



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *June 29 - July 5, 2014*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

26 Participants, including Councilmembers Michael Fridovich and Yolanda Roman rode the Trolley from Gulfport City Hall to the **St. Petersburg Pride parade** on June 28 (photos below). An estimated 175,000 visitors attended the festivities.



Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of **Independence Day**. Thursday's sanitation route was collected on Wednesday, July 2, Friday's route was collected on Thursday, July 3 and there was no Wednesday yard waste collection this week.

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 Implementation 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:

Everyone is invited to the **City of Gulfport's Independence Day Celebration** in the Waterfront District on Friday, 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. The theme for this year's Family Sand Sculpture Contest from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. is Nautical. The little ones will have a great time at KIDZONE on Gulfport Beach behind the Recreation Center from noon until 5 p.m. Food, fun, art and crafts vendors will offer their wares from 4 until 9 p.m. Live musical entertainment sets the Casino stage with the Eacho84 Band from 5 until 9 p.m. No Independence Day would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. Meet the Mayor & City Council on the Casino main stage at 6:30 p.m., then stick around for the spectacular fireworks at 9:05 p.m.

The next **Gulfport Library Garden Fourth Saturday Workshop** series is 2 p.m. Saturday, July 26 in the Library Community room. Sign up at the circulation desk beginning July 5. Participation is limited to 30 adults with one participant per household. This event is expected to fill to capacity quickly. Participants will build a vertical hanging planter to take home. The Home Depot on Tyrone Boulevard has been a major supporter of the Library's planned Seed Library and will be sponsoring 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.

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 beginning July 7. For more information call 893-1111.

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).

It's that time again! The **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer One Acts** returns the Catherine Hickman Theater July 10 - 20. Show times are 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, and Sundays at 2 p.m. The lineup consists of a combination of comedies, dramas and even one musical! Tickets are on sale now at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard; Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard, and; Funkytown Resale Boutique, 5401 Gulfport Boulevard.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Dispatch calls for service       | 144 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 445 |
| Offenses                         | 31  |
| Arrests                          | 5   |
| Traffic citations                | 25  |

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

Fire Rescue made with contact with an intoxicated subject who requested transport to Safe Harbor on the evening of June 26. Safe Harbor was contacted and advised the subject is banned from there and Turning Point. He was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act. A baggy of marijuana was found in his pocket during a search prior to transport.

A juvenile male was arrested on June 28 after video footage from the Beach Haus security camera showed him enter the top deck of the restaurant after closing on June 6, and steal a commercial blender and drinks from behind the bar. The juvenile was located at his home and admitted to the burglary. The blender was recovered.

A resident in the 500 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that he found a 22 caliber revolver in his 16 year-old son's pocket. The juvenile left the house before an officer arrived. He was later located and admitted that he purchased the gun in St Petersburg for protection. The gun was placed in property/evidence.

A resident in the 5300 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of June 29 that more than \$1,700 was stolen from his jacket pocket while it was hanging in the garage. Three people were in the garage prior to the theft, and all of them are considered possible suspects.

A resident in the 1700 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported that her washer and dryer were stolen from her driveway. The dryer was stolen on June 28, and the washer was taken on June 29. A gold minivan was seen in the area and may be involved in the thefts.

A woman reported that she hired a handyman to do some work for her and he did not complete the job. When she went to his residence to try to get her money back an argument ensued and the man threatened her with a mallet. He denied that he threatened the woman. The woman said she would not press charges if the handyman repaid her, which he did.

Officers responded to a theft in progress at the Family Dollar on the evening of July 1. They located and arrested the suspect who fled with the merchandise, which was recovered and returned to the store. A search prior to arrest revealed the suspect was also in possession of marijuana, a pipe, and Xanax.

A woman was arrested for retail theft and trespassed from Family Dollar after she stole approximately \$35 worth of body wash, deodorant, and laundry detergent.

The Marine unit was not in use this week.

**Investigations:**

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| New cases:                      | 12 |
| Cases assigned:                 | 2  |
| Cases suspended-no leads:       | 6  |
| Cases cleared with arrest:      | 0  |
| Cases exceptionally cleared:    | 0  |
| Cases unfounded/no crime:       | 3  |
| Cases referred back to patrol:  | 1  |
| Supplements received:           | 26 |
| Cases cleared with arrest:      | 0  |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 9  |
| Cases suspended/no leads:       | 5  |
| Cases unfounded/no crime:       | 3  |
| Cases exceptionally cleared:    | 1  |
| Cases still active:             | 8  |

Detective Pham conducted follow-up investigations at various locations in Pinellas County; developed probable cause for the arrest of Demond Washington for burglary to a residence; attended SAO invest into a lewd/lascivious molestation case and; conducted sex offender checks this week.

Detective Crowson interviewed a suspect in a purse theft and bank card fraud case; identified a possible suspect in another purse theft and bank card fraud, and; investigated a fraud and determined the crime did not occur in Gulfport.

Margaret Palmisano started compiling the data for the semi-annual UCR report and reviewed reports for proper documentation that stolen items with a known serial number have been entered into FCIC/NCIC.

School Resource Officers Langston and Motte have been assigned to patrol while school is out for summer.

**Records Section**

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed:        | 10 |
| Supplements reviewed:    | 81 |
| Public records requests: | 17 |
| Background checks:       | 1  |
| Bike registrations:      | 7  |
| Fingerprints:            | 1  |
| Subpoenas processed:     | 7  |
| Citizens assisted:       | 40 |

## **MARINA**

Pumped three thousand seven nine (3,709) gallons of gas, and one thousand three hundred thirty six (1,336) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eighteen (118) vessels.

Assisted in twenty two (22) pump outs evacuating four hundred ten (410) gallons of waste.

### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 25' sailboat, 35' sailboat, 38' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 27' sailboat and a 17' sailboat this week.

### **Staff Activities:**

- Pumped out boats on pier three: slips ten, seventeen & eighteen.
- Prepared buoys for Fourth of July fireworks caution area.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Prepared boat lift for new slip renter.

## **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 and preparations for 4<sup>th</sup> of July events.
- Updated City Clerk, Recreation Center & hurricane information pages on City website.
- Facilitated group for Trolley at Pride Parade.
- Uploaded Board of Adjustment meeting agenda on Granicus.
- Continued production of Bike Theft PSA video.

### **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, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 8.

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 July 10.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. July 11. 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 July 14. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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, July 17, 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' June birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, July 25. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

The Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers **free balance & blood pressure screenings** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next screening is July 31.

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 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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, June 22      6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker  
7 pm - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 33)
- Tuesday, June 24      9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 20)  
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker  
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 15)  
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson  
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 37)
- Wednesday, June 25      6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime  
7 p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson  
8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 241)
- Thursday, June 26      9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 17)  
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 16)
- Saturday, June 28      5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 188)

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

- Every Sunday      6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson  
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7
- Every Tuesday      12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker  
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7  
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson  
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
- Every Wednesday      6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime  
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime  
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
- Every Thursday      6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

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

- Sunday, June 22      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)

6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, June 24 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)

Thursday, June 26 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, June 21 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 21)

Wednesday, June 25 11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 11)

Friday, June 27 10 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, June 23, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading program for grades K-5.*

Tuesday, June 24 - *SCORE Counseling.*

Tuesday, June 24, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, June 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading program.*

Wednesday, June 25, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, June 26, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigator Informational table.*

Thursday, June 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Friday, June 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, June 28, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening class & forum*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, July 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - *LGBTQ Collection Book Sale*: Our Circle of Friends offer a wonderful selection of self-help, health and spiritual books as well as many other non-fiction & popular fiction choices. All books will be priced \$1 or below with all proceeds benefitting the Library's new LGBTQ collection.

Every Friday beginning July 11, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Classes*: Ted Leitho will lead participants in a series of six 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, July 12, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop*: Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to pre-register.

Monday, July 14, 5 p.m. - *Kathleen Peters Q&A session*: Rep. Peters is running for reelection to continue representing District 69 in the Florida House of Representatives. This event is sponsored by the Service Employees International Union.

Thursday, July 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hallucinations* by Oliver Sacks over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, July 19, 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.

Tuesday, July 22 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 893-1073.

Saturday, July 26, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening*: Struggling to get sprouted? Ongoing garden gripes? Master Gardener Val Boyles shares her expertise to help you get budding along! Attendees are invited to stay after class and informally discuss their gardening-related issues.

Tuesday, August 5, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts*: Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. For more information email [gratefulashly@gmail.com](mailto:gratefulashly@gmail.com).

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading program for grades K-5*.

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading program for teens*. For more information on youth summer programs, call Youth Services Librarian Cailey at 893-1133.

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 June 22 - 28, 2014:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

|                     |                |     |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 2,017          | 651 |
| Sun. 6/22           | Library closed |     |

|           |     |     |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| Mon. 6/23 | 362 | 108 |
| Tue. 6/24 | 301 | 111 |
| Wed. 6/25 | 384 | 126 |
| Thu. 6/26 | 301 | 103 |
| Fri. 6/27 | 361 | 113 |
| Sat. 6/28 | 294 | 77  |

**Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room was rented noon - 5 p.m. Saturday, June 28 for a baby shower with approximately forty (40) in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, July 5 and 7 p.m. - midnight Saturday, July 12 for birthday parties, and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, July 26 for a family reunion.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

One hundred twenty two (122) 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 non- residents. Summer camp program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

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

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.

**Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the 4<sup>th</sup> of July planning meeting at the Fire Department on Friday.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 36 new, 27 closed
- Water payments: 924 totaling \$201,434.94
- Utility Bills Mailed 07/02/14: 1267
- Bright House: 12
- On-Line Water payments: 145 transactions totaling \$9293.56
- Accounts Payable 06/13/14: 724 transactions totaling \$543,136.21
- Mail processed: 498 pieces totaling \$694.90
- Purchasing Cards: 282 transactions totaling \$36,909.00

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Calls for Service:**

- 36 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire

- 4 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Gas Leak
- 2 Elevator Rescues

#### **Life Safety:**

- 2 C.O.'s
- 2 Smoke Detectors

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, July 17 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

#### **Staff Activities:**

- The 2014 ALS First Responder Agreement final draft and appendices, with the exception of Appendix "B" have been received. The County expects to present the Agreement to the Board of County Commissioners in late July/early August for approval.
- Chief Marenkovic attended a Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) Course at the Epi-Center in Largo on June 27. The FFCA created the SERP to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment and management of emergency resources throughout Florida, and the Nation, in assisting local agencies in mitigating the effects of any large scale disaster.
- The Fire Chiefs from Gulfport, South Pasadena, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach and St. Pete Beach met with James Angle from St. Petersburg College and Fire Training staff regarding the planning of the Lieutenant Assessment Exam taking place in September for all departments. We previewed draft versions of all Scenarios, Dimensions, Ergometrics and the written exam.
- 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 motor in time clock at Public Services building.
- Cleared blockage in toilet in the beach men's restroom.
- Replaced rotten wood around window frames at Casino and filled several small holes with wood putty.
- Treated two window sills at Dog Park for termites.
- Ran several errands to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Repaired two tables and assembled air hockey table at Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

#### **Parks**

- Closed Williams Pier to the public in preparation for 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks setup.
- Inspected light and irrigation timers on Beach Boulevard.
- Continued repainting and repairing wooden barricades.
- Replaced swing hangers and S-hooks on bench swing at beach.
- Repaired gates and replaced chains & locks at dog park.
- Delivered mulch to Community Garden.

- Replaced lock and repaired electrical outlet box at pavilion #6.
- Replaced GFCI outlets on Beach Boulevard event electrical outlet boxes.
- Removed past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard and installed upcoming event banners.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library, Veterans & Clymer Parks and Recreation Center
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Recreation Center grounds, Casino, Beach & 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes, sprayed weeds at Library, Senior Center, Clymer Park & Greenway & Hoyt field.
- Mowed & trimmed City Complex, Library, Senior Center, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Clam Bayou, trail spur, Tangerine Greenway & pond, Wood Ibis, Tomlinson & Veterans Parks, Clymer Park & Greenway, Neighborhood Center & Recreation Center grounds.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor, sharpened chain saws, replaced safety guard on stick edger, replaced bolts on hand held blower, adjusted valves on back pack blower.
- 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.
- Disposed of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Installed holiday banners on Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Set up for trash & recycling containers for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Removed fallen tree from alleyway at 1908 56<sup>th</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 # 9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 0 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 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.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP, repaired hydrant at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street and replaced hydrant at 4600 Del Rio Way.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 35 backflow devices due in June.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.

### **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.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage at Gulfport Library.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced alternator on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced two hydraulic hoses on front end loader.
- Repaired hydraulic oil leak on Sanitation truck #46.
- Replaced hydraulic flow block on top of P.T.O. pump and repaired grabber arm system on Sanitation truck #42.
- Replaced A/C compressor on Lightning Loader #29.
- Replaced A/C compressor on GEMS bus #08.
- 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 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.

The number of code enforcement cases for June was 199 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 1,759. The number of citizen complaints was 36 for a YTD total of 162. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 9.2 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

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

**July 9, 2014 Board of Adjustment:**

- V14-13; 2808 Kipp's Colony Drive South; Variance request to:
  - 1) reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 6 inches, from 30 feet to 29 feet 6 inches to allow for the proposed reconstruction of a catwalk; and
  - 2) reduce the right-hand one third setback requirement by 15 feet 10 inches, from 30 feet to 14 feet 2 inches to allow the proposed reconstruction and widening of a previously existing dock and the installation of a proposed boat lift.
  
- V14-13; 3128 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the accessory structure minimum setback requirements:
  - 1) by 12 feet, from 12 feet to 0 feet for the separation distance to the principal structure;
  - 2) by 6 feet, from 6 feet to 0 feet from the side property line; and
  - 3) by 6 feet, from 6 feet to 0 feet for the separation distance to another accessory structure for the construction of a proposed accessory structure (Tiki hut).