



Gulfport Community Update

August 11 - 17, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

2013 Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic basin 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 art and crafts, bath, body and 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 each Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.GulfportMA.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

Stroll on down to the **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on August 17, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217.

Tickets for the **Fifth Annual Gecko Ball** at the historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom are sold out.

Gulfport's **13th Annual Geckofest** will bring entertainment to the streets during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, August 31. Come face to face with live mermaids, magicians, jugglers, acrobats, fire dancers and more amid thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, creating an "up close and personal" circus atmosphere throughout the village. Festivities will take place on Beach Boulevard in Gulfport from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Plans are underway for the **Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 28. The course will incorporate in order, a 1 mile run, 3 mile bike ride and 1/4 mile swim. The race is designed to be short enough to invite participation from most age groups and fitness levels, whether individually or in teams, and is intended to simply be fun. Visit www.mygulfport.us/keep-gulfport-weird-triathlon for more information.

The **Tangerine Bluesfest** is scheduled for 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, September 28. Visit www.tangerinebluesfest.com or www.so48.org for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	151
Officer initiated calls for service	337
Offenses	19
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	18

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the 5400 block of 14th Avenue early August 7 after a caller reported that a suspect involved in many criminal cases in the area was peering into a residence. The suspect, who has repeatedly harassed an ex-girlfriend at the home, is still at large and an arrest affidavit

has been entered into the database. Officers conducted surveillance in the area in the early morning hours of August 10, but the suspect did not return.

An intoxicated male called dispatch on the evening of August 7 requesting help in going to a shelter due to the rain. While officers were attempting to locate a shelter he became increasingly belligerent and threatened to attack them and was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act. The subject resisted officers' efforts to control him, and was arrested for disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer without violence.

Officers responded to a traffic crash in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the morning of August 8 after a Toyota SUV exiting a parking lot struck the side of a Ford van. The driver of the Toyota was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

On the evening of August 8 officers observed a white male at a picnic table at Tomlinson Park. Other individuals in the park stated he was homeless, and was sleeping and loitering in the area. The man advised he was waiting for the rain to stop before moving on. There were no active trespass warnings or outstanding warrants, so he was sent on his way.

Officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of 50th Street on the morning of August 9 after a caller reported that she returned from vacation and discovered a 50-inch TV and .22 caliber handgun missing from her home. The investigation continues.

An officer made contact with a security guard at the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club back gate on the afternoon of August 9 after the guard advised that on August 7 he denied access to a limo driver, who then entered through the front gate and allegedly spat on the guard after confronting him. The investigation continues.

Day shift patrol officers removed approximately 20 snipe signs and illegally posted yard sale signs.

Officers are investigating a fraud case after an out of town caller reported that his credit card was used in Gulfport without his permission. Store surveillance videos showed a black male and female using the card to purchase air fresheners and a VISA gift card at Family Dollar, and attempting to make the same purchase at Walgreens. The second purchase was declined, at which time the victim was notified by his credit card company.

Officers responded to the 2500 block of 52nd Street on the evening of August 11 after a caller reported that his roommate "pulled a gun" on the complainant's girlfriend. The complainant did not witness the alleged incident, and the alleged victim could not be located. Officer's spoke with the roommate, who denied the allegation and advised he did not own a gun. The alleged victim did not contact police to make a complaint.

GPD is investigating a fraud case after a resident in the 5200 block of 14th Avenue reported that his social security number was used to file a false tax return.

Officers were dispatched to the 5500 block of 16th Avenue after a female driver backed into a parked vehicle. The owner of the parked car believed the woman was intoxicated, and reported that the woman became agitated and left the scene without providing information. She was located at a friend's residence and became very belligerent towards officers. She was arrested for Hit and Run and DWLSR w/Knowledge.

Investigations:

Documented Follow-Ups:	36
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	7
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	25

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a Grand Theft Auto, in which a vehicle allegedly stolen from the complainant's driveway was recovered by St. Petersburg Police a few days later. Due to inconsistent statements made by the complainant and her husband, Detective Pham suspected the case might be drug related. He questioned the man and discovered the vehicle was indeed involved in drug trade. Apparently, he drove the vehicle to Child's Park and loaned it to a drug dealer. A false police report/obstruction of justice charge is pending against the man, and the Grand Theft Auto report will be forwarded to SPPD detectives for follow-up.

Detective Embry attempted to locate a suspect involved in a credit card fraud case, and has placed two arrest affidavits on Pinellas County Sheriff's Office VIPAR Website for the suspect for Criminal Use of Personal Identification. He will continue to search for the suspect and follow up on assigned cases.

The new Marine Unit vessel was delivered on August 13, and the PD is awaiting registration paperwork. A vessel on loan from our vendor was displayed at National Night Out on August 6.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	12
Supplements reviewed:	134
Public records requests:	39
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	17
Citizens assisted:	34

MARINA

Pumped three thousand one hundred thirty one (3,131) gallons of gas, and two thousand two hundred forty three (2,243) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty two (122) vessels.

Assisted with eighteen (18) pump-outs evacuating two hundred eighty two (282) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 20' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

Staff Activities:

- Repaired gate on pier six.
- Treated dry storage area for fire ants.
- Removed electrical components from old pedestals.
- Repaired dock boxes on pier six and at BCYC.
- Purchased 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. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updating and enhancements to City calendar, latest news, departmental pages, mobile website, Leisure Services Rec. Center & Library sub-site resources & employee Intranet, and maintained mygulfport.us domain.
- Provided control room coverage for August 14 Board of Adjustment meeting. Made DVD copies for City Clerk and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Continued working on City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Attended Live Manager Granicus training and utilized application during Board of Adjustment meeting.
- Continued preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon, and designed event webpage.
- Attended Geckofest event Public Safety planning meeting.
- Commenced design and creation of City brochure.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.

Parks

Inspected all parks for repairs.

Replaced two fence posts & 5 fence rails at Clam Bayou Park, doggie bag stations & signs at Tomlinson Park and fence rails at Wood Ibis Park & Tangerine Greenway.

Painted scorekeeper deck at Hoyt Field and scorekeeper table at Tomlinson Field.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades, replaced pull rope & adjusted bed knife on Little League reel mower, and replaced drive belt & adjusted bed knife on reel mower.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Recreation Center grounds, Beach & 49th Streetscapes, ball fields, beach area & Wood Ibis Park; treated 49th Streetscape for weeds, hand raked around pavilions and benches, and cleared debris from beach.

Mowed Clymer, & Tomlinson Parks, City Complex, Senior Center, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center grounds Library/28th Avenue signage area, Tangerine Lake and York & 49th Street termini.

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 needed repairs.

Other Activities:

- All City park 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.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. 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. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center is open Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and; Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. through summer. Wii Bowling classes are offered at 6:30 p.m. every first & third Tuesday; Italian Class for Beginners every Tuesday at 6 p.m.; Italian Dance Practice every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., and; Card Games every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will purchase 10 new Toshiba laptop computers equipped with Windows 7 and the MS Office Suite. The new computers will be network-ready, providing access for email and web browsing and will be used exclusively for the Center's monthly **Basic and Intermediate Computer Training Courses**. Both courses are curriculum based and offer the student a "real world" Windows-based learning experience. Classes will begin in September. We are pleased to have former NASA Headquarters Chief Computer Systems Engineer Anne Marie Pemberton as our instructor. Beginner classes will be Tuesdays at 2 p.m. beginning September 3. Intermediate classes will be on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. beginning September 4. These classes will be fee based, and are open to adults 50 and older. Gulfport residents will pay \$40 for a series of 4 weekly classes. The Nonresident fee is \$50. Proof of age and residency is required at enrollment time. Cash or credit card payment will be accepted. Call 893-2237 to enroll or for more information.

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 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 over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. 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. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

The **Senior Center Singing Group** has been discontinued until a new volunteer instructor is found. We are also looking for a volunteer pianist for the group. For more information call Gail at 893-2237.

Sign up today to enjoy all the **classes and events** offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up a copy of the August schedule at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. The Senior Center currently offers 49 monthly classes for residents over 50. Membership required.

Hula on down to the Gulfport Senior Center for tropical fun during the **Tiki Time Luau** on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 p.m. Enjoy Hawaiian music, "Pupus" (appetizers), a fantastic Hula dance demonstration and lessons, raffles, games and more. Tickets: \$3.00. Proceeds support the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

Victor R. Helou sings acapella with a side of comedy as he performs **Songs for the Pantry** on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:30 p.m. Victor has performed in various Broadway productions, movies, as well as commercials, print ads and voiceovers. The price of a ticket is non-

perishable food item/s or a small grocery gift card. Thank you in advance for helping those less fortunate in your community.

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

The **Coffee Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

Senior Center sponsor Wellcare will host a monthly Birthday Party for Senior Center participants every third Tuesday beginning August 20.

Challenge your mind and have fun during the **Puzzle Pages Party** at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of every other month!

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a call? 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, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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.

Over 50 and ready to get fit and meet new friends? Visit the **Foundation Fitness Center**. Summer hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Multipurpose Center and take a tour of our state-of-the-art fitness facility.

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. To schedule an appointment call 893-2237 or 893-1231.

To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety visit <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, August 4	6 p.m. - Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 42)
Tuesday, August 6	9 a.m. - Intermediate Tai Chi with Marge (Turnout 28) Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 12) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 6) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango Dance 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 55)
Wednesday, August 7	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 174)

Thursday, August 8	9 a.m. - Tai Chi for Beginners (Turnout 18) 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 30)
Saturday, August 10	3 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 250)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Every first & third 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	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events)

Saturday, August 10	2 p.m. - Noisemakers Kids 4-9 Years End of Summer Concert (Turnout 40) 5 p.m. - Noisemakers Kids 10 & up End of Summer Concert (Turnout 45)
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There are no events in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** next week.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, August 4	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 19) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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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

Scout Hall (Last week's events):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tuesday, August 6	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)
Wednesday, August 7	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 8)
Thursday, August 8	9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice
Friday, August 9	9 a.m. - Chair yoga

10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

LIBRARY

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 5, 1:30 p.m. - PPLC Library Directors meeting.

Monday, August 5, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, August 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, August 7 & Friday, August 9, 1 p.m. - *Your Career, Your Finances & You* teen financial literacy & job skills program.

Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5 End of Summer Program Party with Jiggleman.*

Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program End of Summer Gaming Nite & Party with special guest gamer Paul Stonebridge.*

Wednesday, August 7, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, August 7, 2 p.m. - Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5: *Angry Birdfeeders*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, August 7, 3 p.m. - Teen Summer Reading Program: *Steampunk Projectiles*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, August 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Summer Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, August 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 27 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, September 12, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop*: Learn to use & enjoy your new technology. Each session is limited to 15 participants. Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat.

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: The popular Florida author returns! Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat for this event.

Saturday, September 21 - *Free Family Movie Day*: It's been a long summer, so join us as we resume our monthly program. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Show times are 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Robin Riddell at 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.

Every Saturday beginning September 12, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Participants in grades 1 - 12 will attend workshops and have the opportunity to create a book. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents welcome to attend. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic August 4 - 10, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,715	583
Sun. 8/4	Library closed	
Mon. 8/5	318	94
Tue. 8/6	286	110
Wed. 8/7	331	106
Thu. 8/8	302	106
Fri. 8/9	254	81
Sat. 8/10	212	74

Recreation Center

The Game room is reserved for a baby shower on Saturday, August 17, 12 - 5 p.m.

Programs, Classes & Activities

The **2013 Summer Recreation Program** ended with one hundred twenty nine (129) children registered

Registration is underway for the **2013/14 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.

Nine (9) children have been pre-registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and three (3) 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 3 and are limited to 10 children each.

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

The **2012/13 Teen Night program** ended with eighty six (86) teens registered. Registration is underway for the 2013/14 Program. Teen Night is 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.

Fifteen (15) **FY2012/13 Skate Park** registrations have been issued to date.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 28 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fuel Spill

Life Safety:

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plans Review

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- Gulfport Fire personnel continued their August St. Pete College CME: *Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Refresher Training* from the St. Petersburg College 2013 August CME. All Pinellas County Fire Departments are due for recertification between September and November.
- GFD staff continued training on the new ePCR computers which will allow Paramedics to write the Patient Care Report on a computer instead of paper reports used in the past. This new system also includes a database and servers purchased by Pinellas County EMS.
- Chief Marenkovic met with Bob Williams and City staff to discuss plans for the Geckofest event scheduled for August 31. Discussion included road closures, vendors, parking, trolley routes and Public Safety concerns. The Gulfport Fire Department requires that all food vendors who are cooking on site and/or using a generator complete the forms and fax them back to the Fire Marshal at 893-1060 by Wednesday, August 21. The Fire Marshal will inspect every vendor on the morning of the event. It is MANDATORY that all food vendors have adequate fire extinguishing equipment at their booth, with current certification tags attached and ready for inspection. This includes Class K extinguishers if fryers are used.
- Inspector Vento met with the occupants of a new a printing business at 4903 8th Avenue South and went over fire inspection guidelines and concerns.
- Inspector Vento approved plans for a sprinkler system modification with the addition of 5 new sprinkler heads at Boca Ciega Nursing Home.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Installed blinds in Neighborhood Center Police office.

- Repaired electrical outlet and replaced photo sensor for flag light in front of Recreation Center.
- Repaired air conditioners in Casino, Library office, Theater lobby, Fire Department equipment room and Council Chambers.
- Replaced computer board on new ice machine.
- Completed Janitorial Bid walkthrough.
- Tented Scout Hall for termites.
- Replaced several ceiling tiles in Theater Lobby men's room.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Assembled and delivered new 40 & 90 gallon automated containers.
- Continued citywide street and curb sweeping.
- Repaired numerous potholes throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of debris from City Garage & 49th Street holding area.
- Inspected and patched large storm drain at Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Set up barricades and trash containers for National Night Out at Neighborhood Center.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm water inlets
- Removed large limb blocking roadway at 51st Street & 7th Avenue.
- Cleaned spill in roadway at 60th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Cleared debris from storm grates at 52nd Street and 13th & 14th Avenues, and 54th Street & 14th Avenue.
- Replaced commercial 300 gallon-sized container at Gulfport Mini-Mart.
- Assembled street signs for installation.
- Removed debris and graded Beach area near Casino and behind Recreation Center.
- Installed metal storm grate on 18th Avenue between 49th & 51st Streets.
- Replaced metal storm grate on York Street & 25th Avenue.
- Installed metal storm drain lid and cleaned box at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue
- Completed asphalt roadway work at Sunoco Station at 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard. Picked-up recycling truck from Rush Trucks in Tampa following repairs.

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 52 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 100 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired water break at 1600 52nd Street.

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 and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1336 60th Street South.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced driveshaft universal joint on Recycle Truck #40.
- Performed front and rear brake job on Police vehicle #101.
- Replaced front engine mounts on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced radiator on Building Maintenance vehicle #24..
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself projects.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

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 (727) 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 check their website at www.pcclb.com.

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 beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

Staff anticipates sending Business License renewal notices out in mid-August. Licenses are good from October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If a license is not renewed by October 1, a 10 percent penalty shall be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

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.