



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *July 20 - 26, 2014*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Tickets for the **September 4 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 a complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans already holding a ticket are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure times are: 5 p.m. for batting practice; 6 p.m. for pre-game, and; 7 p.m. for game time. All departures are from the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. For more information call 893-1070.

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 Gulfport City limits*. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

**2014 Hurricane Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic began on June 1 and ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The next **Gulfport Library Garden Fourth Saturday Workshop** is 2 p.m. Saturday, July 26. Participation is limited to 30 adults with one person per household. Sign up at the Circulation Desk. Participants will build a vertical hanging planter to take home. The Home Depot on Tyrone Boulevard, a major supporter of the Library's planned Seed Library will sponsor this free event and August's Earth Box Workshop. Thank you to Home Depot Assistant Manager Lindsey Tornello and workshop leader Sandra Bennett for their ongoing support in making these events possible. Call the Library at 893-1073 for more information.

The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Sunday, July 27, 6 - 8 p.m. at Gulfport Beach Complex at Shelter #4. Please bring a picker, grabber and gloves, and be sure to wear sun protection. Water will be provided.

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 about the Market visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or 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 **Crime Awareness meeting** at the Neighborhood Center at 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. The next meeting is August 4. For more information call 893-1111.

Everyone is invited to **Gulfport Night Out** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Thursday, August 7, 6 - 8 p.m. Attendees can meet and learn about the Gulfport Police and Fire Departments. Staff will showcase information on other Departments within the City. Check out Gulfport's prime patrol vehicles and Marine unit. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Department will display the Forensic Mobile unit for participants to learn more about the process. Enjoy free kid friendly activities with popcorn, sand art necklaces, a high striker for kids, mini hoop shot basketball and more. A representative from the newly-formed monthly Crime Watch meeting will advise citizens on how to get involved. For more information call 893-1111.

The theme of this year's **Gecko Ball** is *Roaring Geckos*, evoking the Roaring 20s era of Americana. In addition to the live auction of participating artists' geckos, the event will include

several dozen silent auction items, costumes and costume contests, dinner buffet, cash bar, live music, dancing and more. The Gecko Ball is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday, August 23 at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. Tickets are \$35, available in advance at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard, or online [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com). A portion of proceeds from Gecko Ball, the August 9 Gecko Pub Crawl and GeckoFest on August 30 will benefit local charities and fund the commission of a public art installation.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	121
Self-initiated calls for service	487
Offenses	32
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	26

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

A resident called to report a suspicious vehicle in a parking lot in the 2900 Block of 45<sup>th</sup> Street on the morning of July 17. Officers discovered the car was reported stolen out of Largo, and watched it for several hours but nobody returned to it.

A juvenile reported that his bicycle was stolen from the lobby at the Gulfport Library. The bike is custom made and has a blue/purple frame with green handlebars.

Officer Nicita stopped a pickup truck in the 1800 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street for an equipment violation. The driver fled on foot, leaving his identification in the truck. There is probable cause for his arrest for resisting an officer without violence and for felony driving with a suspected license.

A resident in the 1800 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street reported that sometime between July 13 & 18, someone stole three Cannondale bikes from their fenced backyard. Three juveniles were stopped on the bikes a few days before the incident was reported, and are considered suspects.

An officer responded to a complaint on the morning of July 20 that a woman was being held against her will. The woman was sleeping inside a storage unit in the 700 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street with a male companion, but appeared to be there of her own free will. The male subject consented to a search of his storage unit, and paraphernalia was found inside as was crack cocaine, and both the male and female were arrested.

A resident in the 1800 block of Gray Street reported on July 21 that an unknown person made entry to his unlocked car and stole a Leatherman multi-purpose tool.

Officers responded to the 4900 Block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue regarding a juvenile male kicking in his mother's front door because she wouldn't take him to football practice. The mother wanted to prosecute and the juvenile was arrested and transported to PJAC.

A St. Petersburg police officer made contact with a subject who had a GPS and several weapons in his possession on July 22. The officer hit the "home" button on the GPS and it led to a residence in Gulfport where a vehicle had been burglarized. Officer Novak added charges to the subject for burglary after the SPPD officer arrested the subject for a weapons charge.

Sometime between July 17 & 21, someone stole a green golf cart with a tan top from a storage room on the Boca Ciega High School campus.

A resident in the 5600 Block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that while he was out two black males entered his unlocked pickup truck and stole a briefcase. A neighbor saw the suspects but did not call the police.

## **Investigations:**

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	8

Detective Pham conducted pawn records checks and follow-up investigations this week and spent approximately 20 hours typing supplements.

This week Detective Crowson identified a suspect in a purse theft/credit card fraud case; investigated a robbery; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail after receiving notification from Virtual Inmate Processing and Receiving (VIPAR) that the suspect had been arrested on unrelated charges, and; assisted with the Pinellas County Explorer academy.

Margaret Palmisano submitted the approved semi-annual UCR data to FDLE; created crime prevention tips about credit card skimming to be posted on the Gulfport PD Facebook page; completed an analysis of retail thefts; completed a review of all items reported stolen with a known serial number for proper documentation that they were entered into FCIC/NCIC, and; created and distributed a bulletin for Detective Crowson for a subject wanted for questioning in a residential burglary.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	31
Supplements reviewed:	100
Public records requests:	12
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	12
Citizens assisted:	30

## **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand seven hundred sixty five (2,765) gallons of gas, and two thousand four hundred forty four (2,444) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty one (121) vessels.

Assisted in twenty nine (29) pump outs evacuating three hundred eighty five (385) gallons of waste.

## **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 41' powerboat, 50' powerboat, 37' powerboat, 39' powerboat 40' sailboat and a 34' sailboat this week.

## Staff activities:

- Repaired south pump-out and halyard on flag pole.
- Procured drinks for resale.
- Removed, repaired & reinstalled dock box on pier five, slip nine.
- Performed slip count.

## 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-615](http://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.
- Continued organizing Fiscal Year 2014/15 events schedule.
- Continued production of Bike Theft PSA video.
- Updated Recreation Center page on City website.
- Commenced preparation of September calendar.
- Met with artists for booking of exhibits in Theater.
- Attended Relay for Life meeting.
- Updated August information on GTV615 rotation slide of programming.
- Created promo slide for Casino event.
- Distributed weekly newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.

### **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](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 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, 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.

Worried about the high cost of long term care? Attend **Afraid You Can't Get Medicaid** on Monday, July 28 at 2:30 pm. Elder Law Attorney April Hill will offer advice on how to prepare for the high cost of long term care with insurance, private funds and Medicaid.

The Senior Center offers a free **Mini Health Fair** at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next screening is July 31. Blood pressure checks provided by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center, and vein screenings by Premier Vein Institute.

The Senior Center will host a showing of **HBO's Alzheimer's Project** documentary series on Friday, August 1 at 10 a.m. Take a look at the faces behind the disease and the forces leading us to a cure.

Join us at 3:30 a.m. Monday, August 4 for **Franklin D. Roosevelt: American Royalty**, presented by Eckerd College about the life and ideals of America's 32<sup>nd</sup> President.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is August 5. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Join Linda Burhans for **Tips for Caregivers** as she encourages self-care and joyful response to your role as a family caregiver on Wednesday, August 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Have a fun filled day exploring *The American Soldier* exhibit at the Museum of History during our next **Gulfport Getaway** on Thursday, August 7. This exhibit covers America at war from the Civil War to the streets of Baghdad. Call GEMS at 893-2242 before August 1 to reserve your seat. GEMS members: \$14/nonmembers \$16.

Join us for lots of fun & laughter at **These Joints are Jumping** on Friday August 8 at 11 a.m. when we'll dance in our chairs to music we love!

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, August 8. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

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 August 11. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, August 12.

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 August 14.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 14.

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, August 21, 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' August birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, August 22. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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.

**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*):**

Sunday, July 13	6 p.m. - Mario Deleon's band & Ballroom Dance with dance lesson by Paul Kirk (Turnout 48)
Tuesday, July 15	9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 24) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Paul Kirk 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 8) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 40)
Wednesday, July 16	6 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 204)
Thursday, July 17	9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 19) 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 22)
Friday, July 18	6 p.m. - The Impacs band & dance (Turnout 400)
Saturday, July 19	8 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 160)

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

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi 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 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi  
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

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

Sunday, July 13 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 36)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, July 15 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Thursday, July 17 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)  
5:30 p.m. - Citizens Police Academy (Turnout 14)

**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

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):**

Sunday, July 13 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) Summer One Acts (Turnout 146)

Thursday, July 17 8 p.m. - GCP Summer One Acts (Turnout 44)

Friday, July 18 8 p.m. - GCP Summer One Acts (Turnout 94)

Saturday, July 19 8 p.m. - GCP Summer One Acts (Turnout 97)

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

Sunday, July 13 4 p.m. - Family dinner (Turnout 30)

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

Monday, July 14 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 24)

Tuesday, July 15 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 12)

Wednesday, July 16 11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 12)

Friday, July 18 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

### **Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair 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, July 14, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading program for grades K-5.*

Monday, July 14, 5 p.m. - *Kathleen Peters Q&A session.*

Tuesday, July 15, 11 a.m. - *Guardian ad Litem informational program*, facilitated by Community Outreach Coordinator Kristi Tolmer.

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 16, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading program.*

Wednesday, July 16, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, July 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hallucinations by Oliver Sacks* over coffee & light refreshments.

Friday, July 18, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Class.*

Friday, July 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, July 26, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Building a Hanging Garden Planter.* Create space for additional growth! Attendees are invited to stay after class and informally discuss their gardening-related issues. Pre-registration required. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Monday, July 28, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session:* Join in and get in touch with your musical self. For more information call Alex at 893-1073.

Wednesday, July 30, 7 p.m. - *Sayonara Summer:* End of Summer Japanese snack party for teens.

Saturday, August 2, 12:30 p.m. - *Suddenly in Command! Boating Safety Workshop:* Circumstances while on the water can suddenly change, thus promoting a passenger to captain. How should you react if placed in this situation? Reps from the USCG Auxiliary will lead the discussion on how best to deal with emergencies when the captain is "out of commission." For more information call 419-260-3592.

Thursday, August 7, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop*: Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Every Friday through August 15, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Classes*: Ted Leitho leads participants in a series of relaxing sessions. Bring a pillow to sit on the floor if you wish, and explore the wisdom of Katha Upanisad, translated by Swami Lokeswarananda. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Thursday, August 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, August 26 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 893-1073.

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, 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 by the Easy books.

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

**Library Services/Statistic July 13 - 19, 2014:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1980	612
Sun. 7/13	Library closed	
Mon. 7/14	428	120
Tue. 7/15	321	111
Wed. 7/16	302	93
Thu. 7/17	387	119
Fri. 7/18	295	94
Sat. 7/19	234	69

**Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room is reserved 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, July 26 for a family reunion.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

One hundred twenty seven (127) children have been registered for the **2014 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. Registration fees are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents. 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.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Live in Color Meditation, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

One hundred seven (107) 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.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 26 closed
- Water payments: 1041 totaling \$139,799.89
- On-Line Water payments: 176 transactions totaling \$10,981.63
- Bright House payments: 14
- Utility Bills Mailed 7/23/14 1312
- Payroll 07/18/14: 170 transactions totaling \$182,225.81

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue

### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Fire Inspection
- 1 Smoke Detector

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, August 21 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

### **Staff Activities:**

- The E-One 2004 Pumper 17 and E-One 2012 Engine 17 passed annual pump testing this week, as required for ISO Pump Recertification.
- The 911 Dispatch Center has moved to the new Public Safety Complex at 10750 Ulmerton Road.
- Chief Marenkovic met with Chief Howard and staff at Stetson Law College on July 22 to briefly discuss Fire Safety/ Emergency Protocols at the School.
- A Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program continues his ride along with Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift as his preceptor.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced water fountain, drain and connection at Wood Ibis Park.
- Installed light fixture outside Recreation Center art room.
- Adjusted toilet at Casino inside ladies restroom.
- Purchased Allen wrenches for Scout Hall doors.

- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Replaced broken sink in men's restroom at beach.
- Replaced a/c filters on all City units.
- Replaced sink faucet & drain and paper towel dispenser in Public Services building upstairs break room.
- Moved numerous items from Casino to storage area.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Repaired benches at beach, Williams Pier and Skate Park.
- Replaced rail pickets on Tomlinson dock, hardware on gates & fences at Lum Field, drinking fountain at Wood Ibis Park & main electrical fuse for lights at Hoyt Field.
- Repaired Skate Park fence rail.
- Installed gate at Caldwell Park playground.
- Bleached and cleaned benches on pier.
- Installed bench, stone and bird statue at Clymer Greenway for Bird & Garden Club
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Senior Center & Library, and replaced rain sensors at Library, Senior Center, and Caldwell & Veterans Parks.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned hedges at City Hall and Fire Station.
- Mowed & trimmed Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Recreation Center, Library & Senior Center grounds, City Complex, Clymer Greenway, 55<sup>th</sup> Street median, Chase block, Dog Park, Hoyt perimeter & Marina green spaces.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired back blower, line trimmer & stick edger.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

## **Streets & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from City storm grates, inlets and outfalls.
- Set grade and added millings in the alleyways per direction.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Disposed of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Reset storm water lid at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street & 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Trimmed and removed tree limb obstructions on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 55<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Patched asphalt at several locations throughout City.

- Removed dead tree from right-of-way at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and tree trunk & pilings from Gulfport Marina ramp.
- Delivered 300 gallon trash containers to “Smokin’ J’s” for benefit event.
- Replaced 4’ x 4’ concrete storm lids at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 5’ x 4’ concrete storm lid at 45<sup>th</sup> Street & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed concrete debris from Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.
- Installed concrete bollard at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 119 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 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.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 31 backflow devices due in June.
- Replaced 22 old water meters with new style meter.
- Repaired water break at 6219 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.
- Televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 5902 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced a/c compressor on Sanitation truck #45.
- Repaired steering system on Recycling truck #46.
- Replaced starter on Building Maintenance vehicle #24.
- Removed bucket from main boom and resealed manifold on Lightening Loader #29.
- Repaired DPF exhaust system on Lightening Loader #88.
- 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](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.

Staff anticipates sending out **Business License renewal notices** sometime in July. A license is good from October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If the license is not renewed by October 1 a 10 percent penalty shall be applied for the month of October, and 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid. If you have paid your fee but continue to get a request for payment, let us know so we can make sure your account is corrected. 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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in 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.

Beginning in August Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets South. 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**August 13, 2014 Board of Adjustment:**

V14-15; 5850 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to:

1. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 8 feet, from 15 feet to 7 feet, and;
2. reduce the side yard setback 1 foot, from 6 feet to 5 feet to recognize the encroachments for an existing non-permitted, non-conforming accessory structure.