



Gulfport Community Update

April 19 - 25, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Large Dog Park is closed for maintenance through Monday, May 4. Large dogs may use the small dog park on Tuesday & Thursday. The park is open to small dogs on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Call Tim Connor at 893-1092 for more information.

Several teams helped raised funds for **Relay for Life** at the Michael J. Yakes Field on April 11 (photo below). Mayor Sam Henderson raised \$65 for the Pie in the Face and Councilmember Michael Fridovich raised \$20.



From Left to Right: Lori Rosso, Council Member Michael Fridovich, Mayor Sam Henderson, Artist Stephen Oliver, Councilmember Christine Brown, Scott Lindy, Susanne King and Chris Spencer

The City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Merchants Association celebrated the artwork of Stephen Oliver with a **ribbon cutting** in front of the Gulfport Casino on April 11. His work was installed in 2014.

Mr. Oliver is known by many Gulfport locals and visitors as the designer and vendor of the graphic Give Peace shirts and other garments he sells during Gulfport's Tuesday Fresh Market

and Art Walk. He has a degree in Architecture from New Jersey Institute of Technology and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Furniture Design from the Rhode Island School of Design, and has worked with numerous museums and artists coordinating and designing projects, residencies, exhibitions and public art as well as creating his own art. He lives part of the year in Maine. His family has roots in St. Petersburg, where his father and other family members still live. His grandfather, Henry Oliver Sr. was a prolific builder whose wife ran their small produce market in St. Petersburg. "Grandpa Oliver" also helped lay the brick streets of Gulfport during a building boom that began in 1923 and ended with the Great Depression.

Tickets for the **May 21 Tampa Bay Rays home game** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$25.00 ticket price includes transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and a 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 times begin at 5 p.m. from the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard to Tropicana Field. For more information call 893-1070.

The City of Gulfport is seeking Hurricane-related vendors and products for the City's annual **Hurricane Seminar** scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. For more information call 893-1118 or email gbiron@mygulfport.us.

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

Come hungry as the **Gulfport Lions Club All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, May 9 beginning at 7 a.m. The Gulfport Lion's Club overlooks Boca Ciega Bay at 4630 Tifton Drive. Admission: \$5 at the door. All proceeds benefit eye-related organizations, Scouts, Little League and many other community organizations.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	129
Self-initiated calls for service	438
Offenses	37

Arrests	7
Traffic citations	35

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident called police early April 16 and stated that his girlfriend was outside his house in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue, banging on his doors and windows. Since she did not live there, she was escorted off the property at the request of the resident.

A woman was found sleeping in the McDonald's restroom by the manager. He woke her and realized she was intoxicated. Police issued her a written trespass warning at the manager's request.

A newspaper delivery person noticed that one of his customers, a 90 year-old man had not been taking in the papers for several days and decided to check him. After knocking on the door, he discovered it was unlocked and the resident deceased inside. An investigation revealed the death was due to natural causes.

A resident in the 2900 block of Clinton Street reported he left the keys to his Cadillac in his visitors' unlocked car parked in his driveway. Someone entered the car, took the keys and stole the Cadillac.

A resident in the 5200 Block of 9th Avenue reported that a white pickup truck struck his mailbox and did not stop. Officer Nicita saw a truck matching the description 2 days later and spoke with the driver. He was 16 years old and admitted he hit the mailbox and did not stop because he did not have a license, and he was scared. He was issued 2 traffic citations.

Officers responded to the 5600 Block of Gulfport Boulevard regarding a woman stumbling down the street. They made contact with her and determined that she was a danger to herself due to her level of intoxication. There was no immediate family in the area so she was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act.

Steven Delgado was arrested after he and his brother followed the boyfriend of his child's mother to work in an attempt to take the woman's car. An altercation ensued, and Steven punched the boyfriend.

A resident in the 5600 Block of 14th Avenue reported that a female acquaintance refused to leave his house. She was very intoxicated and argumentative with responding officers. She was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act.

Officers assisted SPPD with locating three males who fled on foot from a stolen vehicle at 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard on April 20. One was located hiding in a storage area in the backyard of a residence. He was charged with trespassing.

A resident in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue reported on April 21 that his nonworking scooter was stolen from his front yard overnight.

An officer was dispatched to the 1700 block of 53rd Street after someone cut two large holes into the soft top of a convertible. A change purse with loose change was taken. A lighter recovered from inside the vehicle was sent for processing.

An officer responded to a call regarding an unoccupied vehicle parked on the complainant's property in the 4900 block of 28th Avenue. Upon further observation, officers observed a bag of marijuana on the driver seat of the vehicle. Contact was made with the driver who attempted to hide the bag. The driver admitted ownership of the marijuana and was issued a notice to appear in court for a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Sergeant Parks stopped a man riding a motor scooter without a license plate in the 4600 block of 26th Avenue on April 22. Antonio Rondinelli had never registered the scooter. Rondinelli, who moved to Florida in early March also failed to obtain a Florida driver's license within 30 days of

gaining employment in the state, and was arrested on two misdemeanor charges. The scooter was impounded.

Michael Blair was arrested for making a false report of a crime after he claimed the officer who arrested him in December 2014 threw him forcefully onto the floor of his police car, dragged him across the ground, and kicked him unconscious. In-car video footage of the arrest indicated there was no force by the officer, who was very professional and courteous to Mr. Blair.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 5.5 hours this week, and 13 contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

<i>New Cases:</i>	17
Cases Assigned:	08
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	06
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	00
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	00
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	02
Cases Rejected back to patrol:	01
<i>Supplements Received:</i>	24
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	04
“Previously” Cleared With Arrest	03
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	01
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	01
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	00
Cases Still Active:	16

Detective Pham followed up on several tips in two homicide cases; closed two stolen vehicle cases by arrest, and; made an arrest in a grand theft case.

Detective Crowson investigated a suspicious incident regarding possible stolen kayaks. Upon investigation, no kayaks were reported stolen. She also investigated a complaint of a sexual predator hanging around elementary schools in St. Petersburg, and; attended a deposition in a burglary case.

School Resource Officer Motte took four explorers to the Florida Association of Police Explorers Delegates meeting this weekend where they learned about first aid and first response; hosted the Monday night explorer meeting, and attended trauma/first aid/CPR training.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a simple battery case in which an arrest was made; assisted a SPPD detective with a student for whom the detective had criminal charges; assisted Pinellas Park PD with truant students; assisted Officer Novak in a civil issue; responded to two disturbances; spoke with a student regarding an issue he was having; spoke with two parents regarding a fight off campus involving their children, and; spoke with a student regarding a fight that happened off campus.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano updated the cost recovery amounts to be used when restitution is requested; conducted a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number for proper documentation of entry into FCIC/NCIC; completed pawn checks on 15 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description and issued alerts for four serial numbers, and; assisted Sergeant Woodman with a homicide investigation.

The Special Enforcement Team and CIS conducted a joint operation with Florida Department of Correction Probation & Parole, checking on several probationers and searching houses. Four arrests were made, and 1 charge of violation of curfew is pending.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	20
Supplements reviewed:	43
Public records requests:	88
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	19
Citizens assisted:	44

Professional Standards

Captain Vic Neal from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Master Officer Tammy Farnham from the Stuart Police Department, and Accreditation Specialist Brenda Medel from the Orange County Sheriff's Office were onsite for three days this week for review of our policies, procedures and operations. They interviewed sixteen PD staff members and reviewed 258 files to evaluate compliance with established professional standards. During the exit interview, the team indicated they found nothing out of compliance and nothing requiring corrective action. Their report to the Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation will recommend that GPD be reaccredited.

The full Commission will review the report and vote at their meeting in Orlando in June. If GPD is reaccredited without conditions, we will join the sixteen other municipal law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida that have achieved Excelsior designation which recognizes five consecutive unconditional reaccreditations and represents a minimum commitment of fifteen years.

MARINA

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

Pumped three thousand seven hundred two (3,702) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred forty two (1,642) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty four (134) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 33' motorboat, 30' motorboat, 32' sailboat, two 29' sailboats and a 34' catamaran this week.

Staff activities:

- Cleaned and inspected sumps, gas and diesel pumps.
- Trimmed rebar at boat ramp.
- Installed cover on dock box in BCYC.
- Replaced 30-amp outlet on transient dock, hose & shut off valve on fuel dock, and piling caps on pier two.

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 on City website.
- Continued preparations for St. Pete Pride Parade & 5k, and Rays Trolley promo.
- Provided control room coverage for April 21 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Provided photographic coverage of art dedication at Casino.
- Confirmed staffing for Relay for Life.
- Trained new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.

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 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.

Help us welcome Spring with hotdogs, pink lemonade, music, & dancing at the **Spring Fling** on Wednesday, April 29 at 3 p.m. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE. Tickets must be obtained prior to event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Check out the great deals the at the **First Friday Flea Market end of season sale** May 1, 9 a.m. - noon.

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.

Is there a way to have clutter and still be organized? Join Beth of Redefined Living for **Organizing & Decluttering** on Wednesday May 6 at 2 p.m.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. Topic for May 11 meeting: *Medicare Special Enrollment Periods*.

Ladies, spoil yourself and enjoy an elegant & fun afternoon at **Mother's Day High Tea** on Monday, May 11 at 3 p.m. Hats & gloves are encouraged but not required. Bring photos of your

children & grandchildren to share. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE. Tickets must be obtained prior to event.

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 May 11. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Learn to use thoughts to change your life and to free yourself from an inner or external dialogue that is no longer beneficial during **Law of Attraction: The Power of Your Thoughts** on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution return at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 14 for the monthly **Cell Phone Q&A**. Bring your cell phone & ask your questions!

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

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, April 12 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 86) |
| Tuesday, April 14 | Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 15)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 52) |
| Wednesday, April 15 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 280) |
| Thursday, April 16 | 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 32) |

Friday, April 17 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 254)

Saturday, April 18 6:p.m. - SPIFFS Annual International Ball (Turnout 250)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, April 12 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Play On*
(Turnout 50)

Thursday, April 16 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 24)

Friday, April 17 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 44)

Saturday, April 18 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 44)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, April 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 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, April 12 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, April 14 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 16 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)

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, April 13 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 15)

Tuesday, April 14 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 15 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 15)

Thursday, April 16 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, April 17 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, April 13, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, April 14, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 15, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 15, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, April 15, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 15, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 16, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame over coffee & light refreshments, facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Friday, April 17, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll 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.

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 April 12 - 18, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	758	529
Sun. 4/12	Library closed	
Mon. 4/13	132	85
Tue. 4/14	139	90
Wed. 4/15	109	78
Thu. 4/16	191	92
Fri. 4/17	97	82
Sat. 4/18	75	78

Recreation Center

The Multipurpose room was rented 3-7 p.m. Saturday, April 18 for a baby shower with fifty (50) in attendance.

The Multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday April 25 for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Registration is underway for the **2015 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.

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 four (74) 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, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the 4th of July planning meeting at the Casino on Wednesday morning. She also met with Jim O'Reilly, Gail Biron and Guy Balson on Thursday afternoon to discuss a planned movie shoot at the Recreation Center.

Shanoah Washington-Davis worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 53 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crash
- 2 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Wires Down
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 4 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O.'s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, May 21. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department continued their April CME face to face training for Part II of Airway Management this week.

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Advanced Life Support (PALS) meeting at East Lake Fire District Station 57 on April 21.
- Chief Marenkovic and City Manager James O'Reilly met with the IAFF 4966 for the Union negotiation meeting on April 22.
- Inspector Lundh attended a site plan review with Stetson Law College, Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh performed a walk-thru and met with a Tisdale Construction rep.
- Inspector Lundh performed a Final FACP test with the new Stetson administration site.
- Chief Marenkovic has ordered copies of the 2015 Hurricane Guide for distribution at City Hall, Gulfport Library and the Fire Station. The Atlantic Basin Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed security fencing around police parking area bike compound.
- Performed semi-annual maintenance on all City a/c units.
- Set-up rooms for daily activities at Senior Center.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in handicap stall, and soap dispenser in ladies restroom at beach.
- Assembled large Cabinet for Finance Director's Office.
- Replaced flooring in Fire Station bunk room.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Closed dog large Dog Park for in preparation for sod work.
- Replaced lights on 49th Street welcome signs.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at recreation center and beach.
- Repaired bench at Tomlinson Park playground.
- Replaced worn flags at City facilities.
- Replaced several electrical outlets along Clymer Greenway.
- Removed trash & debris from Clymer Greenway following Springfest, and delivered tents & games to Recreation Center in preparation for Relay for Life event.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Recreation Center, Veterans Park and City complex, and raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Recreation Center, beach & Marina green spaces, City Complex, Wood Ibis, Tomlinson, Clam Bayou & Clymer Parks, trail spur, Tangerine Greenway, Senior Center & Library grounds.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced carburetor & fuel lines on backpack blower.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex & along 49th Streetscape, and replaced irrigation clock on 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.
- Removed seaweed from beach.
- Replaced posts and “Do Not Enter” signs Beach & Gulfport Boulevard and STOP sign in Police compound.
- Installed disabled parking signs at Tangelo’s Grille & Beach Haus Restaurant.

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 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 2 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 111 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 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 2 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 30 backflow devices due in April.
- Repaired water breaks at 19th Avenue & 59th Street, 5727½ 30th Avenue & 5437 Delete 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.
- Watered new sod at Dog Park daily.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Flushed cooling system and replaced exhaust hangers GEMS vehicle #3.
- Reattached battery cable in, and replaced upper control arm in Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Recycle vehicle #40.
- Replaced battery/DEF tray on Fire vehicle #E17.
- Disassembled and replaced exhaust filter unit on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Repaired A/C in Police vehicle #102.
- Patched tire on Police vehicle #12.
- 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.

Beginning in May Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits. To review 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.

May 13, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

V15-15; 2833 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 8 feet 8 inches, from 26 feet 4 inches to 17 feet 8 inches to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.

V15-16; 3001 York Street South; Variance request to:

1. reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.14 feet, from 6 feet to 4.86 feet; and
2. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 22 feet, from 25 feet to 3 feet to allow for the construction a screen enclosure.