



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *April 26 - May 2, 2015*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport Library will be closed May 6-18 as staff transitions from Scout Hall to the newly renovated Gulfport Public Library. The Library is scheduled to open the week of May 18. More information will follow. Please use the Library's temporary phone number, 873-3919 during the transition.

Tickets for the **May 21 Tampa Bay Rays home game** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$25.00 ticket price includes 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. For more information call 893-1070.

The City of Gulfport is seeking vendors and products for the City's annual **Hurricane Seminar** scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. For more information call 893-1118 or email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us).

April 25 was a beautiful day for the annual **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Fun Day**. The event included free sailboat rides, club tours, door prizes, information about Sailing School, Youth Sailing, membership, and many other activities. The City of Gulfport showcased a presentation area and poster images of the Gulfport Marina's renovation plan. Photos courtesy of BCYC.



On March 31, parents, caregivers and kids met with Vice Mayor Yolanda Roman and City staff for a community forum to highlight children's programs in the City. The presentation and a printable reference guide listing the programs offered are available for viewing at [www.mygulfport.us/youthinformation](http://www.mygulfport.us/youthinformation). From Tots to Teens, check out the many youth programs offered by the Gulfport Recreation Center, Library, Police Department and other community organizations, as well as playgrounds, parks. For more information call 893-1118.

### Upcoming Events:

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).

Come hungry to the **Gulfport Lions Club All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, May 9 beginning at 7 a.m. The Gulfport Lion's Club overlooks Boca Ciega Bay at 4630 Tifton Drive. Admission: \$5 at the door. All proceeds benefit eye-related organizations, Scouts, Little League and many other community organizations.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. - noon. If you are 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](mailto:gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com).

Want to learn how to cut electrical costs? An expert with the **Pinellas County Extension Service Energy Efficiency Project Program** will present an informational program in the Gulfport Public Library Friends Room on Monday, May 11, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. For more information or to register call 873-3919, or visit the Reference Desk at Scout Hall, 5315 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue through May 5.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	72
Self-initiated calls for service	296
Offenses	37
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	33

### **Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Officers responded to the 5400 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue on April 23 after a caller reported he went to visit his son and found him deceased. His death appeared to be from natural causes.

Officer Priest discovered several juveniles in the alley in the 600 block of Folsom Street preparing to smoke marijuana on April 24. They were turned over to the SROs.

A resident in the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue reported that his ex-girlfriend came to his residence in an effort to reconcile. They got into an argument and she took his keys and left in his van. The woman violated the terms of a domestic violence injunction and probable cause exists for her arrest.

A resident in the 5600 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that a friend who was staying the night at his home invited two friends over. When the resident returned from work he discovered two phones, a tablet, and jewelry were missing.

Officers encountered a juvenile at Tomlinson Park on April 25 that they knew from previous criminal incidents. The juvenile showed signs of drug use and admitted to having smoked marijuana just recently. He was arrested for violating probation.

Officer Iwanowski provided translation services for the Pinellas Park Police Department during a DUI investigation on April 25. The driver spoke Polish and did not understand English well.

A resident 800 block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of April 26 that she left her garage open overnight and her bicycles unsecured inside. They were gone when she awoke.

A resident in the 5600 block of Newton Avenue reported that three people were removing decorative plants from her neighbor's yard. Officers made contact and charged the subjects with petit theft. One of the three was also wanted for nonpayment of child support. The plants were returned to the owner.

A resident 1400 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported that he left his garage open overnight and his bicycles unsecured inside. They were gone when he awoke.

A resident in the 2000 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of April 27 that boating and fishing equipment he left unsecured in his carport was stolen.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a resident reported a prowler around vacant properties. They checked the properties but did not find the subject described.

While officers were checking vacant properties for a prowler call, they came across an abandoned house with an open door and an adult who had just engaged in sexual intercourse with an underage female. Kristoff Taviere was arrested for lewd and lascivious battery while the girl was reunited with her parents and taken for a medical and forensic examination.

Officers responded to the Dollar General after a juvenile reported he left his unsecured bike outside the store and when he returned the bike was gone. The investigation continues.

Melvin Love was arrested for simple battery after officers responded to a fight in progress in the 5400 Shore Boulevard. Other bar patrons and staff attempted to break up the fight, and an employee was punched in the eye by Love.

A resident in the 1700 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street reported on April 28 that lawn equipment was stolen from his carport and two sheds in the yard.

A resident in the 5300 Block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone had dented the hood of his car. The victim was unsure exactly when or where the damage occurred.

A resident in the 1700 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street reported on April 29 that someone entered the shed in her backyard and stole a red men's bike. She was alerted to check her sheds by her neighbor who discovered a burglary to his sheds the day before.

A resident in the 2600 Block of 45<sup>th</sup> Street reported that someone stole a firearm from his unlocked truck. The theft occurred sometime over a two day period.

A resident in the 5500 Block of Shore Boulevard reported that he was battered by several juveniles and adults. The incident began at the beachfront and continued up 54<sup>th</sup> Street. None of the parties involved wished to press charges.

A resident in the 1700 Block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported that someone came into his fenced back yard and attempted to steal tools from a tool box on an enclosed back porch. The resident chased the suspect but the he got away.

A resident in the 5900 Block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that Michele Langfitt was at her house in violation of a no contact order. When officers arrived Langfitt was still on scene and was uncooperative. She was arrested for violation of a no contact order.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 3.5 hours this week. Conditions were choppy and no contacts were made.

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

New cases:	30
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	10

Cases referred back to patrol:	3
Supplements received:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	2

Detective Pham closed one case by arrest; testified at a trial for a grand theft case; attended mandatory CPR/First Aid training, and; conducted sex offender checks.

Detective Crowson attended pre-trial hearings for two juvenile defendants involved in an armed robbery in attempt to identify the other three suspects, and assisted patrol in a lewd and lascivious battery investigation.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored two students; arrested a student for battery on a school board employee; covered a patrol squad, and; broke up an altercation, preventing a fight.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a battery and referred charges to the state attorney; responded to a fight in progress in which two arrests were made; assisted SPPD with a distribution of child pornography investigation; completed a found property report; responded to a suspicious person/vehicle; assisted in identifying the suspect in a bike theft; investigated the theft of two book bags; located and transported a trespasser off campus; assisted a SPPD detective with locating a student; spoke with a parent regarding an incident that occurred off campus; spoke with a student who had questions regarding SRO experiences; attended mandatory CPR/First Aid training, and; instructed the Gulfport Police Explorers on the topic of domestic violence.

Margaret Palmisano distributed case agent evidence review forms; compiled and distributed the open case lists, and; completed pawn checks on 13 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or a searchable property description.

**Records Section**

Reports reviewed	10
Supplements reviewed:	57
Public records requests:	7
Reports disseminated:	28
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	16
Citizens assisted:	33

**MARINA**

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

Pumped two thousand five hundred seventy six (2,576) gallons of gas and one thousand five hundred sixty seven (1,567) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred (100) vessels.

**Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 26' motorboat, 30' motorboat, 36' motorboat, 35' sailboat, 28' sailboat, 34' sailboat and a 36' sailboat this week.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **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.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes and HR, Recreation & Senior Center information on City website.
- Continued preparations for St. Pete Pride Parade & 5k, and Rays Trolley promo.
- Assisting with planning for Library grand reopening.
- Contacting last year's Hurricane Seminar vendors for participation in this year's event.
- Scheduled filming for new Trolley video.
- Continued training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.

### **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).

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 & 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 **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 27<sup>th</sup> 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, May 5.

Is there a way to have clutter and still be organized? Join Beth of Redefined Living for **Organizing & Decluttering** on Wednesday May 6 at 2 p.m.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. Topic for May 11 meeting: *Medicare Special Enrollment Periods*.

Experience what life was like during the 19<sup>th</sup> century at our next **Gulfport GEMS Getaway to Heritage Village** featuring, a historic schoolhouse, church, railroad depot, & homes on

Thursday May 7. GEMS members \$10/nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation & guided tour.

Ladies, spoil yourself and enjoy an elegant & fun afternoon at **Mother's Day High Tea** on Monday, May 11 at 3 p.m. Hats & gloves are encouraged but not required. Bring photos of your children & grandchildren to share. Limited seating; tickets must be obtained prior to event.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is May 11. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Learn to use thoughts to change your life and to free yourself from an inner or external dialogue that is no longer beneficial during **Law of Attraction: The Power of Your Thoughts** on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution return at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 14 for the monthly **Cell Phone Q&A**. Bring your cell phone & ask your questions!

Want more companionship in your life? Curious about online dating? Check out **Healthy Aging with Heidi Crocket: Dating for Seniors** on Monday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Confused about your healthcare? Attend **Health & Wealth 101** on Wednesday, May 20 at 3 p.m. Presented by Ameri-Life.

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

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

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, April 19            6 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 42)
- Tuesday, April 21            Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 14)  
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 71)
- Wednesday, April 22        6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 245)
- Thursday, April 23           6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 38)
- Saturday, April 25           8:p.m. - St. Pete High School Senior Prom (Turnout 460)

### **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*)**

- Sunday, April 19           2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Play On*  
(Turnout 70)
- Thursday, April 23        8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 44)
- Friday, April 24           8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 47)
- Saturday, April 25        8 p.m. - GCP presents *Play On* (Turnout 82)

### **Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)**

Friday, May 1, 7 p.m. - *Michael Tomlinson: Songs, Stories & Laughter*; A rare and special evening with 10% of profits benefiting victims of domestic abuse. Tickets: \$25 available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and the Gulfport Casino & Beach Bazaar (cash only), \$30 cash at the door.

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

- Sunday, April 19           9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 35)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, April 21      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 23      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Saturday, April 25      1:30 p.m. - Baby Shower (Turnout 35)

**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, April 20          9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center  
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 7)

Tuesday, April 21          10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, April 22      10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Casino (Turnout 21)

Thursday, April 23          10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, April 24            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, April 20, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, April 21, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, April 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, April 22, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class*.

Wednesday, April 22, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, April 22, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, April 23, 3:30.m. - *Yoga Storytime*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, April 24, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Monday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project Program*: Learn how to cut costs from your power bill. Presented by an expert with the Pinellas County Extension Service. Registration required. For more information call 873-3919 or visit the Reference Desk.

Thursday, May 14, 2 p.m. - *Sunshine and Rainbows - Florida Law for the LGBT Community*: Learn about the status of the current legal landscape, presented by local attorney Elizabeth Barnes.

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll 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, May 21, 7 p.m. - *Freedom to Read, Freedom to Marry: Where We Stand*: Program detailing LGBTQ issues presented by Nadine Smith in the Frances Purdy Friends Room.

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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*. Relocated to City Hall Council Chambers during Library renovation & transition.

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](mailto: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 April 19 - 25, 2015:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	748	499
Sun. 4/19	Library closed	
Mon. 4/20	116	84

Tue. 4/21	135	88
Wed. 4/22	137	96
Thu. 4/23	139	88
Fri. 4/24	141	67
Sat. 4/25	67	59

### Recreation Center

The Multipurpose room was rented 2-6 p.m. Saturday, April 25 for a baby shower.

The Multipurpose room is reserved 1-6 p.m. Saturday, May 2 for a baby shower.

### Programs, Classes & Activities

Registration is underway for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

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. Sixteen (16) Tot Time/VPK participants and eleven (11) adults visited the Glazer Museum in Tampa on Wednesday.

Seventy four (74) 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, Yoga and Zumba.

### Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham & Alton Hooker assisted the Pinellas County Film Commission with an onsite film shoot on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport the Tot Time/VPK program to the Glazer Museum on Wednesday.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### Calls for Service:

- 47 Emergency Medical Calls

- 4 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

#### **Life Safety:**

- 8 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.'s
- 1 Site Plan Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, May 14. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh performed a final walk-thru with Tisdale Construction at the new Stetson Law College Administrative Offices.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the St. Petersburg CME Steering committee meeting on April 24.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

##### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired lights outside of Theater door in lobby.
- Sought estimates for Library a/c repair.
- Installed shelving in employee office at City Hall.
- Repaired a/c unit at Senior Center Snack Bar, and set up rooms for daily activities.
- Cleaned restrooms outside Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

##### **Parks**

- Set up barricades and trashcans in preparation for Regatta, filming at Recreation Center and O'Maddy's support the troops events, and removed following events.
- Replaced bike rack and sign at Casino.
- Removed past event banner on Gulfport Boulevard and installed upcoming event banner.
- Continued sealing picnic tables at Recreation Center and beach.
- Repaired bench on beach and electrical conduit on Casino pier.
- Replaced motor on exhaust fan at shop & volleyball net at beach.
- Cleared debris from parks following storm.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Recreation Center, Veterans Park, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians & library grounds, and raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Recreation Center, beach & Marina green spaces, City Complex, Wood Ibis, Tomlinson, Clam Bayou & Clymer Parks, trail spur, Tangerine Greenway, Senior Center & Library grounds.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced guard and wheel on stick edger.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center and Dog Park.

- 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 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.
- Removed torn banners at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Installed disabled parking sign in front of Peninsula Inn.
- Removed sight obstruction at Tifton Street & 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue per Code Enforcement request.
- Filled sinkhole in alleyway at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Cleared seaweed from beach.
- Built ramps at Marina for weekend event, and removed following event.
- Replaced stop sign at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue following vehicle strike.
- Delivered extra 300-gallon trash containers, and set up road closure signs at O'Maddy's in preparation for event.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Replaced crosswalk sign, reset stop sign and "stop bar" at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Installed "No Parking" sign at 2003 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 79 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 14 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 3 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 28 backflow devices due in April.

- Replaced water service and meter 5718 20<sup>th</sup> Street, and saddle & service line at 5913 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired broken backflow at 5002 Gulfport Boulevard.

### **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.
- Changed oil in lift station pumps.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced battery box and PTO shaft on Fire Engine #E17.
- Repaired and reinstalled tire on Police vehicle #501.
- Replaced belts on Parks Toro Groundskeeper mower.
- Replaced hydraulic cylinder on trolley wheelchair lift.
- 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, 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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**May 13, 2015 Board of Adjustment:**

- V15-15; 2833 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 8 feet 8 inches, from 26 feet 4 inches to 17 feet 8 inches to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.
- V15-16; 3001 York Street South; Variance request to:
  1. reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.14 feet, from 6 feet to 4.86 feet; and
  2. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 22 feet, from 25 feet to 3 feet to allow for the construction a screen enclosure.