



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *April 3 - 9, 2016*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

### Upcoming Events:

Visit the 49<sup>th</sup> Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit [www.SoTangerine.com](http://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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Springfest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** along the Clymer Greenway is April 9 & 10. The Garden Art & Faerie themed festival will transform the park into an "enchanted village" inhabited by costumed faeries, sprites, gnomes, ogres, trolls, Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume. Interested in volunteering? Email [spencer.july19@gmail.com](mailto:spencer.july19@gmail.com). For more information call 322-5217 or visit [www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest](http://www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest).

Looking to volunteer and enjoy a beautiful view at the same time? Join the **Gulfport Neighbors monthly Beach Cleanup** on Gulfport Beach Saturday, April 9, 9 - 11 a.m. If you have a picker and gloves, please bring them. Water will be provided. Email [Gulfport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com) for more information.

Gulfport residents, are you looking to swap, trash or give away your old stuff and don't know where to start? Join the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport at the community **Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck (JITT)** event at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, April 23, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Swap, trash or give away your old furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for free. Please no firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries. Have some *Java with Zack & Josh* and get your bike registered. Kids will receive a free bike helmet (while they last). We'll also be collecting nonperishable foods, toiletries and pet food for the Gulfport Senior Center Food Pantry. Volunteers who wish to donate two hours to help with this fun event please email [Gulfport\\_Neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_Neighbors@yahoo.com) or call 343-8428.

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

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

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 Tampa Bay Rowdies games: Saturday, April 2 vs. Carolina Railhawks; 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.

Tickets for the **April 27 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Baltimore Oriels** game are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30.00 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips will begin during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. All trolley trips this season will take place on "\$2 Hotdog Wednesdays". For more information call Technical Events Specialist Gail Biron at 893-1118.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	125
Self-initiated calls for service	360
Offenses	27
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	80
Ordinance violations	47

A resident in the 5000 block of Jersey Avenue reported on March 31 that his wallet was taken from his vehicle sometime overnight. He could not remember if he locked the car but there were no signs of forced entry.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of 57<sup>th</sup> Street after a resident reported that her mailbox was burglarized. Several items were found by her neighbor in front of his home.

Officers arrested John Crofts on an outstanding warrant for driving while license suspended or revoked.

A visitor from Tennessee parked his car overnight at a residence in the 2800 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street and discovered on the morning the morning of April 1 that his license plate had been stolen.

A customer at Family Dollar was issued a trespass warning after getting into an argument with the store manager who had advised her she could not take a shopping cart out of the store.

Scott Patterson was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to pay child support after officers were dispatched to a call about an argument at a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

Officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance in the 1700 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street in the early morning hours of April 2. A couple celebrating their anniversary got into an argument in the front yard of a family member's home, and a neighbor witnessed the man slam his wife's head into a fence, throw her to the ground and punch her several times. He was arrested for domestic battery. Due to a prior conviction, the charge was upgraded to a felony.

Officers responded to a 911 call in the 1200 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street regarding a juvenile who was threatened with a gun. When officers arrived several teens ran into a residence and refused to come out. They eventually exited the house and gave conflicting stories about what happened. This incident involved multiple members of the Childs Park gang. The victim was very uncooperative, and the other teens accused him of threatening to return with a gun.

Shanee Shorter was arrested on an outstanding felony theft warrant. She was taken into custody in the 1200 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.

A resident in the 2500 Block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street discovered mail from neighboring homes on the ground near his home. Several of the envelopes had been opened.

Officers were dispatched to Stetson University regarding a recovered stolen vehicle, and made contact with the victim who reported his vehicle stolen earlier that morning. The victim became intoxicated the night before and forgot that his friend drove the vehicle home for him. He stated that the vehicle was not stolen and nothing was missing from the car.

Gulfport Police assisted St. Pete Police after a woman reported that she brought her child to the bus stop and discovered her ex-boyfriend, against whom she has a restraining order waiting for them. The man fled before police arrived. Officers determined that the incident occurred in St. Petersburg and waited with the victim until SPPD officers arrived.

The marine unit was on the water for 4 hours this week. Sergeant Woodman took Probationary Officer Heaton out to familiarize him with our waterways, and they made one boat stop.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	20
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	13

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case and an identity theft, and conducted pawn checks & sex offender checks.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three burglary cases, two auto thefts, a lewd and lascivious battery, a theft and an information report. She also interviewed a burglary suspect at the Pinellas County Jail.

School Resource Officer Motte counseled 3 students, met with the parent of a student, assisted with felony traffic stop training for Probationary Officer Heaton and assisted Officer Langston with an Explorer Post meeting teaching traffic crash investigation.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	7
Supplements reviewed:	65
Public Records requests:	23
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	11

Citizens assisted:

46

## **MARINA**

Assisted in thirty two (32) pump outs evacuating five hundred twenty (520) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand thirty two (3,032) gallons of gas and one thousand five hundred nine (1,509) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred five (205) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff Activities:**

- Replaced pump-out fitting on pier 4 slip 17, and pump-out hoses and fittings on fuel dock and pier #3.
- Inspected/replaced pedestal bulbs on pier #4.
- Replaced photo-cells on pier #2.

## **LIBRARY**

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

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, March 28, 11 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Monday, March 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, March 29, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, March 29, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

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

Wednesday, March 30, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 31, noon - *Lunch & Learn with Paul Stonebridge*

Thursday, March 31, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, April 1, 10 a.m. - *AARP tax assistance.*

Friday, April 1, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, April 1, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Tuesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. & noon. - *Welcome to Gulfport!* Cohosted by the Gulfport Neighbors and the Gulfport Library. Learn about both organizations and discover services offered by the City. For more information call 893-1074.

Tuesday, April 12, 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](mailto:klane@untieyourwings.com).

Tuesday, April 12, 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.

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m. - *Poets of Gulfport*: Gulfport Poet Laureate Peter Hargitai and other Poet Laureate candidates will read their poetry.

Saturday, April 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, April 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Swamplandia* by Karen Russell over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

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

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.

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-5<sup>th</sup> 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@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1074 for more information.

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email [robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.

- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us.
- Continued preparation of May calendar.
- Continued updates on Social media sites.
- Continued training intern on app inputs.
- Attended weekly City App meeting.
- Updated calendar on City website.

## **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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is April 11. 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 April 11.

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, April 12.

New to Gulfport? Want to join a band? If you have never played a musical instrument, or did in the past but are out of practice now, here is your opportunity. The **New Horizons Band of Gulfport, Inc.** will host an informational meeting at the Gulfport Senior Center on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

BASES, a panel of aging professionals present **Staying Empowered as We Age** on April 13 at 2 p.m. Infinity Homecare will provide ice cream during this event.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Visit Pinellas County's largest park during our next **Gulfport Getaway**, Thursday, April 14. Fort De Soto consists of 1,136 acres of bird life, sea life, wildlife, and plant life. Explore the historic fort and Quartermaster Museum, walk along the pristine beach, or relax while fishing from the pier. Before heading home, enjoy a boxed lunch under the pavilion. Call to reserve your seat by April 11. GEMS members; \$12/guests \$14, includes round trip transportation and boxed lunch.

The **Community Law Program** provides legal assistance at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. every third Friday of the month. The next session is April 15. Call 582-7480 for qualification information or to schedule an appointment.

**What Are The Pieces to the Senior Living Puzzle?** Westminster Executive Director Mark Beggs will explain the details of senior living options, offer examples, and answer questions on Monday, April 18 at 5:30 pm.

GEMS Getaways will make a special evening trip to Ruth Eckerd Hall on Tuesday, April 19 to experience a showcase of amazing talent at the **Bright House Networks Senior Idol Show**. Be a part of the audience that votes for the 2016 winner from these amazing regional finalists. Call to reserve your seat by April 11. GEMS members \$20/guests \$22. Price includes round trip transportation and admission.

Understand the options and the information you need to make an informed decision on your insurance options. The **Insurance Workshop** is Wednesday, April 20 at 2 p.m. Presented by Senior Benefit Solutions.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, April 22. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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

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.

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, March 27  | 3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 88)                                    |
| Monday, March 28  | 7 p.m. - USA Dance Ballroom Dance (turnout 103)   |
| Tuesday, March 29 | Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 11)<br>7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 48) |

Wednesday, March 30 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 19)  
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 323)

Thursday, March 31 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 34)

Friday, April 1 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 35)  
7 p.m. - Super Bingo (Turnout 120)

Saturday, April 2 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 80)

**Casino (*upcoming events*):**

Friday, April 8 9:30 p.m. - Yunta Brava Argentine Tango: Milongas, dinner buffet & performances. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, or call 742-3368.

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*):**

Friday, April 1 6 pm - Eckerd College Photography Workshop Art Reception (Turnout 40)

Saturday, April 2 6 p.m. - Independent film premier: *Southsyde* (Turnout 63)  
9 p.m. - Independent film: *Southsyde* (Turnout 37)

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

Sunday, March 27 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 35)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, March 29 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 8)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 31 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

**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, March 27 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 13)  
Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Monday, March 28 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 29)  
Tuesday, March 29 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 28)  
Friday, April 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 16)

**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**

The multipurpose room was reserved 2 - 7 p.m. Saturday, April 2 for a Baby Shower with 60 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23 for a Fundraiser.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Registration for the **2016 Summer Recreation Program** is underway for Gulfport residents and non-residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. Non-resident registration begins Monday, May 18 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. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Seventy two children are registered for the **2015/16 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Fourteen children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-

5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Forty two 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, Spanish, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga AM and Zumba.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

#### **Life Safety:**

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 1 C.O.
- 2 Plans Review

First American Fire Services L.L.C. performed annual Hose & Ladder Testing at GPD on April 5 per NFPA 1962 and NFPA 1932 Manufactures specifications. There were no failures.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic attended a Countywide Data Driven Focus Group on April 6. They discussed 911web and dispatch, and categorization of maps.

The Gulfport Fire Department began their online St. Pete College April CME in Target Solutions. This month's topic is Pediatric Assessment, Diagnostic and Treatment.

Lt. Gerard Grady taught a Health Care Provider CPR class on April 3.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired a/c unit in Library Friends Room.
- Recycled 300 fluorescent lamps.
- Assembled gun cleaning table and painted office & hallway at Police Station.
- Repaired desk at City Hall and hung several pictures.
- Performed final inspection on new fire panel & devices in City Hall/Police Station.
- Repaired a/c station in Recreation Center gym.
- Replaced toilet handle and flapper on toilet in ladies restroom at Dog Park.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Ran conduit for sound system at Beach volleyball courts.
- Cleaned and waxed floors at Parks Department shop, and replaced door locks.
- Removed graffiti from playground equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Moved benches on beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Beach, Neighborhood Center, Senior Center, Recreation Center & Marina green spaces, Veterans, Caldwell, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Clymer Parks, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area, Chase Block/Dog Park, 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue drainage area, Trail Spur & 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park and Recreation Center.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Dog Park & Neighborhood Center.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced carburetors on line trimmer and stick edger.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

## **Streets & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Removed loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area delivered to landfill.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed several loads of brush and leaves from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area
- Disposed of tires and debris from City Garage.
- Delivered trash containers for Crawfish boil event on 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard.
- Disposed of debris left curbside at Tuesday Fresh Market.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Cleared leaves & debris from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street terminus.
- Marked alley radius on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 54<sup>th</sup> & 55<sup>th</sup> Streets for rear loader route.
- Marked loading zone areas on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Reset curb stops in Library parking lot.

## **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 # 9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 98 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Replaced 2" waterline across 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue at alley between 58<sup>th</sup> & DuPont Streets.
- Repaired water break on Mariam Street near Pier #6.

## **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.
- Televised 15" sewer main line on 49<sup>th</sup> Street after sinkhole developed in roadway; found infiltration at joints, excavated area and compacted fill material to finish grade.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced grabber cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced DEF injector & injector hose, and repaired DEF harness on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced winch cable on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Delivered car Police vehicle #2 to Suncoast Chrysler for warranty repairs.
- Replaced power steering pump on Sanitation #41.
- Repaired coolant hose on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Vacuumed and recharged a/c in Streets vehicle #71.
- Diagnosed fuel problem in Streets vehicle #34.
- Replaced rear brakes on Police vehicle #19.
- Repaired coolant hose, and front grill guard on new John Deere tractor.
- Continued to remove equipment in Police vehicle #54.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to 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 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**April 13, 2016 Board of Adjustment:**

V16-08; 3113 57<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 14.75 feet, from 25 feet to 10.25 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new attached garage with an artist studio on the second floor.