



# *Gulfport Community Update*

*June 19 - 25, 2016*

## **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the City's first ever **Neighborhood Watch party** on June 18 a success; Gulfport Police and Fire Departments, CERT, New Horizons Band, Brandon Robinson from Stetson University of Law's Elder Consumer Protection Program, Certified Identity Theft Risk Management Specialist Vincent Distefano, Laurie Ann Corio-Johnson of SPCA Tampa Bay Safety Zone Advocacy, Inc., and the St. Petersburg Police Department. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital sponsored the bike rodeo. To learn more about Neighborhood Watch call Richard Grimberg at 893-1022.



Gulfport City Hall & facilities will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of **Independence Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

**Hurricane Implementation Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30.

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** on the Tangerine Greenway every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The market focuses on locally made items, but SO49 will consider others in an effort to meet the needs of the community. For more information call 439-0164 or email [jsrtraining@aol.com](mailto:jsrtraining@aol.com).

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).

Everyone is invited to the City of Gulfport's **Independence Day Celebration** in the Waterfront District on Monday, July 4. The day's events begin with a Kid's Fishing Derby at the Recreation Center Seawall at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Bring your own pole! This year's Family Sand Sculpture contest on Gulfport Beach from 10 a.m. until noon will have a Red, White & Blue theme. Bring your own tools and supplies. The little ones will have a great time with water slides, balloon entertainment and concessions at KIDZONE behind the Recreation Center from noon until 5 p.m. Food, fun, art and crafts vendors will offer their wares from 2 until 10 p.m. Live musical entertainment sets the Casino stage with Solar Exposer beginning at 5 p.m. The band recently received a nomination for 'Best Local Cover Band' in Creative Loafing's "Best of The Bay" annual awards in 2015 and has appeared at Rib Fest three years running. No 4<sup>th</sup> of July would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. The day's celebration caps off with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. The trolley will be running noon - 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 - 11 p.m. to transport passengers to & from remote parking locations: Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard; Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Senior Center & Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Hoyt Field, 2306 56<sup>th</sup> Street; Chase Park, 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Park, 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The driver will also be picking up passengers along the route - just give a wave! Residents wishing to participate in the parade are invited to register at Gulfport City Hall, or fill out the online form at [www.mygulfport.us/july-4th](http://www.mygulfport.us/july-4th) no later than Friday, June 24. For more information, email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1118.

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for the Saturday, August 20 **Tampa Bay Rowdies** vs. FC Edmonton game; Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at [www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley](http://www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley). Tickets are also available for the Saturday, September 17 vs. Carolina Railhawks game. Departure from the Casino begins at 5 p.m. and games are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1118.

Tickets for the **August 24 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Boston Red Sox** and the **September 21 vs. New York Yankees** games are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat & complimentary Ray's baseball hat. All Rays fans with tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game on the Gulfport Trolley. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips begin during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. All trolley trips this season take place on \$2 *Hotdog Wednesdays*. For more information call 893-1118.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	150
Self-initiated calls for service	357
Offenses	25

Arrests	11
Traffic citations	56
Ordinance violations	34

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 Block of Essex Avenue on June 1 after a green minivan sideswiped a beer delivery truck and another vehicle. The van's driver left the scene and did not return.

A resident flagged down Officer Carter in the 4900 Block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and reported that the passenger in his car stole a \$400 watch from him. Officer Carter interviewed passenger Nelson Italiano who admitted to taking the watch, but claimed it had fallen off his wrist so he no longer had it. He was arrested for the theft.

A woman flagged down Officer Novak on June 17 and reported that her husband came home from a night of drinking and punched her in the eye. She had visible injuries and had run out of the house in her underwear to get help. The husband was located several blocks away loading his clothes into a friend's car in an attempt to leave the area. He was arrested for battery - domestic related and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A woman reported that her ex-boyfriend grabbed her hair and her throat after an argument. She had small marks that suggested she had been in a scuffle. The man was located in St. Petersburg, and after being interviewed he was arrested.

A juvenile approached Sergeant Parks in the Walgreen's parking lot on June 18 and asked for a ride home to St. Petersburg. He gave her a courtesy transport but a computer check revealed a misdemeanor court-ordered pickup. She was placed under arrest after the pickup order was confirmed and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center without incident.

A resident in the 5400 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that two ladders were taken from his fenced backyard. He was not sure when the ladders were taken, but he had last seen them in May.

A resident in the 900 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue reported he left his vehicle unlocked for approximately 10 minutes, and when he returned his cellphone and his daughter's purse were missing. A witness observed a brown color vehicle leaving the area at a high rate of speed.

Lindsay Fox was arrested on June 20 on an outstanding warrant for violation of felony probation.

A resident in the 5100 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue returned home after a weekend away and discovered that someone had stolen a trailer parked on his property.

Timothy McKay was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failing to appear in court on a criminal traffic summons.

Officer Carter observed a car failing to stop at a stop sign in the 3000 Block of Shore Boulevard on June 21. He initiated a traffic stop and smelled a strong odor of marijuana. A search of the vehicle uncovered over 350 grams of marijuana (20 grams is the felony threshold) and 14 Xanax pills. Driver, David Mannuzza was arrested, and his car and more than in \$1,000 cash was seized.

Wyly Weeks was arrested for violation of probation for domestic battery on June 22.

Officer Carter stopped a car in the 4900 Block of Newton Avenue for a tag violation. Passenger, John Johnston revealed that he had an outstanding warrant for possession of a controlled substance. He was arrested.

The marine unit was out of service for maintenance this week.

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

New cases:	6
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	3
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	6

## **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a fraud, a sexual battery and an arson; worked with State Fire Marshal Investigator Shane Gaghan who obtained an arrest warrant for Thomas Bennett Jr. for arson and 12 counts of aggravated animal cruelty; cleared a case with arrest after a suspect was picked up on a warrant for uttering, and; added charges against Andrew Corrigan in an IRS scam case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a lewd and lascivious battery and two thefts; located and interviewed a suspect in a grand theft case, and; checked gas pumps throughout the City for skimming devices. None were located.

School Resource Officer Motte and Langston are with the Explorers at the Florida Association of Police Explorers competition.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled information for Officer Mills for a crime watch meeting, and updated the sex offender display and pamphlet removing a sex predator who no longer lives in the City.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	9
Supplements reviewed:	116
Public Records requests:	22
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	28
Citizens assisted:	38

## **MARINA**

Assisted in fifty six (56) pump outs evacuating eight hundred twenty two (822) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand one hundred seventy seven (3,177) gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred twenty eight (1,128) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred one hundred thirty six (136) vessels.

## **Transient vessels:**

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

## **LIBRARY**

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

**Rags: A Survey of LGBT Periodicals** is on display during the month of June. The exhibit covers the history of gay newsweeklies across the country, and highlights their role in creating political and societal changes. Call 893-1075 for more information.

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

Monday, June 13, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Pigeon Day.*

Monday, June 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Change Your Water, Change Your Life*, presented by Crea Egan.

Tuesday, June 14, 10 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

Tuesday, June 14, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, June 14, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club.*

Tuesday, June 14 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, June 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, June 15, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 15, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, June 15, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program: Coffee Art.*

Wednesday, June 15, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, June 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins over coffee & light refreshments.

Thursday, June 16, 2 p.m. - *Roots and Shoots.*

Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

Friday, June 10, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

## **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, June 25, 11 a.m. & Monday, June 27, 5:30 p.m. - *Change Your Water, Change Your Life: Health, wellness, and water demo seminar.* Video presentation hosted by Crea Egan. Receive a 21-day supply of water for free. For more information call 560-0608.

Monday, June 27, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Giving Tree Drum Circle.*

Wednesday, June 29, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program: Olympic Games.*

Saturday, July 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.* Join us for this new series of monthly screenings beginning in April. Selections intended for adults only to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Tuesday, July 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Monday, July 11, 5 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Release your Cosmic MOJO as we explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. For more information call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com).

Tuesday, July 12, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club*: The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body, this club is for you. Email [klane@untieyourwings.com](mailto:klane@untieyourwings.com) for more information.

Thursday, July 14, noon - *Lunch & Learn, Create Your Own Rain Garden*: Presented by Brian Niemann of the Pinellas County Extension service. Bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Call 893-1075 for more information.

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

Thursday, July 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie*. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, July 21, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Co-hosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

Thursday, July 28, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga*: The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Every Monday - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: 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, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere. This is our most popular language group so far!

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. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

#### **Library Services/Statistic June 12 - 18, 2016:**

##### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,246	604
Sun. 6/12	Library closed	

Mon. 6/13	190	71
Tue. 6/14	185	102
Wed. 6/15	208	81
Thu. 6/16	247	122
Fri. 6/17	185	110
Sat. 6/18	231	101

## **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 and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2016-2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Received participant applications for Independence Day parade.
- Helped facilitate Gulfport Neighborhood Watch Party.
- Uploaded video & links for June 21 City Council meeting, and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Distributed July calendar.
- Troubleshoot TV station power issues.
- Spoke by phone with Dockwa Marketing department concerning Marina and relayed information to Marina Director.

### **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 Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is June 30.

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, July 5.

Stretch out in an oversized reclining chair at **Cobb Tyrone Luxury 10 Theaters** for *Finding Dory* on Thursday, July 7. Reserve your seat by July 1. GEMS members \$12/nonmembers \$14. Price includes round trip transportation and movie ticket.

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

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

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

**The Last Word - Writing an Obituary** is offered at the Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. every first & fourth Monday. Learn the ins and outs of writing and placing an obituary in the local press from local writer, editor and instructor Diane Craig. Call 893-5657 to register.

**One-On-One Tech Support** with Jaclyn meets every Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Assistance is not limited to specific devices. All electronics and skill levels are welcome.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. Call 582-7480 to qualify and to schedule an appointment.

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. will provide quality **legal advice and services** to Gulfport Senior Center participants 10 a.m. - noon every fourth Monday of the month.

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):**

- Sunday, June 12      6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance with Swingtime (Turnout 113)
- Tuesday, June 14      9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 15)  
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 15)  
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance
- Wednesday, June 15      Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 19)  
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 213)
- Thursday, June 16      9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 9)  
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 19)
- Friday, June 17      11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 14)  
6 p.m. - Third Friday Sock Hop with The Impacs & Ken Brady (Turnout 106)

**Casino (upcoming events):**

- Sunday, June 26      3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance  
Admission \$8
- Monday, June 27      7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance    Members \$5/nonmembers \$8
- 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 (upcoming events)**

Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. - *Friends of Dorothy*: A musical journey of "all things Oz" to benefit the Gulfport LGBTQ Resource Center. Tickets: \$15, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar.

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

- Sunday, June 12      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 20)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Tuesday, June 14      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, June 16 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)

**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, June 12 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 10)

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

Monday, June 13 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 17)

Tuesday, June 14 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Friday, June 17 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

**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 rented 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, June 18 for a baby shower with 60 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 5 - 11 p.m. Saturday, June 25 for a family reunion.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

One hundred four children have been registered for the **2016 Summer Recreation Program**. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Fifty seven 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, Pickleball, Table Tennis and Tennis.

### **Staff Activities**

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 51 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Wires Down

#### **Life Safety:**

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plan Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** met with the new volunteer coordinator. The next training session is 7 p.m. Thursday, July 21. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place at the Police Department.

The B-shift manned Engine 17 for a demonstration at the Gulfport Recreation Center for approximately 50 Summer Recreation participants on June 22 (photos below).



Gulfport Firefighters continued their annual physicals this week. The physicals include a series of tests for Firefighter safety and wellbeing per NFPA 1500 requirements.

Chief Marenkovic the PALS meeting at Station 54 in Oldsmar on June 21, and the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on June 23.

The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting two EMT Students from the St. Petersburg College internship field program. Firefighter/Paramedic Grady on the A-shift is their preceptor.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced two ballasts at Casino.
- Capped old fuel wells in Police compound.
- Treated wood shelving in Recreation Center storage room for termites, and replaced faucet and service line on men's room sink.
- Replaced fluidmaster, tank gasket & bolts, and waterline to toilet in Parks Division office.
- Assisted in disposal of numerous items at Senior Center, and treated pantry for boll weevils.
- Continued semi-annual maintenance on all City a/c units.
- Replaced in Recreation Center Men's Restroom.
- Replaced emergency light in Vehicle Maintenance office.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Set up fencing and trashcans in preparation for Beach volleyball tournaments, and helped barricade roads in preparation for public crime watch party.
- Moved Wood Ibis lake fountains into deeper water.
- Replaced air hose at shop.
- Replaced battery in jumper box.
- Hung sign at Wood Ibis Park.
- Removed barricades following storm.
- Replaced globes & bulbs on pier and wooden dock behind Casino.
- Ordered supplies for Independence Day event.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces, Chase Block, Dog Park & Tonkin Park.
- Repaired irrigation along Chase block and at Library.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach Streetscapes, Casino & City complex, mulched and raked around benches and pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced drive chain on reel mowers.
- 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 ball fields daily.

### **Streets & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.

- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Removed debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Replenished recycle bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed bees from tree on City right of way at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Mowed swale on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 52<sup>nd</sup> & 54<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Cleaned storm lines on 54<sup>th</sup> Street between 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenues, and cleaned out Continuous Deflective System (CDS) units at the Marina.

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 5 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 145 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 18 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 water meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- Replaced 2 old meters with new style electronic meters.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Repaired water breaks at 5659 Shore Boulevard & 6025 Luana Lane.

### **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, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced sewer lateral and clean-out to 5519 Shore Boulevard.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 1119 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced rear tires on Police vehicle #18.
- Jump started impounded vehicle at Police Station.

- Replaced wheel and tire on Toro mower.
- Replaced front brakes on Parks vehicle #53.
- Replaced two tires on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Delivered Sanitation vehicle #40 to Tampa Spring for repairs.
- 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 continued this week 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for May was 190. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 1,171. The number of citizen complaints for April was 15, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 79. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.7 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. 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 at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).