



Gulfport Community Update

April 20 - 26, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Vice Mayor Christine Brown welcomed an estimated 500 children to the Egg Hunt kicking off this year's /Stetson College of Law Public Fellows **Fun in the Sun** event at the Gulfport Recreation Center on April 19 (photos below). Thank you to City staff, organizations, support sponsors and volunteers who help make this annual event possible: Bayflite Aeromedical Team, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, Florida Highway Patrol, Gulfport C.E.R.T., Sunstar Paramedics American Legion, American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Freeman Irrigation, Gulf Fresh Seafood, Gulfport Lions Club, Harris Vending, Mend It Asphalt, Reeds Auto Care, Safety Tire, Southwest Pinellas Storage, Gulfport Teen Council and Stetson College of Law.



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 fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

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:

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.

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. Round up your unwanted clothes and visit the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard during Fresh Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

Enjoy unique shopping, entertainment and dinner at **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on May, 2 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

The City of Imagination will host the **Building Myths with Brandi Palmer and Dorian Angello Art Exhibit** on Friday, May 2, 6 - 9 p.m. at 2726 54th Street. For more information call 321-1786.

Dance like it was yesterday with live music by the Impacs during the **St. Jude Knights of Columbus Sock Hop** at the Gulfport Casino on Friday, May 2, 6 - 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar. Call 523-8025 for more information.

Check out the amenities at the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Funday Open House** on Saturday, May 3, 1 4 p.m. This annual event is open to public with free sailboat rides, hot dogs & soda, door prizes and information about the club. 4600 Tifton Drive. For more information visit www.sailbcyc.org.

Join us at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3 for the **Sunsation Show Chorus Singin' the Blues for You**. Tickets: \$15 available at the Gulfport Casino or online at www.sunsationshowchorus.com.

Bring your appetite to the **Lions Club Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, May 10, 7 - 11 a.m. and eat all you can for just \$5. The Lion's Den is located at 4630 Tifton Drive.

Get your friends or organization together for the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, May 10. Volunteers will meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4 at 9 a.m.

Looking to get rid of some stuff and don't know where to start? Join the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport at the **Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring proof of Gulfport residency (driver license or utility bill) and furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for disposal. Firearms, drugs, liquor, plants, paints, chemicals, or batteries cannot be accepted. Enjoy a cup of coffee during "Java with Josh (Lieutenant Josh Stone) and Zack" (Community Resource Officer Zack Mills). Parents registering their children's bikes will receive a free child's helmet. Join the Gulfport Neighbors network of volunteers: inspiring, motivating and uniting our neighbors to improve the quality of life in Gulfport. For more information call 893-1118.

Gulfport City facilities will be closed Monday, May 26 in observation of **Memorial Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Get informed to be prepared during the **City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5502 27th Avenue on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Pizza will be available in the Theater lobby for \$3 a slice beginning at 5 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	148
Officer initiated calls for service	366
Offenses	45
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	42

Significant incidents or calls this week:

The Police Department removed four small boats in violation of City ordinances from the Casino area on April 17.

Nicole Sage was arrested for Exploitation of the Elderly on April 18 after her elderly neighbor asked her to deposit a large check into his bank account. She instead deposited the money into her own account and used it for personal purchases.

A resident reported that she received a voicemail from someone claiming to be with the IRS stating she owed money and threatening her with arrest. Officers advised her the call was a scam, and to not respond.

Officers responded to a 911 call originating in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the morning of April 19 regarding a subject armed with a Taser. Two individuals had a verbal altercation and one of them did have a Taser, but the unarmed subject indicated that he was not in fear. Therefore no crime occurred.

An unknown subject made entry to an unlocked vehicle in the 2700 block of 47th Street and stole 4 prepaid cell phones and 2 bags of potato chips. Recovered from the vehicle were a pair of gloves and a pair of shorts that were taken in another vehicle burglary in the area.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of Tangerine Avenue on the afternoon of April 19 after a juvenile stole a bicycle from another juvenile. When he resisted, the suspect hit him. A second suspect stole a foot scooter. Both juveniles were located and arrested, and the bicycle and scooter were recovered.

There were seven reported vehicle burglaries on the north side of the City between April 19 & 20. In nearly every case the vehicle was left unlocked. Items stolen included GPS devices.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 49th Street on the evening of April 20 after a caller reported that her boyfriend was drunk and had pushed her into a door, causing damage to the door. The subject became belligerent when officers made contact with him. He was arrested.

Officer Lavigne ran a vehicle tag and discovered the registered owner had an outstanding warrant for theft. The vehicle's owner was arrested.

A resident in the 5100 block of 12th Avenue reported that was away from home for a few hours and when she returned, a Play Station 3 and a tablet computer were missing. It was determined that the resident likely forgot to lock her door when she left.

A man walked into a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening afternoon of April 22, gathered several items into a basket, and walked out of the store making no attempt to pay. Officers are using video from store security cameras in an effort to identify the suspect.

An unknown subject threw a large concrete brick into a residence in the 1400 block of York Street on the evening of April 21, nearly striking the resident. There were no witnesses. The brick was submitted to the lab for touch DNA.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of 6th Place South on the evening of April 23 regarding three male juveniles peering into car windows. Upon arrival, they observed the three running through a carport toward the Pinellas Trail. A short foot pursuit ensued but the males jumped the fence and run away. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) K9 unit conducted a track but was not able to locate the suspects. A PCSO helicopter also assisted.

The Marine Unit was on display during the *Fun in the Sun Day* event on April 19.

Investigations:

New Cases:	24
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases referred back to patrol:	4
Supplements Received:	13
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest	0
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	11

Detective Hanh Pham completed several supplements and interviewed Ernest Robinson at the Pinellas County Jail, completing an arrest affidavit for burglary. Additionally, Detective Pham conducted several follow-up investigations outside City limits, spoke by phone with victims and witnesses in several cases, checked pawn database for reported stolen items and administered the Physical Abilities Test to 10 officers and 8 applicants.

Detective Jennifer Crowson attempted to locate two suspects in two separate burglaries and completed a probable cause affidavit for one. She also determined that a fraud case did not occur or originate in Gulfport due to evidence that disproved the victim's allegations.

School Resource Officer Motte checked the school for students who are currently listed as runaways but located none, mediated an altercation preventing a fight, and mentored a student. On Friday Officer Motte assisted patrol since school was closed for a holiday.

Resource Officer Langston worked a patrol shift on April 18 and assisted with a narcotics violation that occurred at the school. The incident was handled by the school and Officer Langston submitted the narcotics to be destroyed, and completed a report. She also assisted with a theft investigation that Officer Motte had completed and submitted a supplement, and; volunteered to instruct the Police Explorers during their weekly meeting.

Analyst Palmisano completed an update of the investigative cost recovery amounts to be used when an arrest is made; completed a request made by the Gulfport Gabber, and; started a review of hit and run crash reports for Lt. Farrand.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	50
Public records requests:	53
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	60

MARINA

Pumped one thousand eight hundred thirty two (1,832) gallons of gas, and one thousand five hundred twenty nine (1,529) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy nine (79) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed 2 40' sailboats, a 33' motorboat, 37' catamaran, 43' sailboat and a 30' motorboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Secured deck boards on transient dock.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Replaced lights on fuel dock.
- Installed new water hoses in dry storage area.
- Purchased "No combustion zone" buoy.

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.
- Delivered weekly City information to Tuesday Market coordinators.
- Provided photographic coverage for Fun in the Sun and Earth Day events.
- Met with Oral Cancer event organizers to discuss equipment set up, and relayed information to Parks staff.
- Continued preparations for Hurricane Seminar.

Multipurpose Center

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

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

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.

Don't miss the final **First Friday Flea Market** of the season on May 2, 9 a.m. - noon.

Grab your sombrero and head down to the Senior Center **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta** at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 6 for a taco bar, dancing and fun! Tickets are \$8 each, and **MUST** be purchased in advance.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is May 6. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers free **Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is May 8.

Tony & Christine from the **Cell Phone Solution** will visit the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 8 to answer questions about smart phones. Bring your cell phone and questions.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

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.

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 May 12. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Get ready for Hurricane Season with a special **Paper Organization: Are You Prepared in the Event of a Crisis** informational program at 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 12. This program provides valuable tips on organizing paperwork you'll need in the event of a major event.

Enjoy a laid back day at the beach then stop at the Don Cesar Hotel for a guided tour during our next **Gulfport Getaway** to Pass-a-Grille on Tuesday, May 13. Call GEMS at 893-2242 before May 8 to reserve your seat. GEMS Members \$13/Nonmembers \$15

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

Life coach Kathy Lane returns on Wednesday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the relationship between our thoughts, beliefs, & emotions and ways to release that emotional baggage during the **Law of Attraction: The Emotion Code** informational seminar.

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, May 15, 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' May birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 16. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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 May 29.

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, April 13	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 52)
Tuesday, April 15	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 39)
Wednesday, April 16	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 264)
Thursday, April 17	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 25)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Sunday, April 27	5 p.m. - Top Local Chef Competition
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*)

Sunday, April 13	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 170)
Thursday, April 17	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 48)
Friday, April 18	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 70)
Saturday, April 19	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 84)

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

Sunday, April 13	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 31) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, April 15	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Thursday, April 17	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)
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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, April 14	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 9) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 22)
Tuesday, April 15	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 9)
Wednesday, April 16	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 14)
Thursday, April 17	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 5)
Friday, April 18	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

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

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, April 14, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, April 14, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Monday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Teen Leadership Workshop.*

Tuesday, April 15, 9 a.m. - *Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library BOD meeting.*

Tuesday, April 15, 11:30 a.m. - *Library Workers Appreciation Day luncheon.*

Tuesday, April 15, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 16, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, April 16, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, April 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* discussion of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* over coffee & light refreshments.

Friday, April 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, May 8, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws:* Young readers share brief stories with Maya the very friendly certified reading therapy dog. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Friday, May 9, 3 p.m. - Local Author Ani Crane reads from her work.

Thursday, May 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck 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.

Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Garden Club Program:* Orchids & Epiphytes, learn how they benefit & beautify our world! Presented by the Pinellas County Extension Service.

Saturday, May 17, 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.

Thursday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. - *Introduction to Plant Identification:* Want to learn how to identify some of our wonderful Florida plants? Join a UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension specialist and examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well. For more information call James Stevenson at 453-6967.

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 April 13 - 19, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,121	710
Sun. 4/13	Library closed	
Mon. 4/14	413	129
Tue. 4/15	386	119
Wed. 4/16	280	113
Thu. 4/17	461	147
Fri. 4/18	321	102
Sat. 4/19	242	91

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. Twelve (12) Tot Time/VPK participants and sixteen (16) adults visited the Tsunami Restaurant in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

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

Ninety (90) 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

Alton Hooker drove the school bus to Tampa on Friday for an annual maintenance inspection.

Marivel Gutierrez, John Lapham, Nicole Latragna, Joanne McRoberts, Kimberly Titara, Montana Brightbill, Ariel Storch, Asaph Graham and Shanoah Washington worked the *Fun in the Sun Day* event on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed one Summer Program Recreation Leader applicant on Tuesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport twelve Tot Time/VPK Program participants and sixteen adults to Tsunami Restaurant on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Glenn Gentsch, Savannah Roderick and Abigail Zigmund volunteered at the *Fun in the Sun Day* event on Saturday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 9 closed
- Water payments: 954 totaling \$147,996.50
- Utility bills mailed 4/23/14: 1310
- Online water payments: 165 transactions totaling \$9,060.24
- Accounts Payable 4/18/2014: 740 transactions totaling \$617,795.65
- Mail processed: 1054 pieces totaling \$1,234.22
- Purchasing Card: 239 transactions totaling \$28,085.70

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 1 Re-Inspection
- 1 C.O.
- 2 Smoke Detector Installations

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Trimline Signs Inc. installed a CERT decal and City Logo on the trailer. Thank you to American Legion Post 125 for helping us with the project.

Staff Activities:

- Gulfport Firefighter/Paramedics are completing the St. Petersburg College April CME Final Testing for International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Recertification. These comprehensive courses are designed for providers who are first to evaluate and stabilize

the trauma patient. The courses provide complete training in the skills needed for rapid assessment, resuscitation, stabilization and transportation of trauma patients.

- Lt. Poirrier and Chief Marenkovic attended ePCR training for QA Workflow, NIFRS Troubleshooting, Event Review Pro, ZDMC access using Citrix and EMSTARS reports at Pinellas County EMS this week.
- St. Petersburg College EMS program student Lucy Hamilton continues her ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Gerard Grady on the "C"-shift.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed low voltage wire in conduit in Casino a/c room.
- Transported dinghy from behind Casino to Marina for Police Department.
- Replaced plug on light fixture at Library.
- Relocated several filing cabinets at Senior Center.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Replaced ballast in light fixture at garage.
- Delivered outgoing mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Loaded and dropped off barricades, generators, extensions cords, etc. at Recreation Center for Fun in the Sun event.
- Replaced flags at Veterans Park.
- Repaired decking on Veterans Park dock and swing bench behind Recreation Center.
- Oiled exercise equipment, hung playground signs and anchored picnic table to playground at Caldwell Park.
- Removed graffiti from pier trashcans, Tomlinson playground equipment and pavilion behind Recreation Center.
- Cleaned shop and reorganized irrigation parts.
- Repaired/replaced cigarette butt cans at beach pavilions.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced belts on reel mowers.
- Repaired irrigation at Library, Clymer Park, Caldwell Park and Neighborhood Center.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed hedges, weeded, cleaned & mulched planter beds & grounds at Senior Center and City Complex.
- Mowed & trimmed City complex, Library, Neighborhood Center, 28th Street and Tangerine signage areas, Beach complex green spaces, Recreation Center grounds, York & 49th Street termini and Lions Club grounds.
- 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.
- Cleaned storm water box and reset lid at 58th Street & 20th Avenue.
- Delivered garbage and recycling bins to Recreation Center in preparation for *Fun in the Sun* event, and distributed sanitation & recycling services information during event.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced “One Way” sign and post at 54th Street & Essex Avenue.
- Painted “No Parking” stripes on Shore Boulevard-in front of inlet near Casino.
- Relocated materials at the 49th Street holding area to create space for new millings.
- Set grade and added fill to alleyways at Clinton Street & 31st Avenue, 1502 55th Street, and in alley at 49th Street, between 30th & 31st Avenues.
- Removed twelve old signs & posts on Freemont Street between 7th & 11th Avenue and at 59th Street & 9th Avenue per direction.
- Removed old crosswalk signs at 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard per County request.
- Installed parking signs on 54th Street between 29th Avenue & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Installed “No Parking” sign at Beach parking lot.

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 #45, 46, 37 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 41 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 92 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired water break at 2321 49th Street.
- Installed new 2” waterline from 49th Street to 51st 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced right side bucket articulating hydraulic cylinder on backhoe.
- Repaired front brakes on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced door latch assembly on GEMS bus #08.
- Repaired P.T.O. throttle electrical circuit and replaced A/C blower motor on Sanitation truck #43.

- Replaced broken grabber arm on Sanitation truck #42.
- 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:

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 continue in 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.

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 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. 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.

May 14, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-05; 2313 52nd Street South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement from by 8', from 25' to 17', to allow for the construction of a proposed extension of a bedroom with a bay window.
- V14-06; 2515 51st Way South; Variance request to:
 - 1) Reduce the front yard setback requirement by 1 foot, from 25 feet to 24 feet for the addition to an existing bedroom; and
 - 2) Reduce the front yard setback requirement by 19 feet, from 25 feet to 6 feet for the addition of a proposed screen room.
- V14-07; 5952 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to:
 - 1) Reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 15.17 feet, from 26.67 feet to 11.5 feet to allow for the proposed addition of a boat lift and 2.5 foot wide catwalk; and
 - 2) To reduce the right-hand one third setback requirement by 11.17 feet, from 26.76 feet 15.5 feet to allow the proposed construction of a 2.5 foot wide catwalk.

- V14-08; 5920 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 24 feet, from 45 feet to 21 feet to allow for a proposed extension to an existing dock and a 3 foot wide new catwalk which services a proposed boat lift that will be installed in the center one-third of the waterfront property.
- V14-09; 3043 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the number of required parking spaces by 3, from 5 to 2, for the use of the structure which is proposed to include an artist studio/gallery, one residential unit, and one transient accommodation unit.