



Gulfport Community Update

May 11 - 17, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

On Thursday, May 8th the City of Gulfport's Trolley shuttled 60 excited Rays fans from the Gulfport Casino Ballroom to Tropicana Field for a Thursday Night Tampa Bay Rays Home game. People took advantage of half price lower box seat along with a commemorative Ray's promotional hat. Get ready for the next Game on Thursday, June 19th. Tickets will be available for purchase on Monday, May 19th at the Casino box office. Seats are limited, so get them while you can!

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households within City limits. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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

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 call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	150
Officer initiated calls for service	364
Offenses	54
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	29

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Novak responded to a residence at the 5300 block of 19th Avenue South on Thursday, May 8 and spoke with a grandmother who was concerned that her three year old granddaughter keeps getting out of her daughters house and walking to her house. Officer Novak spoke with the daughter who said she has tried everything to keep the child inside. The Child Protection investigator (CPI) later responded to the home and tested the mother who tested positive for cocaine and marijuana. A charge is being forwarded to the SAO.

A patron at Salty's Bar reported on Thursday, May 8, that someone stole her purse from a hook on the wall near the back door of Salty's Bar last night and then used her bank card to pay for cab fare.

A customer pulled up to get gas at Speed Tran on Thursday, May 8, and found a leather pouch at the pumps that contained a loaded S&W 40 caliber handgun. The owner came by later after realizing the pouch had been knocked off of his motorcycle when he stopped for gas.

A resident reported that he had placed a check in the mail to pay one of his bills on the 5000 block of 14th Avenue South. When he returned home later he found the envelope on the ground torn open with the check missing.

A person reported that a female slapped a male and pushed him inside of a restaurant on the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard South. The female was located; she admitted to arguing with the male but denied hitting him. There was an independent witness to the incident so she was issued a notice to appear for the battery.

A resident reported that sometime between May 7th and May 8th, a mountain bicycle was stolen from a carport at the 1700 block of 53rd Street South.

An employee of a store on the 1000 block of 49th Street South reported on Friday, May 9 that a female was provided with nail service and then refused to pay because she said she was unsatisfied with the results. The manager tried to offer a discount but the woman just left. The tag number on the vehicle she was driving was obtained and the case is still being investigated.

A resident on the 3000 block of 54th Street South reported that his bicycle was stolen from his yard on Friday, May 9. He believed he knew who took it because he had just been talking with the person just before he heard noises outside. The suspect was later located and admitted to stealing the bike, but the victim chose not to prosecute.

A resident reported that there was a man walking down the street with a sword and a knife on the 5500 block of 13th Avenue South on Friday, May 9. The man was located and he did have a Japanese sword in his hand. Officers made contact with him and determined that he had not threatened anyone with the sword. He intended on showing the sword to a friend but he did not have a case for it.

Trustees at the First United Methodist Church accidentally left the building unlocked, resulting in someone going inside, kicking open the office door, and attempting to pry open a filing cabinet. Nothing was stolen in the burglary, however.

Officers on Alpha Squad located a suspect of a felony bicycle theft that was reported the night before to Delta Squad on the 5400 block of 28th Street South on Saturday, May 10. During an interview, the suspect admitted to stealing the bike and selling it in St. Petersburg. The suspect was arrested but the victim then decided not to prosecute, so the suspect was released at the scene.

On Saturday, May 10, an unsecured bicycle left by a resident in the bicycle rack in the parking garage of a Kipps Colony condo building was stolen. It was described as a Nishiki 26" boys black hybrid with a black carry-all pack.

Officers responded reference to a fight that had occurred between a 17 year old and an 18 year old the night before. None of the parties were injured.

At approximately 7:59 pm on Saturday, May 10, a vehicle was stolen out of the cemetery while the owner was cleaning her mother's grave. Officer Obrart was able to locate the vehicle the next day by pinging the owner's cell phone that was left in the vehicle. The vehicle was located the area of 4300 Tyler Circle in St Petersburg. Officer Obrart and Pinellas County Deputies arrived at the address and located the vehicle along with three black males sleeping inside. Three arrests were made and the owner got her car back.

Two customers got into an argument about foul language at the Sunoco gas station on Sunday, May 11. After the argument, one of the customers accidentally dropped \$350 cash on the ground before he left. When he returned later, someone had already scooped up the money.

A vehicle travelling west on Gulfport Boulevard on Sunday, May 11, ran the red light at 58th Street and caused a crash. The offender then sped away, continuing west. Red light camera video footage will likely lead to the identification of the suspect. The other driver sustained minor injuries as a result of the crash.

Battery: A landlady got into an argument with her tenant about unpaid rent on Sunday, May 11 at the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard South. She reported to the police that the tenant grabbed her arm, causing minor injury. The tenant denied touching the complainant. The landlady decided she would not prosecute since the tenant was moving out anyway.

The clerk at Supergas unlocked the business to open up the store on Monday morning, May 12. When he went inside, a burglar crashed through the ceiling. The suspect pushed past the clerk and ran away but evidence left at the scene will likely identify the perpetrator.

Someone smashed the passenger window of a resident's parked car overnight on Monday, May 12 at the 1200 block of 60th Street South and rummaged through the interior. Nothing was taken. Three separate neighbors heard the car alarm going off due to the burglary but did not call the police.

Two teenage girls who didn't like each other, both Boca Ciega High School students, crossed paths as they were skipping school. One sprayed the other with pepper spray and began beating her with her fists. She was arrested when police arrived and she would not identify herself to officers.

A resident on the 5100 block of 12th Avenue South reported that a television she was renting from Rent-A-Center was missing from her house on Monday May 12. The resident had not fulfilled her rent-to-own agreement for the TV and still owed money on it.

A subject stopped at a business at the 800 block of 49th Street South to try and sell a motor that was in the bed of his truck on Tuesday, May 13. While he was inside he noticed several black males pacing back and forth in front of the business. The victim and his friend then realized the males had taken the keys and were going to try and steal the truck. They blocked the truck with a forklift, but one of the males still jumped in and stole the truck after fighting with the victim. The suspect drove over the forklift and quickly crashed into a wall on the other side of 49th St. The victim ran over and fought with two males until they abandoned the truck and ran off.

On Tuesday, May 13, a woman went with an officer to the residence she shared with her boyfriend to retrieve some personal items at the 5100 block of 17th Ave S/4700 block of Tradewinds. He refused to let her have her property and then later showed up at the second location while Officer Marshall was speaking with the family. The boyfriend was very confrontational and aggressive and made threats towards the female and officers on scene.

A resident reported that brick pavers valued at approximately \$100.00 were stolen from the driveway at the 5000 block of 28th Avenue South on Tuesday, May 13.

At 6:20 pm, Officer Randazzo saw a large group of juveniles involved in a fight on the 4800 block of Yarmouth Ave. S. When he drove up to them several of them ran. He made contact with a

juvenile who he was attempting to interview when another juvenile came over and told the juvenile Officer Randazzo was talking to that he did not have to talk to the officer. He then took the juvenile by the arm in an attempt to walk away from Officer Randazzo. When Officer Randazzo told him to stop he ran away. Later in the evening an anonymous person gave his name to an officer. Officer Randazzo positively identified the juvenile and charged him with resisting.

Officer Priest and Probationary Officer Kulenovic checked the warrants page and discovered a person located at the 4900 block of 49th Street South that had an outstanding child support warrant. He was located and arrested on Tuesday, May 13.

A black male wearing a red and white shirt and fishing hat stole items from the store and was last seen running behind the King's Food Mart at 20th Avenue South and 49th Street South on Wednesday, May 14.

At 4:15 pm on May 14, a man was battered in a public bathroom at the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard South. The suspect fled before officers arrived. The victim was transported to the hospital.

A resident at the 1300 block of 58th Street South called concerning an ex-boyfriend who has been texting, calling, and sending e-mails to him in order to harass him. The suspect is living out of state.

On Wednesday, May 14, a resident of a 1700 block of 54th Street South called to report that a bike was stolen out of her carport, however, she did not want to prosecute if a suspect was located.

A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked car on the 5100 block of 25th Avenue South sometime between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Wednesday May 14, and stole a purse, 2 wallets, and a pair of headphones.

Investigations:

New Cases:	37
Cases Assigned:	4
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	21
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	4
Supplements Received:	16
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	10

Detective Hanh Pham completed 8 supplements and spent the majority of his time conducting follow-up investigations outside the city limits. He went to the Pinellas County Jail twice to interview two subjects who were connected to two separate theft cases. He recovered a stolen laptop which was returned to the owner. He conducted pawn checks in an attempt to locate stolen property.

Detective Jennifer Crowson discovered that a suspect in an EBT card fraud, who resides in St. Petersburg, may be involved in fraudulently obtaining several EBT cards. Detective Crowson contacted the St Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) and is working with SPPD detectives in

attempt to apprehend the suspect. Detective Crowson has also identified a suspect in an auto theft case. The suspect made the admissions to driving the stolen vehicle to SPPD; however, the suspect was given limited immunity by the Assistant State Attorney for his witness statement against a suspect involved in an aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. Detective Crowson is attending Injury and Death Investigations training.

School Resource Officer Motte completed two baker act assessments, however neither person met the Baker Act criteria. Officer Motte also broke up a fight, dealt with three juvenile trouble calls requiring two students being mentored and one altercation being mediated preventing a fight from occurring. School Resource Officer Langston recovered a stolen bicycle and returned it to the owner. The victims did not want to pursue any criminal charges. Officer Langston was notified of a possible domestic violence incident that occurred over the weekend in St Petersburg. She notified the SPPD and an officer responded to the school to investigate. Officer Langston was involved with a parent student conference in regards to an altercation that took place after school earlier during the week. Officer Langston responded to a disturbance that occurred during lunch involving two juvenile females. Officer Langston participated in mediation with the school social worker and two male students who got into a physical altercation. While monitoring the school's video surveillance Officer Langston observed a theft in progress on campus. She was able to identify the suspect, and reported the incident to the school. The stolen property was returned to the owner, and the student received school consequences for his acts. Utilizing the video surveillance cameras Officer Langston discovered approximately 7 students out of area playing cards during class time. Officer Langston notified the school campus monitor and both made contact with the students. The assistant principal was also notified and further investigated the incident. Officer Langston completed her investigation of an earlier reported bike theft. The student/suspect was arrested and charged with petit theft and dealing in stolen property. Officer Langston responded to a fight call in progress. Both parties were already separated upon her arrival. Due to the parents of the victim wishing to pursue criminal charges, one of the students was arrested and charged with simple battery.

Analyst Palmisano created a bulletin for Officer Langston in reference to a missing juvenile – runaway. The bulletin was distributed to Gulfport officers and other local agencies. She also compiled data for Lieutenant Stone in reference to stolen bicycles and a possible suspect.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	20
Supplements reviewed:	45
Public records requests:	4
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	39

MARINA

Pumped two thousand eight hundred and twenty (2,820) gallons of gas, and one thousand two hundred seventeen (1,828) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred and twenty seven (127) vessels.

Assisted in twenty eight (28) pump outs evacuating three hundred and five (305) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 25' sailboat, 35' sailboat, 38' sailboat, 34' sailboat and a 27' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Installed gate closer on gates five, four & three.
- Repaired tire on marina truck.
- Completed slip count.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Repaired sings on fuel dock.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Commenced organizing Fiscal Year 2014/15 events schedule.
- Continued preparations for Hurricane Seminar.
- Control Room: Board of Adjustment Meeting, May 14. Broadcast live, upload video to website, Rebroadcast the following day
- Distributing June events calendar.
- Commenced preparations/bookings for Flag Day & 4th of July events.
- Preparing gear for Junk in the Truck Event
- Little League meeting for closing day

Multipurpose Center

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

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

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

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50

programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

Heatherlee will offer a complete makeover for the first ten Senior Center participants to sign up for a **Mary Kay Day of Pampering** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 27.

The Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers **free balance & blood pressure screenings** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next screening is May 29.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is June 3. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is June 9. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, June 13. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our next monthly **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 19, and let's explore the world together! The group hosts a new guest speaker every month.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' May birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 20. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (*last week's events*):

Tuesday, May 6 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 8)
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 51)

Wednesday, May 7 10am – 2pm – Senior Living Guide Luncheon (Turnout 120)
Wednesday, May 7 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson
8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 233)

Thursday, May 8 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 210)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 – 7 p.m. – Ballroom Dance Lesson
7 – 10 p.m. – Band & Ballroom 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 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

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

Sunday, May 4 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 17)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous (Turnout 17)

Tuesday, May 6 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Thursday, May 8 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Scout Hall (*last week's events*):

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

Monday, May 5 10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 12)
11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 24)

Tuesday, May 6 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 7)

Wednesday, May 7 11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 17)

Thursday, May 8 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 10)

Friday, May 9 10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, May 12, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Monday, May 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Teen Leadership Workshop*.

Tuesday, May 13, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts for school-age children and teens*.

Tuesday, May 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, May 14, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, May 16, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 24, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening:* Struggling to get sprouted? Ongoing garden gripes? Join us at the launch of our gardening class which will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Master Gardener Val Boyles shares her expertise to help you get budding along! Attendees are invited to stay after class and informally discuss their gardening-related issues.

Tuesday, May 27 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Teen Leadership Workshop.* For more information email kellymenges@hotmail.com.

Every first Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts:* Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. FMI, contact gratefulashly@gmail.com.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at 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 by the Easy books.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.* For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic May 4 - 10, 2014:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	1,790	602
Sun. 5/4	Library closed	
Mon. 5/5	376	121
Tue. 5/6	303	104
Wed. 5/7	280	92
Thu. 5/8	306	96
Fri. 5/9	303	102
Sat. 5/10	209	74

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty six (56) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek

Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Twenty five (25) children enrolled in the School Year Child Program have been registered for the **2014 Summer Recreation Program**. Non-resident registration begins Monday, May 19 for a maximum of 30 children. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration fees are \$17 for residents and \$22 for non- residents. Summer camp program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Eighteen (18) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

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

One Hundred (100) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff Meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the Fire Department.

Teen Council

There was no Teen Council meeting on Friday afternoon due to no quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

Account Activity (Water and/or Marina):	23 new, 13 closed
Water payments:	1,044 totaling \$153,717.44
On-Line Water payments:	174 transactions totaling \$9,625.62
Bright House payments:	16
Payroll 5/19/14:	159 transactions totaling \$165,910.60

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 6 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 1 Fire Inspection
- 1 Re-Inspection

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, June 19 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- The Gulfport Fire Department Pumper 17 had the new digital P25 Mobile Radio installed from Suncoast Communications Motorola on May 12, 2014.
- Chief Marenkovic had St. Petersburg Fire Protection, LLC perform a two hour Pressure Test on the Standpipe System at Town Shores Diplomat building after maintenance repairs. All passed with no violations.
- The Gulfport Fire Department had nine SCBA Bottles Hydrostatic tested by M.E.S. on May 9, 2014. Hydrostatic testing is the standard method of testing cylinders in the compressed gas industry. The water jacket method of testing cylinders consists essentially of enclosing the cylinder, suspended in a jacket vessel, and measuring the volume of water forced from the jacket on application of pressure to the interior of the cylinder.
- Hurricane season is less than a month away. The season begins on June 1st and runs until November 30th. Experts at Colorado State released their 2014 Hurricane Season Forecast. It calls for nine named storms this hurricane season.
- The City of Gulfport will have an upcoming Hurricane seminar on Thursday, May 29th at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 5501 27th Avenue South. This year, we are excited to welcome Todd Barron, Emergency Response Meteorologist from the National Weather Service. He will speak on "Understanding Hurricane Impacts in West Central Florida."

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired A/C at Historical building
- Built stage for the Tot Time program graduation
- Completed stage flooring installation at Theatre
- Installed new soap dispenser in Casino restroom
- Repaired damaged railing in Tomlinson Park
- Obtained three proposals for A/C replacement at Historical building

Parks

- Replaced broken fence rail at Tangerine greenway and Wood Ibis Park.
- Replaced a flex stick at the entrance of the trail spur.
- Repaired sign at Clymer Park.
- Replaced broken bench slats at Wood Ibis park and straightened fence posts.

- Painted bike rack at the Recreation Center
- Aerated the ball fields
- Repainted the lines on the basketball and pickle ball courts at the Recreation Center
- Replaced timer for tree lights on Beach Boulevard and 29th Street South
- Removed graffiti on tables at the recreation center and beach pavilions
- Set up snow fence between the casino and volleyball courts for casino event
- Repaired flag poles at Veterans Park (cables pole tops etc)
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired pull starts on backpack blower & line trimmer, rebuilt engine on hedge trimmers, and ordered parts for Toro workman & mowers.
- Repaired irrigation along Senior Center, Library, Clymer Park, Caldwell Park, Veterans Park, Little League fields, Recreation Center and City Complex.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Beach Streetscapes, triangle beds on beach blvd, scout hall, dog park, Veterans Park.
- Mowed & trimmed City Complex, Fire station, Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library, 28 Street signage area, Recreation Center playing field, Recreation Center, Beach area, Marina area, Tonkin park, Veterans Park and Chase block
- 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 and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from City storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Disposed of dead animals from roadway
- Delivered recycling bins and information flyers
- Disposed of old tires from City garage
- Completed asphalt patchwork at 13th Avenue South and 58th Street South
- Removed low limbs in roadway at 21st Avenue South and 54th Street South
- Cleaned garbage trucks for service
- Added material / filled depression on 45th St.
- Removed and disposed of bagged leaves citywide
- Cleaned up and removed debris from storm drains at tangerine and 52nd Street South
- Graded beach parking lot

- Added millings and set grade at alley entrances at 11th Avenue and 59th Street South, 31st Avenue South and 58th Street South, 52nd Street South and 26th through 27th Avenue South
- Added millings / set grades on several alleys citywide
- Repaired skimmer and leveled rip rap at Tangerine Greenway for SWFWMD inspection

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 41 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 126 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 25 backflow devices due in May.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meters.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Repaired water break at 5910 Pelican Bay Plaza South
- Repaired water break at 6013 Tangerine Avenue South
- Repaired water break at 5962 Seabreeze Drive South
- Repaired fire hydrant at 17th Avenue South and 59th Street South and found to be defected during flushing

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 three ground water monitoring wells at distant areas of the city

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. For more information regarding business tax receipts call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

The onset of longer days means more time to work on home improvement projects. **Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.

- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

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

The number of code enforcement cases for April was 258 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 1,367. The number of citizen complaints was 8 for a YTD total of 96. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 7.0 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.

May 14, 2014 Board of Adjustment Results:

- V14-05; 2313 52nd Street South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement from by 8', from 25' to 17', to allow for the construction of a proposed extension of a bedroom with a bay window. APPROVED.
- V14-06; 2515 51st Way South; Variance request to:
 - 1) Reduce the front yard setback requirement by 1 foot, from 25 feet to 24 feet for the addition to an existing bedroom; and
 - 2) Reduce the front yard setback requirement by 19 feet, from 25 feet to 6 feet for the addition of a proposed screen room. ALL APPROVED.
- V14-07; 5953 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to:
 - 1) Reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 15.17 feet, from 26.67 feet to 11.5 feet to allow for the proposed addition of a boat lift and 2.5 foot wide catwalk; and
 - 2) To reduce the right-hand one third setback requirement by 11.17 feet, from 26.76 feet to 15.5 feet to allow the proposed construction of a 2.5 foot wide catwalk. ALL APPROVED.
- V14-08; 5920 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 24 feet, from 45 feet to 21 feet to allow for a proposed extension to an existing dock and a 3 foot wide new catwalk which services a proposed boat lift that will be installed in the center one-third of the waterfront property.
- V14-10; 5907 Bayview Circle South; Variance request to reduce the right-hand one third setback requirement by 19.67 feet, from 26.76 feet to 7 feet to allow the proposed construction of a boat lift. ALL APPROVED.

June 4, 2014 Planning and Zoning Board and June 17, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

C14-01; 3043 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional use application with a site plan to allow a mixed use development that includes an artist studio/gallery, one residential dwelling unit, and one transient accommodation unit.

June 11, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- There are no cases scheduled for this agenda at this time.