



Gulfport Community Update

March 29 - April 4, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Five talented artists; Owen Pach, Tom Pitzen, Jonathan Schork, Frank Strunk III and Susanne Vernon cut the ribbon to officially open the **Clymer Park Sculpture Garden** on March 28. Plaques were created for each piece and funded with the help of the Gulfport Neighbors and many generous donors. Food was served by O'Maddy's, Neptune Grill, Lil' Tommies Tiki, Pia's Trattoria and Mangia Gourmet. The Gulfport Merchants and volunteers assisted at the food table, and music was donated by Brass Horizons.



Left to right: Susanne Vernon, Frank Strunk III, Owen Pach, Tom Pitzen and Jonathan Schork

City staff hosted a presentation of **Youth Programs** in City Hall Council Chambers on March 31 (photos below). Idea boards listing citizen comments allowed participants to place stickers on subjects most important to them. The three most popular items were staffing at the Skate Park, a park in Ward 4 and tutors for homework. Visit www.mygulfport.us to view the video.



The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library would like to thank everyone who helped make their **quilt raffle** a success, raising \$571 for Library children and youth programs. The beautiful queen-size quilt was made with love and donated by the Gulfport Quilt Club. Special thanks to the Town Shores Women's Club, Beach Bazaar, Dolores Hayley of the Suncoast Quilt Circle Guild, the City of Gulfport and the Circle of Friends.



From Left to Right: Angela Herritt, Marilyn Field, Margie Davis

Upcoming Events:

Meet the artists during the **Gulfport Senior Center Watercolor Class Art Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, April 3, 6 - 8 p.m. Watercolor Art Instructor Richard Rasulis proudly quotes "this art show will feature one of the most unusual of watercolor art. Our class has done a number of watercolor paintings ON WOOD. Many artists will tell you that this is impossible. We have accomplished it and have done some noteworthy paintings." Richard's class holds about fourteen people and he has a waiting list. Cash bar and free tapas will be offered. The exhibit will be on display through April 30. For more information call 893-1118.

Enjoy live music while perusing original art & craft vendors during **Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District from 6 until 10 p.m. every first Friday & third Saturday. Stay for dinner at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants. For more information call 322-5217.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - noon at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera for a photo with Peter Cottontail.

Stella's will host a **Special Easter Fundraiser** for the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Youth Programming. Kids' outside crafts, storytelling, face painting and balloon art are just a few of the happenings. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 **Gulfport Community Players** will present *Play On*, a comedy by Rick Abbot at the Catherine Hickman Theater April 9 - April 26. A small theater company tries desperately to put on a play amid all kinds of interference from the playwright who is ever-present during rehearsals, and revises the script daily. The actors quarrel, grumble and snipe their way through rehearsals, technical run-throughs go completely awry, and opening night fulfills the old adage "if it can go wrong, it does." Don't miss this farcical romp. It's a behind the scenes comedy in the tradition of "Noises Off". Director: Judy Landis, Producer: Eileen Navarro. Tickets: \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Blvd, at the door within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup on Saturday**, April 11, 9 a.m. - noon. If you're 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.

Enjoy a day of fun and whimsy at **SpringFest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** in Clymer Park, 5501 27th Avenue on Saturday April 11, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The greenway will be transformed into an "enchanted village" inhabited by costumed faeries, sprites, gnomes, ogres and trolls. Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume will entertain attendees, and visitors are encouraged to join in the spirit by donning wings, faerie finery, Renaissance flair or any imagination-inspired attire. Two costume contests, one for the little ones and another for grownups will recognize the most colorfully-clad visitors. This free event is pet and family-friendly. A wide variety of activities and entertainment will include a May pole dance, faerie house contest, garden art & plant sale and live music. A children's area will offer tiara-making, face painting, pixie dusting, bubble blowing and more. For more information, visit Springfest on Facebook/ or call 322-5217.

MY Foundation will host **Rockin' at the Casino**, an electrifying fundraising event at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, April 11. This event will feature Florida legends of rock & roll The Impacs, light hors d'oeuvres provided by O'Maddy's, a fashion show by Botiki, and all the fun the night will allow!!! Show your "Rockin at the Casino" ticket anytime April 11 to enjoy 20 percent off your lunch or dinner at O'Maddys. Tickets: \$25 in advance at the Gulfport Casino, Botiki or online at www.mygulfportfoundation.org, or \$30 at the door. For more information call Maddy at 656-2701.

Community members will join together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to the disease, and fight back against cancer through the **American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Gulfport/Stetson** at the Michael J Yakes Recreational Center at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18. The Relay for Life brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, faith-based groups - people from all walks of life - all aimed at furthering the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and help finish the fight against cancer. To find out how you can get involved and meet others who want to make a difference in our community, email Jamie Barbetto, at jamie.barbetto@cancer.org call 260-3949 or visit www.relayforlife.org/gulfportfl.

The **Large Dog Park will be closed for maintenance** Monday, April 20 through Monday, May 4. Large dogs may use the small dog park on Tuesday & Thursday while small dogs will have the Monday, Wednesday & Friday schedule. Call Tim Connor at 893-1092 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	143
Self-initiated calls for service	447
Offenses	27
Arrests	1
Traffic citations	30

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Marshall observed a suspicious vehicle in a parking lot early March 27 and attempted to stop it after it pulled onto Gulfport Boulevard. The driver refused to stop and fled towards St. Pete, running into a parked car, tree, and street sign between 49th & 46th before bailing out and running. The owners of the car stayed at the scene and admitted they allowed a drug dealer to use the car to make deliveries while they were having sex in the passenger seat.

The owner of the Seabreeze Bed & Breakfast reported that someone had stolen four \$100 bills from her purse which was under the desk in her office. She suspects an employee who was overheard arguing on the phone earlier in the day about not being able to pay rent, took the cash.

Joshua Garcia was arrested for DUI after he failed to stop at a stop sign. He refused to take a breath test. Garcia gave Officer Mills his brother's name and date of birth, but the following day his attorney contacted Mills and advised of the discrepancy.

Officers responded to the 2500 block of York Street early March 28 after a woman reported she was attacked by a resident. An investigation revealed the intoxicated woman tried to enter her ex-girlfriend's house with a spare key. The resident pushed the woman away and closed the door. The homeowner was within her rights to physically prevent the woman from entering her home, and no charges were filed.

Officer Hutsko attempted to stop a motorcycle without a license plate in the 5300 block of 21st Avenue. The driver fled at a high rate of speed and abandoned the bike at a repair shop. Officer Hutsko recognized the suspect as Devin Russell, whom he has had contact with in the past. The motorcycle was reported stolen from St. Petersburg and Russell is being sought on multiple charges.

A resident in the 6200 block of 7th Avenue reported that someone stole her bicycle from her shed.

A resident in the 3200 block of 58th Street reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle sometime overnight and took several items.

The owner of a fenced-in lot in the 4900 block of 17th Avenue reported on the morning of March 29 that the padlock on his gate was missing, and a car that was parked inside was gone. An investigation determined that the car was repossessed, and police are trying to determine who removed the lock. Florida law does not authorize forced entry on private property for repossessions.

A resident in the 5200 block of 10th Avenue called 911 on March 30 after her ex-boyfriend came to her home, making threats with a brick in his hand. The man was spotted by Officer Marshall leaving the scene on a bicycle. When Officer Marshall ordered him to stop, he dumped the bike and ran through several yards. St. Petersburg Police Department K9 officers responded to help

but could not locate the suspect. His identity was revealed by the complainant, and a warrant issued for resisting an officer and violation of probation.

The SPCA requested police assistance at a residence in the 5100 block of 24th Avenue regarding a badly injured dog. An emergency vet reported that the dog owner had brought the dog in but refused to get proper treatment to save its life. The dog was located alive but in poor condition. The owner faced arrest for animal neglect but since she decided to turn the dog over to SPCA for recovery, charges were referred to the State Attorney's Office for review.

Officers responded multiple calls about gunshots fired and a male shouting that he was dying. A man with gunshot wounds was found on the ground in the driveway of a residence in the 1400 block of 52nd Street. He was transported to Bayfront Medical Center where he later died.

Deana Wolf was arrested on March 31 after admitting she struck and bit her boyfriend during an argument.

A resident in the 5800 block of 26th Avenue reported that a package was delivered by UPS to a neighbor's house and never given to him. The neighbor denied any knowledge of the package.

A resident in the 1400 61st Street reported that someone stole \$60 and a laptop computer from her unlocked car.

A resident in the 2000 Block of 54th Street reported on April 1 that a neighbor connected a hose to her water supply. The hose was disconnected before officers arrived. The neighbor admitted to connecting the hose and a petit theft charge will be forwarded to the state attorney's office.

Investigations:

All members of CIS focused on the homicide investigation this week.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	21
Supplements reviewed:	65
Public records requests:	7
Reports disseminated	15
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	37

Professional Standards

Lt. Stone is preparing for the accreditation assessment scheduled for April 21-23.

The following policies are in the review process: 341 - Report Writing; 416 - Traffic Homicide Investigations; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 422 - Field Interviews; 426 - DUI Arrest Procedures; 450 - Special Operations, and; 615 - Evidence.

The following policies have been updated and are awaiting the Chief's signature: 131 - Interview Room Procedures; 315 - Promotions; 610 - Property and Evidence Facilities, and; 612 - Property.

Officer Mills attended the Youth Forum in City Hall Council Chambers on March 31.

MARINA

Assisted in sixty five (65) pump outs evacuating one thousand one hundred forty five (1,145) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand three hundred three (1,303) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred twenty (1,620) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty one (151) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 33' motorboat, 24' motorboat, 26' sailboat, 25' sailboat, 43' sailboat, and a 39' motorboat this week.

- Installed dock box on pier four slip eighteen, and GFIC in pier four, slip fifteen.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Repaired gate on pier six G.

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, upcoming events, Board of Adjustment, Youth Forum & Finance Department information on City website.
- Continued preparations for St. Pete Pride Parade & 5k.
- Provided photographic coverage for Clymer Park Art Sculpture Dedication & Youth Open Forum.
- Met with Merchants and City Staff to discuss planning for Springfest event.
- Updated April events & programs on GTV640
- Commenced preparation of Rays Trolley promo.

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

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & 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, 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.

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, April 7.

What do the elderly fear the most? Loss of independence! Learn how to age well in the place you call home with **Promoting Independence & Aging in Place** on Wednesday April 8 at 2 p.m. Presented by Glenn Fiore of Always There Affordable Home Care.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is April 13. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Join Debi Dietrich from Doctor's Choice Pharmacy for **Medication Safety Health Tips** on Wednesday, April 22 at 2 p.m. for information on avoiding medication errors.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, April 24. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Don't miss this month's **Gulfport GEMS Getaway to Biff Burger** on Friday evening, April 24. Travel back to the good old days as you grab a bite to eat & enjoy the longest running Car Cruise in Florida, live music, and fun for all. Space is limited so reserve a seat by April 17. GEMS members \$6/Non-Members \$8. Price includes round trip transportation.

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

Come laugh with Gulfport's very own **improv group** on Tuesday April 14 at 6:30 p.m., and support the growth of performing arts.

Learn to protect yourself against identity theft with the **Stetson Department of Elder Law Identity Theft & the Importance of Proper Document Destruction** informational on Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m.

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, March 22 11 a.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 138)

Tuesday, March 24 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 21)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 76)

Wednesday, March 25 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 304)

Thursday, March 26 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 41)

Friday, March 27 7:30 p.m. - Farewell party (Turnout 325)

Saturday, March 28 6:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 50)

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*)

Wednesday, March 25 1 p.m. - Sunflower School Play (Turnout 100)

Thursday, March 26 7 p.m. - Sunflower School Play (Turnout 150)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, April 9-11, 16-18 & 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 12, 19 & 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, March 22 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 33)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, March 24 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 26 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)

Saturday, March 28 10 a.m. - Family reunion (Turnout 76)

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, March 23 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 28)

Tuesday, March 24 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, March 25 10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 32)

Thursday, March 26 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, March 27 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, March 23, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, March 24, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, March 25, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class*.

Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, March 25, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, March 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, March 27, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera instruction*. Capture those special moments! Digital is the way to go for easy & fast images. Cathy Salustri shows you how. Registration required, visit the Reference Desk to pre-register.

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera instruction*. Work with Cathy to build on skills learned in the Beginning class. Visit the Reference Desk to pre-register.

Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame 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.

Thursday, April 23, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 3-10 year olds*: All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 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 rriddell@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 22-28, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation: 884 521

Sun. 3/22	Library closed	
Mon. 3/23	151	72
Tue. 3/24	185	86
Wed. 3/25	102	82
Thu. 3/26	167	109
Fri. 3/27	121	72
Sat. 3/28	138	76

Recreation Center

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - noon at the Michael J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera for a photo with Peter Cottontail.

The multipurpose room was rented 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, March 28 for a wedding reception with ninety five (95) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

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 three (73) 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 and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Pinellas County Director's meeting on Wednesday. She also met with Meagan of Stetson College of Law and Bob Worthington of CERT on Thursday to discuss final details for Fun in The Sun Day, attended the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. School Readiness meeting on Thursday and the Youth Forum on Tuesday evening.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls

- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O's
- 5 FACP Test

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, April 16. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Inspector Lundh met with a representative of CSS at Kipps Colony Condominiums to perform a Fire Alarm Control Panel test. All passed with no violations or deficiency.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting in Largo on April 2.
- Jeff Benker from MES measured Firefighters Jordan & Hayes for Bunker Gear replacement. Their old gear was purchased in 2005. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is replaced every ten years per NFPA standards.
- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in Portable & Ground Monitor Master Stream training at the Pinellas County Fire Drill grounds. A master stream is a fire service term for a water stream of 350 US gallons (1,300 liters) per minute or greater. It is delivered by a device such as a deck gun, deluge gun, or fire monitor, and is found at the end of aerial ladders, tele-squirt nozzles, or monitor nozzles. The high amount of required pressure makes them unsuitable for handline use.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Completed yearly fire alarm and sprinkler inspection at Casino.
- Replaced ballast & 4 lamps and on light poles in City yard area.
- Repaired toilet in Hoyt Field ladies restroom and urinal in Fire Station men's restroom.
- Painted office for new Human Resources assistant.
- Moved furniture in two offices at City Hall.
- Assisted with daily set-ups for activities at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Continued painting Hoyt Field concession stand.
- Installed plaques on Clymer greenway art work, Beach Boulevard & 28th Avenue art work, and on benches and bird baths for Garden Club.
- Installed upcoming events banners on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at Recreation Center.
- Repaired benches at Library & Tomlinson Park and bench swings at Wood Ibis Park.
- Removed graffiti from picnic tables on beach and at Tonkin Park.

- Graded and prepped Library grounds for sod replacement.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Recreation Center, 49th Streetscapes and Veterans & Clymer Parks, and raked Chase block & Scout Hall grounds, around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Wood Ibis Park, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces, Clymer Park, Senior Center & Library.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, repaired tires on aerator, replaced spark plugs and tuned up generator.
- Repaired irrigation at Library, Senior Center, Clymer Park & City Complex.
- 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.
- Cleaned trucks and payloader in preparation for Fun in the Sun event.
- Replaced stop signs at 52nd Street & 21st Avenue, and at 49th Street & 10th Avenue.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Disconnected water service at 46 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 93 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 18 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was 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 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 56 backflow devices due in March.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic water meter.

- Repaired fire hydrant at 47th Street & 29th Avenue.

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.
- Installed 82 feet of 6" sewer main line at Gulfport Library.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced thermostat & engine temperature sensor in Building Maintenance vehicle #65.
- Reinstalled lift arm bearing on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced flasher module in Parks vehicle #52.
- Replaced brake light bulb and repaired brake light lens assembly in Streets vehicle #34.
- Replaced two tires on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, 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 have moved to 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.

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.

April 8, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

- V15-13; 28/31/16/67572/023/0010 (southeast corner of 14th Avenue & 56th Street South); Variance request to reduce the required side yard setback on the secondary street by 6 feet, from 12 feet to 6 feet to allow for a larger footprint for a proposed new single-family house.
- V15-14; 5624 & 5626 15th Avenue South; Variance requests:
 - I. Existing Duplex Structure
 1. To recognize the current front yard encroachment of the existing primary structure (duplex) by 8 feet, from 25 feet to 17 feet; and
 2. To recognize the current side yard encroachment on the secondary street side of the existing primary structure by 3.31 feet, from 12 feet to 8.69 feet.
 - II. Proposed Deck #1
 3. To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 10 feet, from 25 feet to 15 feet; and
 4. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 4 feet, from 12 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck and stairs.
 - III. Proposed Deck #2
 5. To reduce the side yard setback requirement on the secondary street side by 11.31 feet, from 12 feet to 0.69 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed attached roofed (with open beams) deck.
 - IV. Existing Accessory Structure (Garage)
 7. To recognize the current encroachment into the rear yard setback requirement of the garage by 1.79 feet, from 15 feet to 13.21 feet; and
 8. To recognize the current encroachment into the required separation distance between an accessory structure and principal structure of 8.2 feet, from 12 feet to 3.8 feet.
 - V. Proposed New Carport
 1. To reduce the required separation distance between an accessory structure (roofed carport with open beams) and principal structure by 9 feet, from 12 feet to 3 feet, and;
 2. To reduce the required rear yard setback requirement for accessory structures by 1 foot, from 15 feet to 14 feet to allow for the construction of the proposed roofed carport.