



Gulfport Community Update

April 24 - 30, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport residents got into the spirit of Earth Day weekend, tossing, trading and donating unwanted household items during **Junk in the Trunk** on April 23 (photos below). Eight participants including Mayor Henderson signed up for the JITT Flip Flea Market Challenge. Their creations will be available for purchase at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard during First Friday Art Walk on May 6.



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:

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 **May 25 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Miami Marlins** 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. All Rays fans with 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, 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.

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	168
Self-initiated calls for service	279
Offenses	45
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	45
Ordinance violations	32

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5200 block of 17th Avenue on April 21 after a resident observed a black male rummaging through his unlocked car. The suspect then crossed the street and attempted to steal a bicycle from a front porch. The resident chased him from the area before police arrived.

A resident in the 3100 block of 49th Street reported that FedEx delivered a package addressed to someone who does not live at the home. The return address was not valid. Officers took possession of the package and discovered it contained a pound of marijuana.

A resident in the 4600 block of 29th Avenue filed a missing persons report on April 22 after her brother and 2 friends launched his sailboat from the Gulfport Marina to sail to Cuba. She became concerned after not hearing from them in several days. The three were located at Tampa Airport on April 26. They got lost at sea trying to get to Cuba, and returned to Florida.

A caller reported that an acquaintance hit a car parked in the 5400 Block of Shore Boulevard and left the scene. The suspect was located at her home and issued a citation for leaving the scene of the crash and driving with a suspended license with knowledge.

Officers were dispatched to the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard on April 24 after a caller reported that someone had slashed two tires on his vehicle. Upon investigation, police learned that two of the subject's friends had let the air out of the tires and there was no damage. No criminal charges were necessary.

The GPD Patrol Operations Commander was in the right place at the right time when two young males approached an elderly man on 49th Street and asked him to purchase narcotics. They fled into St. Petersburg when they saw the police car approaching.

A resident in the 6200 Block of 13th Avenue reported a vehicle crash in which two mailboxes, a utility pole, and a lamp cemented into the ground in his front yard were damaged. The suspects fled the scene, and the case is under investigation.

Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard during which a man hit another in the face. Both parties were intoxicated and medical attention was refused.

Rhett Russenberger was arrested for simple battery on April 25 after he struck a patron with a beer glass at a business in the 5400 Shore Boulevard. Two police officers vacationing from out of state chased him but lost sight of him. He returned to the bar where he was arrested.

A car was reported stolen from a residence in the 5400 block of Essex Avenue after the owner turned on the ignition and went back inside his home. Security video from across the street shows a suspect leaving in the car after walking past it 2 minutes prior.

A resident in the 5200 block of 12th Avenue reported on April 26 that her daughter met a male subject at a local store and brought him home. The woman was not home at the time and stated that her daughter told her the subject stole her purse and left on a silver and red bike.

A resident in the 5200 block of 12th Avenue reported on April 27 that the tag from her vehicle was stolen. She believes it was taken the day before when her grandson's vehicle was stolen from the same location.

A resident in the 2900 Block of 45th Street reported that she saw several juveniles around a car near her residence. Officers observed the car parked in an odd manner and the key on the passenger seat. The owner resides in St. Petersburg. St. Pete Police contacted the owner who advised it had been stolen.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 Block of 56th Street after a caller observed a man with a purse enter a car the witness knew did not belong to him. Officer Lavigne located the suspect, identified as Justin Lefevre who is on felony probation for theft. As a condition of his probation he is confined to his residence. He was arrested for probation violation, and identified by the witness. Lefevre is believed to have been involved in three other burglaries in the area. Those vehicles were processed for evidence.

Officer Heaton attempted to stop James White for riding an unregistered mini bike while wearing ear buds. Heaton drove onto the sidewalk and fled. He left the bike on a front porch near 57th Street & Newton Avenue and attempted to walk away. Ofc. Priest spotted him leaving the yard and he was arrested for DWLSR and fleeing.

A resident in the 1900 Block of 56th Street reported that she was approached from behind by a juvenile who took her iPhone from her hand and ran away. The victim identified him through his Facebook page, and he was in possession of the phone when located. He was arrested and the phone was returned to the victim.

While Officer Hutsko was investigating a theft in the 1700 Block of 55th Street, he discovered 2 juveniles that he knew were on probation. They were court ordered to be at home from 7 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. and were not to be together. They were arrested for violating their probation.

The marine unit was on the water for six hours this week. Six boater contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	4
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	1

Supplements received:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	15

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a Grand theft auto case, an identity theft/fraud and a burglary; conducted pawn checks and sex offender checks, and; attended training for a new data sharing resource.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, an auto theft, a fraud, a vehicle burglary, a death investigation and an information report; attempted to locate and question suspects a in vehicle burglary case and an auto theft; attended training for a new data sharing resource, and; verified addresses of registered sex offenders.

School Resource Officer Motte completed two police reports; counseled 4 students; met with the parent of a student; initiated two Baker Acts taught the Monday night police explorer meeting, and; finalized plans for the summer Florida Association of Police Explorers State Competition where he will be taking the top six explorers to compete in several events.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano created a bulletin for Ofc. Marshall regarding recovered stolen property; created a bulletin for Ofc. Heaton and Ofc. Priest in an attempt to ID a suspect in the burglary of 2 vehicles and a stolen bicycle; compiled the monthly officer activity report for Cmdr. Farrand, and; attended training for a new data sharing resource.

Records

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	61
Public Records requests:	59
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	7
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	42

MARINA

Assisted in forty one (41) pump outs evacuating six hundred twenty (620) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand nine hundred seventy nine (4,979) gallons of gas and one thousand eight hundred twenty seven (1,827) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred forty nine (149) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed ten 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 18, 9:30 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Monday, April 18, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigator Information Session.*

Monday, April 18, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Monday, April 18, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, April 19, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 20, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, April 20, 6 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 20, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, April 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Swampandia* by Karen Russell over coffee & light refreshments.

Thursday, April 21, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport* workshop.

Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. - *Mad Hatter Tea Party in the Garden.*

Friday, April 22, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, April 22, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. - *Earth Day Children's Activity.*

Upcoming Events:

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@mygulfport.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, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Co-hosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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.

Thursday, May 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Bad Monkey* by Carl Hiaasen. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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@mygulfpport.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. - *Gulfpport Writers* meeting.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfpport 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 17 - 23, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,208	461
Sun. 4/17	Library closed	
Mon. 4/18	148	68
Tue. 4/19	205	83
Wed. 4/20	198	57
Thu. 4/21	225	83
Fri. 4/22	256	86
Sat. 4/21	176	75

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.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 mygulfpport.us and social media sites.
- Continued training intern on app inputs and attended weekly City App meeting.
- Continued contacting and registering Hurricane Seminar vendors.

- Distributed May calendar at Tuesday Market and all City facilities.
- Facilitated Junk in the Truck event.
- Set up A/V equipment for Clam Bayou forum.
- Facilitated data entry of May events to GTV640 and web calendar.
- Continued working on 2016-2017 events list.
- Continued preparing informational items for May 3 Movie in the Park event.

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.

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.

The Gulfport Senior Center invites moms to a **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** on Monday, May 9 at 3 p.m. Fancy dresses, hats, gloves, and pearls are welcome but not required. Bring a picture of your children and/or grandchildren to share. Space is limited. Tickets must be obtained in advance.

Find out if you're eligible for a free caption phone that displays text of conversations on a touchscreen when **Clear Captions** visits the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 10.

Do you experience tingling, numbness, throbbing, swelling, aching, pain, or cramping in your legs or feet? You may be one of the 20 million Americans suffer who from neuropathy. Join us for **Why Do My Legs Hurt?** on Wednesday, May 11 at 2:30 p.m. to learn what neuropathy is and how you can get help. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Premier Vein Institute.

Downtown Dunedin is self-proclaimed to be the "Best Kept Secret in Tampa Bay." With many unique shops, art galleries and award-winning restaurants, you would be hard-pressed to not find something to enjoy. Don't miss out on a chance to explore this quaint and vibrant downtown during our next **Gulfport Getaway** on Thursday, May 12. Reserve your seat by May 5. GEMS members \$18 and nonmembers \$20. Price includes roundtrip transportation.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, May 12 at 10:30 a.m.

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):

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|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 17 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 38) |
| Tuesday, April 19 | Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 21)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 59) |
| Wednesday, April 20 | 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 35)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 265) |
| Thursday, April 21 | 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 10) |

Friday, April 22 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)
4 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 300)

Saturday, April 23 6 p.m. - St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society Ball (Turnout 220)

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

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

Sunday, April 17 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 170)

Thursday, April 21 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 80)

Friday, April 22 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 86)

Saturday, April 23 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 65)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *Murder can be Habit Forming* (Turnout 105)

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

Sunday, April 17 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 25)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, April 19 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 21 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)

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 17 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 15)

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

Monday, April 18 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 31)

Tuesday, April 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)

Friday, April 22 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

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

Twenty three (23) 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. Fifteen Tot Time/VPK participants and twenty four adults visited Lowrey Park Zoo on Wednesday.

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

John Lapham used the school bus to transport: thirty six Gulfport Elementary students and four adults to Osceola High School on Friday; forty two Gulfport Elementary students and five adults to Great Explorations museum on Monday, and; fifteen Tot Time/VPK participants to Lowry Park Zoo on Wednesday.

Marivel Gutierrez met with Justin Shea and Cara Keelin from Ovations School for the Arts on Monday to discuss their Spring Fundraiser set-up plan. She also attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fuel Spill
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 1 Fire Investigation

Chief Marenkovic attended the PCFCA meeting on April 28. Discussions included By-law changes, committee reports and elections for board positions. Michael Cooksey and Craig Hare from Pinellas County discussed level of service data committee process.

The Gulfport Fire Department finished their online April CME in Target Solutions. This month's topic: Pediatric Assessment, Diagnostic and Treatment.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Assembled chairs for Casino and Library.
- Cleaned Recreation Center elevator doors, and repaired cage protecting "Exit" sign.
- Repaired sink in ladies restroom at Library.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed graffiti from shelter on beach.
- Installed sidewalks, trashcan and bench at pocket park on 20th Avenue & 60th Street.
- Shelled mailbox drop off area at City Hall.

- Cleaned out bird baths at Veterans Pak & Senior Center.
- Rehung signs at Dog Park, and sodded/shelled sitting area.
- Installed rail fencing at 49th Street terminus.
- Shelled walking paths at Wood Ibis Park, and cleared debris from drainage area.
- Replaced trashcans at Tomlinson playground & Dog Park.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Wood Ibis Park, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces, City complex & Clam Bayou.
- Repaired irrigation at Library.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Recreation Center, Senior Center, Library, Casino & Neighborhood Center green spaces.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced chains & chain bars on chainsaws.
- 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.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Removed debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Cleaned City yard and truck wash station.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Set up for "Junk-in-the-Truck" and removed 3.79 tons of debris & 12 pallets of electronics following the event.

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 21 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.

- Completed 105 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 3 old meters with new style electronic meters.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed semi-annual 2" and smaller water line flushing.
- Repaired water breaks at 6201 Gulfport Boulevard & 2713 56th Street.
- Installed water service at 6217 Pasadena Point Boulevard.

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 and clean-out at 1119 56th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired electrical problem and hydraulic leak in Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced radiator fan motors in car #12.
- Investigated DTC in new vehicle #54.
- Repaired steering problem in Parks tractor #73.
- Performed exhaust filter "regen" on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Adjusted carburetor on Parks Division Toro Groundsmaster.
- Investigated overheating problem in vehicle #29.
- Replaced grabber arm belts on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Filled power steering reservoir in Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced door switch on the Trolley.
- Replaced driveshaft bolts on CAT loader.
- Replaced mud flap on truck #37.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicles #45, #43, #42, #88, and #47.
- 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.

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.

Beginning in May Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries. To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section 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.