



Gulfport Community Update

July 27 - August 2, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Tickets for the **September 4 Tampa Bay Rays home game** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$25.00 ticket price includes transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and a complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans already holding a ticket are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure times are: 5 p.m. for batting practice; 6 p.m. for pre-game, and; 7 p.m. for game time. All departures are from the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. For more information call 893-1070.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

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

Upcoming Events:

The **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.

Don't miss the First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District, 6 - 10 p.m. August 1. For more information call 322-5217.

Everyone is invited to the City of Gulfport **Crime Awareness meeting** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. The next meeting is August 4. For more information call 893-1111.

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

Join in with friends, family or your special group for the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** Sunday, August 10. The group will meet at Gulfport Beach shelter #4 at 6 p.m. The Neighbors will meet at the Walgreen's parking lot at 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard on Saturday, August 16 for the **Gulfport Boulevard Cleanup** from 8:30 until 11 a.m. Bring gloves and a picker for each event. Water will be provided. Visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors for more information.

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	19
Self-initiated calls for service	383
Offenses	39
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	35

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to a two vehicle crash at the intersection of 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard on July 24 after a vehicle ran a red light. The red light camera video from the time of the crash has been requested.

Officers were dispatched to a reported disturbance in the 2000 block of 49th Street on the morning of July 25 after a woman became upset that she was asked to move her car. A records check revealed that the woman had an outstanding warrant out of Hillsborough County. She was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail. Her car was moved without incident.

An employee at a business in the 1400 block of 59th Street reported that an unknown person smashed her passenger side window and stole her purse.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 2700 block of 47th Street in an attempt to locate a female with an outstanding warrant from Pinellas County. She was taken into custody.

A goat was stolen from a van parked on Shore Boulevard. The goat was recovered by the owner in St. Petersburg the next day.

An officer was flagged down by an individual who advised his unlocked bicycle was stolen from the bike rack outside McDonalds. There are no suspects.

On the afternoon of July 26 a resident in the 5400 Block of 6th Place reported that a neighbor's window had been broken and the side door of the residence was unlocked. A piece of concrete was found lying on the floor near the broken window. It has not been determined if anything is missing as the resident is out of state.

A juvenile reported that he was robbed of his smart phone by another juvenile. He claimed that the suspect hit him with a pipe after stealing the phone. After the suspect was interviewed it was

determined that the victim lied about the physical altercation taking place in Gulfport. The victim later admitted that the phone was stolen, but he confronted the alleged suspect and it led to a fight in St. Petersburg.

Ofc. Wodraska stopped 3 juveniles at 56th Street & 23rd Avenue in the early morning hours of July 28. All three were listed as runaways from PAR and had been taking cough syrup. They were taken to the Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility (JARF) to be cleared before being returned to PAR.

A resident reported her blue scooter was stolen from behind her house sometime between the morning of July 27 and the morning of July 28. The scooter has a steering lock and the owner has the keys.

A resident in the 1700 block of 53rd Street reported that a money order was stolen from her bedroom. She believes her roommate took it and decided she wanted to give him time to return the money before pressing charges.

A man attempted to take a gallon of milk from an outside freezer at a business, but a member of the cleaning crew saw him and told him to put it back. He left the milk, but returned about an hour later and attempted to take a bottle of cooking wine from a shed. The owner of the business confronted him, so he left the bottle and walked away as the owner followed while calling 911. Officer Marshall made contact with the suspect and arrested him for burglary.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 29th Avenue after a resident reported 2 unlocked bicycles were stolen. The bicycles were later recovered by the victim at 47th Street & 22nd Avenue which led to a disturbance and St. Petersburg Police were dispatched to assist.

Officers Cavanah and Nicita trained on the Marine Unit this week.

Investigations:

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	6
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	15

Detective Pham is on vacation this week.

Detective Crowson assisted with the Multi-jurisdictional Explorer Academy; reviewed an autopsy and toxicology report for a suspicious death; attended a State Attorney Invest for a juvenile sexual battery case, and; attended active-shooter training.

Margaret Palmisano conducted a presentation at the Citizen's Academy on the various aspects of Crime Analysis; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Hutsko in an attempt to ID a shoplifter at Dollar General, and; created and distributed the open case lists.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	23
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Supplements reviewed:	73
Public records requests:	12
Background checks:	12
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	38

Professional Standards Section

The following policies are under review: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 205 - Ethical Standards for Police Conduct; 402 - Burglary Investigations, and; 404 - Child Abuse Investigations

Training

Lt. Stone is coordinating training for Fair and Impartial Policing.

Sworn members attended a four hour block of active shooter training at Boca Ciega High School on July 28 & 29.

A member of the Criminal Investigative Section attended training on Investigations into Indoor Marijuana Grow Operations.

Applicant Screening

Fourteen police officer applications are being processed.

GPD welcomes probationary officers Mitchel Petit and Jonathon Kinsel to our organization. They began their employment on July 29.

Internal Affairs

Open cases:	1
YTD cases:	2

Special Events/Activities

The Citizens Police Academy is under way.

Lt. Stone is assisting coordinating the Gulfport Night Out event scheduled for August 7. He is also overseeing the installation of a server, back-up storage and new surveillance cameras in City facilities. Installation began July 31 and should be completed by late-August.

MARINA

Pumped three thousand four hundred thirty seven (3,437) gallons of gas, and two thousand eighteen (2,018) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixteen (116) vessels.

Assisted in thirty nine (39) pump outs evacuating six hundred fifteen (615) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 40' motorboat, 34' motorboat, 37' motorboat and a 36' motorboat this week.

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.
- Met with artist to schedule booking of exhibit in Theater.
- Commenced preparation of September calendar.
- Attended Pinellas County PIO meeting in Clearwater.
- Set up projector in Council Chambers for CPR class.
- Contacted organizations to update information for 2015 calendar.
- Editing Bike Theft video.
- Provided video coverage for Long Term Health Care informational at Senior Center.
- Distributed weekly newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us.

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.

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

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

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

Have a fun filled day exploring *The American Soldier* exhibit at the Museum of History during our next **Gulfport Getaway** on Thursday, August 7. This exhibit covers America at war from the Civil War to the streets of Baghdad.

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

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

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is August 11. You MUST call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is August 14.

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

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our next monthly **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** at 1 p.m. Thursday, August 21, and let's explore the world together! The group hosts a new guest speaker every month.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' August birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, August 22. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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 29. Blood pressure checks provided by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center, and vein screenings by Premier Vein Institute.

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*):

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|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, July 20 | 6 p.m. - Ellis Hale's band & Ballroom dance with lesson by Paul Kirk (Turnout 40) |
| Tuesday, July 22 | 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 25)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Paul Kirk
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 7)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 50) |
| Wednesday, July 23 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 205) |
| Thursday, July 24 | 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 18)
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 23) |
| Saturday, July 26 | 6 p.m. - Family Reunion (Turnout 240) |

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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|-----------------|---|
| Every Sunday | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Tuesday | 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Wednesday | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 |
| Every Thursday | 9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7 |

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

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|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, July 20 | 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 16)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous |
| Tuesday, July 22 | 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12) |
| Thursday, July 24 | 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15) |

5:30 p.m. - Citizens Police Academy (Turnout 14)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

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

Sunday, July 20, 1 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players Summer One Acts (Turnout 120)

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

Friday, August 1, 6 p.m. - Gary Mellenbruch art exhibit opening reception. Free and open to the public.

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga
Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, July 21, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading program for grades K-5.*
Tuesday, July 22 - *SCORE Counseling.*
Tuesday, July 22, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners* facilitated by Dave Mather.
Tuesday, July 22, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*
Wednesday, July 23, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*
Wednesday, July 23, 2 p.m. - *Intermediate computer class* facilitated by Dave Mather.
Wednesday, July 23, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading program.*
Wednesday, July 23, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*
Thursday, July 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*
Friday, July 25, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Class.*
Friday, July 25, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Friday, July 25, 7 p.m. - *Wonders of Nature Summer Reading Program for K-5th Grade end of summer party* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Saturday, July 26, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Building a Hanging Garden Planter.*

Upcoming Events:

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

Wednesday, August 6, & Tuesday, August 12, 10 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Outreach:* A Navigator from Pinellas County Health and Human Services will be available to assist anyone who needs information about the ACA and the Health Care Marketplace in the public area of the Library near the Circulation Desk.

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

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

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

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

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. Pre-registration required. 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.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime:* Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic July 20 - 26, 2014:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	1,852	618
Sun. 7/20	Library closed	
Mon. 7/21	363	114
Tue. 7/22	269	99
Wed. 7/23	355	104

Thu. 7/24	321	105
Fri. 7/25	318	105
Sat. 7/26	215	80

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, July 26 for a family reunion with approximately one hundred (100) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred twenty seven (127) children have been registered for the **2014 Summer Recreation Program**. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration fees are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents. Summer camp program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

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

One hundred twenty four (124) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Staff Activities

Shanoah Washington worked the room rental on Saturday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 25 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,036 totaling \$186,440.24
- Bright House: 12
- On-Line Water payments: 154 transactions totaling \$7,880.81
- Accounts Payable 07/25/14: 394 transactions totaling \$178,482.71
- Mail processed: 2,141 pieces totaling \$1,236.40
- Purchasing Cards: 242 totaling \$34,576.71

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 50 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Transformer Pole Fire

Life Safety:

- 3 Plans Review
- 2 Smoke Detector

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, August 21 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic and Lt. Adam Poirrier taught CPR with AED training to the Gulfport Citizens Academy on July 31. Students also toured the Fire Station and learned Fire Extinguisher training.
- Chief Marenkovic met with Cultural Facilities Manager Justin Shea and Police Lt. Joshua Stone to discuss site plan for the August 7 Gulfport Public Safety Night Out.
- A Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program continues his ride along with Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift as his preceptor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Emptied storage area on west side of Casino in preparation for concrete drainage project.
- Ran errand to Tampa for garage.
- Repaired a/c at Scout Hall.
- Rehung paper towel machine, repaired toilet seat, & removed graffiti in handicap stall in men's restroom at Library.
- Installed toilet paper dispenser in Dog Park men's room.
- Installed support beam for display case in front of Casino.
- Moved numerous boxes from City Hall to Public Services storage area.
- Assembled three chairs for Police Department.
- Adjusted water flow on drinking fountain in Theater Lobby.
- Cleared blocked toilet in lounge area at Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed graffiti from Neighborhood Center door.
- Cleared blocked toilet at City Hall.
- Replaced irrigation valve box at City Complex.
- Removed two large limbs at Veteran's Park.
- Repaired/replaced cigarette waste containers at beach.
- Refastened sidewalk bench on Beach Boulevard.
- Removed tree lights, trimmed trees and replaced outlet boxes on two trees at Beach Boulevard & Essex.
- Repaired stuck water valve behind Recreation Center.
- Replaced home plate at Hoyt Field.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field, Tomlinson, Veterans, Caldwell & Clymer Parks, Library and Recreation Center.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned hedges at Clymer Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Recreation Center, Library & Senior Center grounds, Clymer Greenway, 55th Street median, Dog Park, Hoyt perimeter, Beach & Marina green spaces and Lions Club grounds.
- 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 automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from City storm grates, inlets and outfalls.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Replaced street signs at 51st Street & 25th Avenue.
- Repaired sidewalks at 63rd Street & 15th Avenue, 62nd Street & 11th Avenue, and at Hull Street & 11th Avenue.
- Mowed drainage area and field on 7th Avenue between 52nd & 54th Streets.
- Received delivery of new dump truck to City yard.

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).
- Disconnected water service at 83 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 159 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 2 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 39 old water meters with new style meter.
- Cleaned and painted 8 fire hydrants.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1108 63rd Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired coolant leak and replaced air compressor head on Sanitation truck #42.
- Replaced both side view mirrors and recharged A/C system on Recycle truck #40.
- Replaced fuel solenoid and fuel shut off valve cover on Sanitation truck #44.
- Repaired A/C system on Fire Department vehicle #C17.
- 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 have moved to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets South.

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:

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.