m. - Yunta Brava Argentine Tango (Turnout 78)
- Tuesday, April 12 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 22)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 50)
- Wednesday, April 13 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 34)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 298)
- Thursday, April 14 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 26)
- Friday, April 15 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)
- Saturday, April 16 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 160)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
- Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
- Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
- Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Saturday April 23 6 p.m. - *St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society Ball*: Dance performance, dinner, cash bar. Dancing to The Dazzlers Duo. Tickets: \$40 for adults, \$25 for ages 12-21, and \$20 for kids under 12. Call the SPIFFS office at 552-1896 for tickets. Visit www.spiffs.org for more information.
- Sunday, April 24 5 p.m. - *Top Local Chef*: LocalShops1 signature event! Sample new dishes with oranges as the featured ingredient. Tasting Passes available at Beach Bazaar or online at www.localshops1.com/toplocalchef.

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

- Thursday, April 14 8 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 70)
- Friday, April 15 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 85)
- Saturday, April 16 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 117)

8 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 74)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday & Saturday, April 22 & 23, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 24, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Murder can be Habit Forming*, a mystery-comedy by Billy St. John. Tickets: \$16, available at Beach Bazaar, at the door within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

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

Sunday, April 10 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 26)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, April 12 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 14 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, April 10 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 12)

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

Monday, April 11 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 27)

Tuesday, April 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Friday, April 15 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Seven children have been registered for the **2016 Summer Recreation Program**. 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.

Seventy two children are registered for the **2015/16 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. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Fourteen children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten 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 the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Forty four teens are registered for the **2015/16 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, Karate, Japanese, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Yoga AM and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with Justin Shea and Mo from CASA on Monday afternoon to discuss the upcoming Movie in the Park.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 60 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarm
- 12 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Water Rescue
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Vehicle Fire

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections
- 1 Exit Consultation

The Gulfport Fire Department had an announced inspection by the Florida Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Division on April 18. They reviewed personnel and service records, facilities, all BLS & ALS vehicles and equipment. No deficiencies were found.

Chief Marenkovic attended a Data Driven Focus Group meeting on April 15 to discuss EMS Funding for FY16/17.

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their online April CME in Target Solutions this week. This month's topic is Pediatric Assessment, Diagnostic and Treatment.

Lt. Erick Fuchs taught CPR with AED Training to the Police Citizen Academy on April 7.

An American Heart Association monitor reviewed FD training facility and instructors on April 7 for renewal of our certification with American Heart Association.

Inspector Lundh attended a Fire Marshal meeting on April 21.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blocked toilets at Casino & Dog Park.
- Patched wall at Fire Department.
- Repaired front doors at City Hall.
- Repaired dance floor at Casino.
- Conferred with insurance adjuster to assess electrical damages at City Hall following severe weather.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City Buildings.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in ladies' restroom at Hoyt Field.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed dead trees, graded for sod and installed sidewalk at Dog Park.
- Removed graffiti from playground at Tonkin Park
- Installed two dog bag dispensers on Beach Boulevard.
- Delivered bus to Safety Tire for repair.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Clymer, Wood Ibis & Veterans Parks, Senior Center, Library, Trail Spur & Clam Bayou.
- Repaired irrigation at Library, Dog Park & Chase block.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center green spaces.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor and fuel lines on hedge trimmers.
- 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.
- 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 beach, 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, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Removed loads of debris from 49th Street holding area delivered to landfill.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Cleaned-up and removed debris from around Goodwill donation boxes.
- Installed new sidewalk at 6313 9th Avenue South
- Removed large tree and brush debris from Lincoln Cemetery
- Installed alley entrance radii on 29th Avenue.
- Replaced sidewalk on 58th Street at Wood Ibis Park, 55th Street & 20th Avenue, and 29th Avenue in front of Marina.
- Removed piles of brush from trail spur area.
- Poured new sidewalk at 49th Street & 14th Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at the Neighborhood Center
- Formed areas for new sidewalk at Dog Park and “Pocket Park”.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 9 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 94 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 14 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 4 old meters with new style electronic meters.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced section of 6” water main at 56th Street & 31st Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2 including (Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily rain fall check and documentation (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (including Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Police Station/City Hall.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 6137 13th Avenue.
- Replaced 8” sewer main line at 54th Street & 14th Avenue.

- Replaced 150' of 6" sewer line and installed clean-outs at Gulfport Library.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced cargo net on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Investigated overheating issue in Police vehicle #12.
- Delivered Fire Engine #P17 to Seminole for pump and valve repairs.
- Replaced battery in Parks Division Toro Groundskeeper.
- Replaced grabber belt on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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, 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 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets.

The number of code enforcement cases for March was 159. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 798. The number of citizen complaints for March was 7, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 52. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.5 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. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

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

May 11, 2016 Board of Adjustment:

V16-09; 1819 55th Street South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 11 feet, from 25 feet to 14 feet to allow for the continuation of an existing, unpermitted wooden front deck, handicapped ramp, and steps.

V16-10; 4740 Baywood Point Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 15.8 feet, from 18.8 feet to 3 feet to allow for the proposed installation of a new boat lift.

V16-11; 3128 59th Street South; Variance request to increase the fence height in the front yard setback area by one foot, from 4 feet to 5 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new 5 foot tall fence which will extend along the south property line for the entire length of the side property line which is adjacent to Shore Boulevard South.

V16-12; 5620 30th Avenue South; Variance request to:

1. Reduce the separation distance to the principal building by 5.5 feet, from 12 feet to 6.5 feet; and
2. Reduce the rear yard setback by 14 feet, from 15 feet to one foot to allow for the proposed razing of the existing garage and construction of a new two-story accessory structure with a garage on the ground floor, and living space with a storage area on the second floor.

V16-13; 5401 20th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 7 feet, from 12 feet to 5 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new, attached aluminum carport.