



Gulfport Community Update

August 6 - 13, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The City celebrated **Gulfport Night Out** on August 4. Kids had fun trying out the water hose, got free school supplies from Gulfport Neighbors, met Amos the Wonder Horse, watched a rollover simulator, had bounce house fun and enjoyed a great food spread supplied from local Gulfport restaurants (photos below).



The beach parking lot is closed for improvements. Parking is available at the Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. Beach pavilions will not be available for rent during construction, but will be available on a first come basis. Call 893-1089 for more information.

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.

Chief 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 49th 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.

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, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Keep Pinellas Beautiful and the Gulfport Neighbors will join forces on Saturday, August 13 from 9 until 11 a.m. for the **Gulfport Beach Cleanup**. The group will meet at beach shelter 4. Email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com for more information.

Six Gulfport locations will participate in the **9th Annual Gecko Crawl** on Saturday, August 13, 4 - 9 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance at the Gulfport Welcome Center/\$25 day of event. For more information call 344-3711.

The monthly **Strand Neighborhood Watch meeting** is Wednesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Brent Bardell of the SPCA will discuss *Animal Abuse*. Call 893-1022 for more information.

New to Gulfport or just want to know more information? The monthly **Welcome to Gulfport Workshop**, cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library is Thursday, August 18 at 6 p.m. Learn about City & Library services, and find out how to participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization. Call 893-1074 for more information.

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. 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.

The topic for the 7 p.m. August 24 **Stetson Neighborhood Watch meeting** is *Current Scams and How to Avoid them*, presented by Brandon Robinson. Call 893-1022 for more information.

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 7th inning. All trolley trips this season take place on *\$2 Hotdog Wednesdays*. For more information call 893-1118.

The next **Citywide Business Watch** event is on Thursday, August 25 at 6 p.m. at the Boca Bay Grill, 2834 Beach Boulevard. News Channel 8 Investigative Reporter Mark Douglas will talk about the media and how it reports crime. For more information call 893-1022.

The theme for the **8th Annual Gecko Ball** is *20,000 Geckos under the Sea*. This very popular event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, August 27 at the Gulfport Casino. Tickets: \$35, available online at www.VisitGulfportFlorida.com or at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service

87

Self-initiated calls for service	296
Offenses	26
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	72
Ordinance violations	15

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5600 block of 15th Avenue on August 4 after a caller reported a fight between two men. They determined that there was no physical altercation, just an argument.

Robert Moats was arrested for retail theft on August 5 after he was caught trying to leave a business in the 1000 block of 49th Street with a can of beer in his pocket.

Officer Marshall followed a vehicle after he observed the driver accelerate from a red light on Gulfport Boulevard at a high rate of speed. The vehicle went up over the curb into the grass, and Officer Marshall smelled alcohol when he made contact with driver John Goude who performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and exhibited other signs of impairment. Goude was arrested for driving under the influence. Breath sample results were .132 & .134, nearly twice the legal limit.

Officer Marshall made contact with Larry Leipzig in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard on August 6 and advised him not to drive because he was intoxicated. He later saw Leipzig drive away in a truck. Officer Marshall caught up to Leipzig and initiated a traffic stop. Leipzig was unable to perform field sobriety tasks and asked to be taken to jail. He was arrested, and refused to provide a breath sample.

Miranda Mottler was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear on a traffic charge after Officer Petit recognized her while she was walking in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident in the 4900 block of 31st Avenue reported on August 7 that sometime overnight someone stole a push lawnmower from the bed of her pickup truck.

Officers responded to the 6200 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a car left the roadway and crashed into a palm tree. The driver reported that he was looking at his radio instead of the road.

Day shift officers responded to multiple calls to assist motorists stranded in standing water during heavy rains on August 8.

A resident in the 6200 Block of 14th Avenue reported that within 20 minutes of her parking her vehicle in her driveway, someone entered the unlocked passenger door and stole change from the center console.

Officers of Alpha Squad assisted with traffic control at Boca Ciega High School on August 10, the first day of class.

Officer Priest pulled over Kenneth Batson in the school zone at 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard. Batson was on probation and driving on a suspended license, which led to his arrest. He also had an outstanding writ of bodily attachment warrant.

Sergeant Burkhart displayed the marine unit during Gulfport Night Out. Officers Nicita & Ross assisted with two vessels adrift in storm conditions.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0

Cases exceptionally cleared: 0
Cases unfounded/no crime: 1
Cases referred back to patrol: 1

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case, a burglary and a fraud; participated in Gulfport Night Out, and; investigated an unattended death.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, a hit and run and a drowning; interviewed a suspect in a theft case at the Pinellas County Jail; attended Fair & Impartial Policing training, and; assisted with an accident review board.

School Resource Officer Motte met with BCHS administration to discuss school safety plans, and the athletic season/scheduling off duty police coverage. He also assisted patrol with investigating a battery that occurred on the Pinellas Trail, and is attempting to identify and locate the suspect.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano updated and distributed the R.A.D.A.R. juvenile list; created a crime prevention flyer on staying safe on craigslist which was added to the Gulfport PD Facebook page; processed and distributed PCSO case agent evidence review forms, and; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report.

Records

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	95
Public Records requests:	29
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	34

MARINA

Assisted in thirty seven (37) pump outs evacuating five hundred ten (510) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand four hundred sixty three (4,263) gallons of gas and two thousand four (2,004) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred fourteen (114) vessels.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced operational light on south pump out.
- Repaired electrical pedestal on pier six, slip 32.
- Performed routine pump out maintenance at both service locations.
- Procured ship store merchandise and drinks for resale.
- Repaired the latch and gate on pier three.

Transient vessels:

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

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 1, 3 p.m. - *Ace Theater group auditions.*

Tuesday, August 2, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, August 2, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, August 2, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, August 2, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 2, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, August 2, 7 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Party.*

Wednesday, August 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 3, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, August 3, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program Party.*

Thursday, August 4, 8 p.m. - *National Moth Week event.*

Friday, August 5, 11 a.m. - *Senior Citizens Social Security & Medicare Roundtable.*

Friday, August 5, 2 p.m. - *Pinellas Career Source Outreach.*

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

Saturday, August 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, August 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Call 893-1073 for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Thursday, August 18, 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.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.* Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, August 25, 11 a.m. - *First Steps Parenting Workshop:* Licensed therapist Diane Mandell will join us after Storytime to answer child development questions, provide parenting materials, share information on community resources; and engage in interactive play.

Thursday, August 25, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga:* The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Saturday, September 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day:* Selections intended for adults only to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, September 6, 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 for more information.

Thursday, September 8, 6 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: The New York Times bestselling author of Florida fiction returns to talk about the new adventures of Serge Storms and Coleman.

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-5th 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 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 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 July 31 - August 6, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,429	682
Sun. 7/31	Library closed	
Mon. 8/1	183	69
Tue. 8/2	203	107
Wed. 8/3	169	89
Thu. 8/4	302	114
Fri. 8/5	303	137
Sat. 8/6	261	154

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-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.
- Provided setup and technical assistance for Gulfport Night Out.
- Facilitated Art Reception at Theater.
- Commenced preparation of September calendar.
- Updated Clerk, Library, Recreation, Human Resources & events pages on City website.
- Interviewed volunteer for event.

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.

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 27th Avenue South for more information.

Join Wendy for **Health Talk with Humana** at 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 15 as she discusses the important topic of *Battling the Aging Brain*.

Create a legacy that lasts forever! **Woodlawn Memory Gardens** will present a vital informational seminar on advance planning for funeral, cremation, or cemetery services on Wednesday, August 17 at 2 p.m. Refreshments provided. Call 893-5657 to register.

The **Health and Rehabilitation Centre at Dolphin's View** invites everyone to join them for a first-ever fishing tournament on Thursday, August 18. All skill levels are encouraged participate. Fishing poles and bait included. Prizes will be awarded for various categories. Lunch will be served following the tournament. Free.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is August 19. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. provides quality **legal advice and services** to Gulfport Senior Center participants 10 a.m. - noon every fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is August 22.

Hula over for some tropical fun during the annual **Tiki Time Luau** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 24. Enjoy island inspired foods, dancing, and the popular PHOTO BOOTH! Tickets **MUST** be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

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 August 25.

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, September 6.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, September 8 at 10:30 a.m.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is September 13. 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 September 13.

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 Monday at 12:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Assistance is not limited to specific devices. All electronics and skill levels are welcome.

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, July 31	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 22)
Tuesday, August 2	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 16) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 12) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (turnout 47)

Wednesday, August 3 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 10)
6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 270)

Thursday, August 4 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 30)

Saturday, August 6 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 138)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
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 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
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

Monday, August 22 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

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

Friday, August 5 6 p.m. - Gecko World Artists opening reception (Turnout 200)

Saturday, August 6 Noon - Little Miss Pink Pearl Back To School Pageant (Turnout 70)

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

Sunday, July 31 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 32)

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, July 31 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 12)

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

Monday, August 1 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)

Tuesday, August 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 20)

Friday, August 5 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

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 reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday August 6 for a baby shower with fifteen in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 20 for a baby shower, and 1 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 27 for a wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

The **2016 Summer Recreation program** ended on August 6 with one hundred thirty six children registered.

Forty three children have been registered for the **2016/17 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Registration is underway for the **2016/17 Tot Time program**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Classes begin Tuesday, September 6.

The **2015/16 Teen Night Program** ended with sixty-two (62) teens registered. Registration for the 2016/17 Teen Night Program is currently underway.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis and Tennis.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum & Katelyn Latragna volunteered at Gulfport Night Out on Thursday evening.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 3 Plan Permits

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly. The training session scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, August 18 will include a presentation on *Mission Manager* incident management software for daily team management and live missions. The meeting will take place at the Gulfport Police Department.

Seminole Fire Department will offer Basic CERT training at on August 24, 25 and 27.

The Gulfport Fire Department commenced their August-November 2016 Face to Face CME for recertification of Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support. Testing will take place in November.

GFD lost a beloved member on August 11. Lieutenant Pete Huffman passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Chief Marenkovic attended the City's Budget workshop on August 11.

The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting an EMT Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program, Lt. Firefighter/Paramedic Grady on the A-shift is preceptor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired ice machine in City yard.
- Replaced 3 emergency lights at Theater.
- Performed annual inspection of fire extinguishers in all City buildings and vehicles.
- Installed 8 registers for a/c in Council Chambers.
- Delivered 8 school crossing cones to different locations.
- Replaced two ballasts and cleared blocked toilet in ladies restroom at Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Prepared Gulfport Beach for Volleyball tournament.
- Set up equipment in preparation for Gulfport Night out.

- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Tangerine & Greenways, Beach, Marina, Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, 56th Street drainage area, 55th Street median, and York & 49th Street termini.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center and continued installation of irrigation sleeves for Shore Boulevard improvements.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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, Stormwater & 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.
- Barricaded storm drain at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue flowing heavy rains.
- Removed and disposed of debris from 49th Street holding area & Lincoln Cemetery.
- Cleared overgrowth from alleyways between 61st & 64th Streets between 7th & 11th Avenues.
- Repaired brick roads surrounding Veterans Park.

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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 21 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 128 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 16 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.

- Completed annual DEP required testing of 25 backflow devices due in July & August.
- Installed temporary water service to supply new Marina office building.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- 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.
- Manually operated lift station pumps to minimize sewer overflow following heavy rain.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced starter motor and repaired hydraulic failure on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Removed damaged plastic panel from underside of Police vehicle #16.
- Repaired bent tire rim and reinstalled tire on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced brakes on GEMS vehicle #1.
- Replaced windshield wipers on Police vehicle #156.
- Investigated non-start problem and pumped water from Police vehicle #12.
- Removed broken hydraulic cylinder from Sanitation vehicle #40.
- 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 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 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.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week 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 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for July was 131. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 1,634. The number of citizen complaints for July was 10, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 116. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 7.0 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints

can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. 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.

August 10, 2016 Board of Adjustment Results:

V16-15; 5137 29th Avenue South; Variance request:

1. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 4.14 feet, from 10 feet to 5.86 feet, and;
2. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 29.23 feet, from 40 feet to 10.77 feet to allow for a proposed addition to an existing detached dwelling unit that is part of a multiple family use of the property. ALL APPROVED

V16-16; 2401 54th Street South; Variance request due to an existing, unpermitted 6' x 16' shed:

1. to reduce the separation distance from the principal structure by 5 feet, from 12 feet to 7 feet, and;
2. reduce the side yard setback requirement by 3 feet, from 6 feet to 3 feet. ALL APPROVED