



Gulfport Community Update

August 10 - 16, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Creating awareness and getting the word out with fun was on the agenda for **Gulfport Night Out** (photos below) on August 7. A big thank you to our supporters: American Legion, CASA, Chicdoggie Inc., George's Grill, Gulfport Bike Shop, Gulfport Fire, Gulfport Produce, Habana Café, McDonald's, O'Maddys, Papa Johns, Pinellas County Forensic Unit, Publix, Sam's, Club, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue, St. Petersburg P.D. K-9, Subway, Winn Dixie & Whitman Insurance.



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

Join friends and family for the **Gulfport Neighbors Gulfport Boulevard Cleanup** on Saturday, August 16, 8:30 - 11 a.m. The group will meet at the Walgreen's parking lot at 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard. Bring gloves and a picker. Water will be provided. For more information visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors.

Enjoy shopping, entertainment and more at **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard August 16, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

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.

Geckofest returns to Gulfport's scenic waterfront on Saturday, August 30, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. This quirky family-friendly street festival has become one of Tampa Bay's most anticipated annual celebrations. Combining the artistic energy of Gulfport with the colorful flair of Mardi Gras, Geckofest includes live music on two main stages, over 200 art, craft and food vendors, children's activities, street performers and costumed characters. A costume contest, parade, a thrilling fire and acrobatics show, and the famous street dance round out a fun-filled day. Geckofest is hosted by the Gulfport Merchants Association and is sponsored by the City of Gulfport, Bright House Networks, Tampa Bay Times, Cox Media (The Eagle 107.3 & WDUV 105.5), GEICO, Yelp, Nestle/Zephyrhills, Resort Property Promotions, Beachlife, WMNF, Paradise News, The Gabber, and The Lazy Pirate. A portion of proceeds from all three Gecko events will benefit local non-profit groups, and the commission of public art. For more information visit www.facebook.com/Geckofest or www.GulfportMA.com or call 322-5217.

Time to register for the **4th Annual Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 27. Register in advance to receive a cool bright t-shirt with the Keep Gulfport Weird logo. Registration is \$10 per person. Participants must register no later than Friday, September 19. The race is designed to be short enough for most ages and fitness levels, whether individually or in teams. Get in on the fun then stay for **Tangerine BluesFest** on Saturday & Sunday the 28th. For more information visit the Upcoming events page at www.mygulfport.us or call Technical Events Specialist Gail Biron at 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	147
Self-initiated calls for service	376
Offenses	24
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	23

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 6200 block of 9th Avenue left his keys in his unlocked vehicle parked in his driveway on the evening of August 6, and discovered it was missing the next morning. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 4600 block of 29th Avenue after a resident reported someone entered his unlocked garage and stole boating equipment. There are no suspects.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the afternoon of July 7 after a business owner reported two females shoplifting. An investigation revealed no evidence that they stole anything from the store, and they were trespassed at the owner's request.

Officers responded to the 3100 block of DuPont Street on the afternoon of July 7 regarding a child running down the street. He was caught by his parents before police arrived. The parents reported he had just learned to unlock doors.

Two subjects broke into a house in the 5100 block of 8th Avenue on the afternoon of August 8 while the resident was not home and stole several items. The suspects were seen by neighbors fleeing the area. Crime scene technicians processed the scene for evidence.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 17th Avenue regarding a theft in progress. The complainant was unsure if anything was stolen.

Officers received an alert over the radio of a possible impaired driver in the early morning hours of August 9. They stopped the vehicle in the 5800 block 15th Avenue, and the driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Officers responded to the 5600 block of 15th Avenue on the morning of August 9 after a resident called 911 to report a deceased male hanging from a hook in an open carport. He had made multiple suicide attempts in the past.

A resident in the 5700 block of 20th Avenue reported that he left his lawnmower in his backyard after he washed it, and while he was inside his house, someone jumped the fence and stole it. There are no suspects

In the early morning hours of August 10 an officer observed a vehicle exit the parking lot of a business near the 1800 block of 49th Street, squealing its tires and striking the curb. The vehicle nearly struck an ATM while pulling into the Family Dollar parking lot. The driver was arrested for DUI. He also had a suspended driver license, tag attached not assigned, and a stolen decal attached to his license plate.

A resident in the 5600 15th Avenue reported on the morning of August 11 that sometime in last few days someone stole his TV and DVD's from a room in his house.

While on a call on the evening of August 11 an officer recognized a person passing by who had an outstanding traffic warrant. The individual was arrested without incident.

The manager of Dollar General reported a shoplifting that was caught on camera by the surveillance system. The subjects involved were identified by the footage and are being sought.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 52nd Street on the evening of August 12 regarding a male seen inside an unlocked vehicle at a residence. He fled when confronted by the homeowner. A K9 track was unsuccessful due to the heat and foot traffic in the area. Nothing was taken from the vehicle.

Officers responded to a domestic in progress in the 5300 Block of 14th Avenue early August 13. Upon arrival an independent witness and the victim stated the assailant pushed his pregnant girlfriend. He was arrested and transported to Pinellas County Jail.

A resident in the 800 block of Fremont Street reported that someone stole the decal from his license plate at some point over the last few months.

The owner of Live Curly, Live Free reported that the beauty salon was broken into sometime between the evening of August 12 and the morning of August 13.

Patrol officers were approached by the manager of Dollar General on the evening of August 13, who advised a theft had just occurred. The female suspect was still on scene outside the store. Security video showed her placing several packs of socks into her bag and walking out. She admitted to stealing the items and was arrested for petit theft.

Officers responded to a found property call in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard. They learned that the victim neglected to report his bicycle stolen, and had just found it. Officers stopped a male trying to ride away with the bike. He advised he acquired the bike at another location and did not know it was stolen. It was returned to the owner.

The marine unit was on display during the Gulfport Night Out event.

Investigations:

New cases:	25
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	3
Supplements received:	22
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	15

Detective Pham was called in over the weekend to investigate a suicide; unfounded an old sexual battery case; investigated a possible overdose involving a female found unresponsive in her residence, and; investigated the Beachway Mobile Home burglary cases. The alleged suspect has been arrested, and some of the property has been recovered.

Det Crowson assisted with the Multi-jurisdictional Explorer Academy; attempted to locate and interview a suspect in a 2013 armed home invasion robbery case; attempted to locate and interview a burglary suspect; assisted patrol with recovering a firearm that was stolen in a theft case; investigated an alleged fraud involving a lien, in which the allegations were unfounded; and investigated a fraud in which the suspect convinced a victim to load money onto Green Dot cards and provide the card numbers to the suspect over the phone. The cards were then uploaded to an out of state account.

Margaret Palmisano assisted with the Gulfport night out demonstration; compiled and distributed the open case lists; coordinated the agreement process between the Gulfport PD and TransUnion Risk and Alternative Data Solutions for online investigative searches; completed an analysis on the burglaries that occurred at Beachway Mobile Home Park; created and distributed an attempt to ID bulletin for Ofc. Hutsko for a retail theft at the Family Dollar; completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report; reviewed reports with stolen property and a known serial number for proper documentation that the property was entered into FCIC/NCIC, and; conducted pawn checks on 22 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property, and set alerts on four serial numbers. A stolen camera and lens were located.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	18
Supplements reviewed:	20
Public records requests:	4
Reports disseminated:	13
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	16
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	10
Citizens assisted:	50

Professional Standards

The following policies are in the review process: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment, and 120 - Infectious Diseases.

Lt. Stone reviewed standards related to job task analyses, training, recruitment, selection process, performance evaluations, field personnel, investigations and unusual occurrences during this reporting period. He also spent time building files and gathering proofs for reaccreditation. This involved adding documents to approximately three dozen electronic files.

Lt. Stone is coordinating Fair and Impartial Policing training.

Police Services Supervisor Cindy Hayes completed training on the training of school crossing guards (24 hours).

Fourteen police officer applications are being processed.

Lt. Stone, Sergeant Parks and Officer Novak taught the firearms portion to citizen's academy participants on August 14.

Lt. Stone is overseeing the installation of surveillance cameras at several City buildings.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand seven hundred eighty one (2,781) gallons of gas, and one eight hundred eighty eight (1,888) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy seven (77) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 48' motorboat, 34' motorboat, 36' motorboat, and a 45' sailboat this week.

Staff activities

- Repaired boat lift on pier four, slip one.
- Installed light bulbs in pedestals in BCYC.

- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Procured drinks for resale.

LEISURE SERVICES

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-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.
- Finished preparation of September calendar and sent to printer.
- Updated information on GTV615 and City website.
- Provided control room coverage for August 13 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued editing Bike Theft video & Senior Center Long Term Healthcare informational footage.
- 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 this month's calendar or download a copy at 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.

Hula on over for tropical fun at the **Tiki Time Luau** on Wednesday, August 20 at 3 p.m. Enjoy island foods and the ever popular photo booth. Tickets: \$4.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** on Thursday, August 21 at 2:30 p.m.

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.

Alzheimer's Disease - Know the 10 Signs is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at 2:30 p.m.

The Senior Center offers a free **Mini Health Fair** at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next screening is August 28. Blood pressure checks provided by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center, and vein screenings by Premier Vein Institute.

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 September 2. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Catch Yourself Before You Fall. Learn to reduce the risks of falling in this lively, interactive, educational discussion on Wednesday, September 3 at 3:30 p.m. Presented by These Joints are Jumping and sponsored by First Light Home Care.

First Friday Flea Market returns September 5, 9 a.m. - noon. The fleas have returned from their summer trip with all kinds of unique and unusual items. Stop by and check it out.

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 September 8. 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, September 9.

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 September 11.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11.

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, September 12. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

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, August 3 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance hosted by Swingtime (Turnout 235)

Tuesday, August 5 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 24)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)

Wednesday, August 6 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 218)

Thursday, August 7 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 19)
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 39)

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, August 3 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 22)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, August 4 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting (Turnout 38)

Tuesday, August 5 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Thursday, August 7 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

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*):

Wednesday, August 6 5 p.m. - Sanderlin Center Variety Show (Turnout 115)

Thursday, August 7 6 p.m. - Gulfport Night Out (Turnout 120)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 p.m. - Clarice Warrick presents *A Musical Interlude*: a mix of opera, art song, musical theater and jazz. Tickets: \$20, available at Beach Bazaar, Casino & at the door.

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

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

Monday, August 4 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 29)

Tuesday, August 5 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

Wednesday, August 6 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 14)

Friday, August 8 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, August 4, 2:30 p.m. - *Yoga Storytime for 3-5 year-olds.*

Monday, August 5, 3 p.m. - *Yoga Storytime for 6-10 year-olds.*

Tuesday, August 5, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners.*

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

Wednesday, August 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 6, 10 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Outreach.*

Wednesday, August 6, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

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

Thursday, August 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*.

Thursday, August 7, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop*.

Friday, August 8, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Class*.

Friday, August 8, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime club* facilitated by Raven Raghoo.

Friday, August 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, August 9, 12:30 p.m. - *Suddenly in Command Boating Safety Workshop*.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Monday, August 18, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session*: Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument and get in touch with your musical self. For more information call Alex at 893-1073.

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.

Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Creating & Growing Plants in an Earth Box*. Learn how to install this user-friendly technique which has become wildly popular in the home gardening world. Attendees are invited to stay after class and informally discuss their gardening-related issues. 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.

Thursday, September 4, 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 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 riddell@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 August 3 - 9, 2014:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	1,978	607
Sun. 8/3	Library closed	
Mon. 8/4	395	116
Tue. 8/5	361	96
Wed. 8/6	322	109
Thu. 8/7	300	102
Fri. 8/8	352	103
Sat. 8/9	212	70

Recreation Center

The game room was rented 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Saturday August 9 for a birthday party with approximately sixty (60) in attendance.

The game room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday August 16 for a birthday party, and 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, August 23 for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

The **2014 Summer Recreation Program** ended this week with one hundred thirty two (132) children registered

Registration is underway for the **2014/15 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. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Three (3) children have been pre-registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents. Classes begin Tuesday, September 2.

The **2013/14 Teen Night** Program ended with a total of one hundred twenty-four (124) teens registered. Three (3) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015** program for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

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

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday, and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Four (4) **Teen Councilmembers** were in attendance at the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of July minutes, the Florida League of Cities Conference, School Supply Drive update, Upcoming Events, Old Business & New Business.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Set up Recreation Center stage for Parents' Night.
- Cleared blockage in urinal at Fire Station.
- Repaired garage door at Public Services building.
- Replaced toggle switch on electronic doors at Library.
- Removed and discarded used cabinets from Senior Center, and assembled four new cabinets for installation.
- Repaired faucet in Ladies Restroom at Dog Park.

- Delivered mail to Main Post Office for Finance Department.
- Repaired two a/c units at Library.
- Repaired toilet in Men's Restroom at Scout Hall.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Replaced basketball nets at Recreation Center and gate hardware at Lum Field.
- Built and installed Bocce Ball hand roller storage area and score boards.
- Removed old benches from beach area.
- Inspected light timers on Beach Boulevard, removed damaged tree lights and trimmed oak trees in preparation for installation of new lights.
- Serviced toilet in City Hall.
- Repaired Recreation Center shed door, bench slats on Beach Boulevard, and kick plate & bench swing on pier.
- Installed sand box at Recreation Center playground.
- Removed graffiti from beach pavilion and door at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed hydraulic lift pump and motor from truck 51 for replacement.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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 and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Cut and removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Delivered trash and recycling containers for Gulfport Night Out event.
- Removed and disposed of old benches, debris and dead palm tree from Beach area.
- Cleaned debris from storm water outfall at Casino.
- Painted island in roadway and installed "Right Turn Only" sign at 58th Street & 7th Avenue.
- Replaced sidewalk on 24th Avenue between 49th & 50th Streets.
- Removed 20' piling and 2 sailboats from Gulfport Marina.

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 # 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 46 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 91 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meter.

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.
- Cleaned & televised sewer lateral at 6268 9th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced battery in City vehicle #30.
- Replaced rear axle brakes, drums and left rear brake chamber on vehicle #44.
- Replaced turbo hose on vehicle #43.
- Both lower control arms on Vehicle #6 replaced by Dodge under warranty,
- Oxygen sensor & oil pressure sensor on Vehicle #9 replaced by Dodge under warranty.
- Performed oil change on Vehicle #57.
- Replaced air intake heater on Fire truck E17.
- 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 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, 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.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets South.

The number of code enforcement cases for July was 249 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 2,008. The number of citizen complaints was 16 for a YTD total of 178. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.9 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.

August 13, 2014 Board of Adjustment results:

V14-15; 5850 24th 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.
DENIED.

September 16, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

2014 Floodplain Management Planning, Local Mitigation Strategy Annual Report; this document is presented in the City Manager's Report to City Council, as required for the annual CRS recertification.