



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 14 - 20, 2016*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Summer is the deadliest season for **lightning strikes** because of the frequency of thunderstorms and the fact that more people are outdoors. Despite its "Sunshine State" nickname, Florida receives more cloud-to-ground lightning than any other state in the country, according to data from NASA satellites. The Gulfport Fire Department offers the following tips to help keep residents safe during a thunderstorm:

- Get into a fully enclosed building or hardtop vehicle at the first rumble of thunder.
- Stay indoors for 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Monitor the weather forecast and have a plan for getting to safety in case a thunderstorm moves in.
- Do not use a corded phone during a thunderstorm unless it's an emergency; cell phones are safe.
- Keep away from plumbing, electrical equipment and wiring during a thunderstorm.

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

**Hurricane Implementation Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30.

Chief Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits.** Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

### Upcoming Events:

Visit the 49<sup>th</sup> Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** on the Tangerine Greenway every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The market focuses on locally made items, but SO49 will consider others in an effort to meet the needs of the community. For more information call 439-0164 or email [jsrtraining@aol.com](mailto:jsrtraining@aol.com).

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for the **Saturday, August 20 Tampa Bay Rowdies vs. FC Edmonton game**; Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at [www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley](http://www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley). Tickets are also available for the **Saturday, September 17 vs. Carolina Railhawks** game. Departure from the Casino begins at 5 p.m. and games are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1118.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

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

Tickets for the **August 24 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Boston Red Sox and the September 21 vs. New York Yankees** games are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat &

complimentary Ray's baseball hat. All Rays fans with tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game on the Gulfport Trolley. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips begin during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. All trolley trips this season take place on \$2 *Hotdog Wednesdays*. For more information call 893-1118.

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

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

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	122
Self-initiated calls for service	398
Offenses	38
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	85
Ordinance violations	31

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Sergeant Marotta stopped a car traveling the wrong way in the 5400 block of Essex Avenue on August 11. Driver Joseph Marzilli appeared to be extremely intoxicated and was arrested after a DUI investigation. His BAC was .341/.334, more than four times the legal limit.

Tiffany Laws was arrested on theft charges after the manager of the Dollar General store observed her stuffing items into her purse on August 12. She was confronted at the front of the store while waiting for a male associate to pay for his items. Laws admitted to stealing the items and said she just didn't want to pay.

Officers were dispatched to Stetson College of Law after a former student permanently trespassed in 2014 returned to the campus after flying here from Texas because he believed they were inviting him back. The school did not invite him back and does not want him on campus. Charges will be forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for trespass after warning.

The manager of the Dollar General store reported that three females were in the store stuffing items into a large purse. Officer Heaton made contact with them outside the store as they were getting into their car. The suspect's purse was empty and they denied shoplifting. A review of the video showed Quatavia Shorter concealing items in a bag that did not match the one she was holding. After confronting her she admitted she threw the bag in the vehicle when police arrived. She retrieved the bag from the car and handed over the stolen items before being arrested on felony theft charges due to prior convictions.

James Freeland was arrested in the 5100 Block of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue after information was provided to officers that he had a warrant out of North Carolina for trafficking marijuana.

Joshua Miller was arrested on an outstanding Hillsborough County warrant for failure to appear on a burglary charge. He was taken into custody in the 1300 block of Hull Street on August 13.

A juvenile waiting for a bus in the 2100 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street was approached by a male who snatched her cell phone. She wrestled with him and got the phone back, and he then tried to take her backpack. Bystanders scared the suspect away but evidence was collected which might lead to his identification.

A resident in the 6000 block of Kipps Colony Drive East reported on August 14 that someone opened several credit cards in his name and used them at Tyrone Square Mall.

A group of juveniles were seen spray painting graffiti on the roadway in the 5700 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Police made contact with their parents, who made them clean up the mess. No charges were filed.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue on August 15 after a woman reported that her father was missing. The investigation revealed that the man had taken a plane to Tennessee and simply not told anyone.

A resident in the 1300 Block of York Street reported his company van had been burglarized and two I-Pods, a cell phone, and a black leather wallet were stolen. An officer attempted to investigate the incident but the victim declined because associates of the suspect wanted to handle the matter without the police involvement. The officer left without incident.

A parent reported that his daughter was punched in the face by a 16-year-old female at Boca Ciega High school.

The marine unit was not out on the water this week; however, officers followed up on at risk vessels.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	15
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	25
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	16

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham completed supplemental investigations for burglary, fraud, and grand theft auto cases.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, a theft, a hit and run and three harassing phone call complaints; interviewed a suspect in a theft case at the Pinellas County Jail, and; reviewed multiple subpoena returns in a child/adult neglect case.

Officer Motte attended student assemblies for the start of school, talking with every grade level regarding securing their property and proper conduct while at school and in the community; completed contracts for coverage of the fall football season, and; hosted the first Explorer Post on Monday, providing the nine attendees a brief lesson on search and arrest, and officer safety issues.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano created and distributed bulletins for Officers Smith and Carter in an attempt to identify retail theft suspects; completed an analysis on bicycle thefts; updated and distributed the R.A.D.A.R. (Reduce Adolescent Delinquency and Recidivism) list of

juveniles on probation living in Gulfport; created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Ross in an attempt to identify an unarmed robbery suspect, and; completed pawn checks on 12 cases with a named suspect, a known serial number or searchable property description.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	57
Public Records requests:	48
Background checks:	12
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	6
Subpoenas processed:	20
Citizens assisted:	37

### **MARINA**

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

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

#### **Staff Activities:**

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

#### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **LIBRARY**

#### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, August 8, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program.*

Tuesday, August 9, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, August 9, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting.*

Tuesday, August 9, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

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

Wednesday, August 10, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, August 10, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, August 11, 4:30 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program.*

Friday, August 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 13, 10 a.m. - *Literacy Council of St. Petersburg Focus Group.*

## Upcoming Events:

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

Tuesday, August 23, 2 p.m. - The French Conversation Club will screen *La Cage aux Folles* at the Senior Center. Everyone welcome to join for this classic French farce.

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

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

Monday, August 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

Tuesday, September 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 [cklasson@mygulford.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulford.us) for more information.

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

Monday, September 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Release your Cosmic MOJO as we explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. For more information on the next topic call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com).

Tuesday, September 13, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting*: If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body this club is for you. For more information email [klane@untieyourwings.com](mailto:klane@untieyourwings.com).

Every Monday - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Monday - French; Tuesday - Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email [cklasson@mygulford.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulford.us) or call 893-1074 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere. This is our most popular language group so far!

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email [robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com](mailto:robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com) for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

### **Library Services/Statistic August 7 - 13, 2016:**

	<b>Items Circulated</b>	<b>Patrons</b>
Weekly Circulation:	1,426	648
Sun. 8/7	Library closed	
Mon. 8/8	170	71
Tue. 8/9	189	82
Wed. 8/10	221	115
Thu. 8/11	252	91
Fri. 8/12	249	126
Sat. 8/13	338	153

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2016-2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Continued preparation of September calendar.
- Updated various pages on City website.

### **Multipurpose Center**

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

**Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS)** offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for

qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

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

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

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

Stretch out in an oversized reclining chair at **Cobb Tyrone Luxury 10 Theaters** on Thursday, August 25. Movie TBD based on current showings. GEMS members \$12/nonmembers \$14. Price includes round trip transportation and movie ticket.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is August 25.

Join the **Out-To-Lunch Bunch** on Tuesday, August 30 for a visit the Amish Country Store where Pennsylvania Dutch foods have been served since 1997. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$5/non-members \$7. Meal separate.

Learn the signs, symptoms, and treatment options available for **Parkinson's disease**, a neurodegenerative brain disorder, or motor system disorder, that can make walking, talking, and other everyday tasks difficult to complete. Fusion Health Care will host a Parkinson's informational seminar at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 6.

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

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is September 13. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** at 10 a.m. the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is September 13.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is September 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

**The Last Word - Writing an Obituary** is offered at the Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. every first & fourth Monday. Learn the ins and outs of writing and placing an obituary in the local press from local writer, editor and instructor Diane Craig. Call 893-5657 to register.

**One-On-One Tech Support** with Jaclyn meets every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Assistance is not limited to specific devices. All electronics and skill levels are welcome.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

**Recycle** your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall**

#### **Casino (last week's events):**

Sunday, August 7	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 16)
Tuesday, August 9	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 17) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 11) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (turnout 57)
Wednesday, August 10	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 10) 6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 242)
Thursday, August 11	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John (Turnout 9) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 19)
Friday, August 12	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 18)

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

Most Sundays	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every Tuesday	9 a.m. - Tai Chi 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
Every Thursday	9 a.m. - Tai Chi 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan

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

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

Sunday, August 7 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 21)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 9 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 11 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 22)

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

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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

Sunday, August 7 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 11)

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

Monday, August 8 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)

Tuesday, August 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 21)

Friday, August 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

**Recreation Center**

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

## **Programs, Classes & Activities**

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

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

Registration for the **2016/17 Teen Night Program** is currently underway. Teen Night is a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12. It provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. To date, eight teens have been registered.

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

Five **Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Topics discussed were advisor report, approval of the July minutes, new appointments for 2016/17 Term, Community Service log for 2016/17, old business and new business.

## **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended a Traffic Crash meeting & Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday, the Budget Workshop on Thursday, and the Teen Council meeting on Friday.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue

### **Life Safety:**

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 2 Plans Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly. The next meeting is Thursday, September 15.

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

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

GFD participated in the Drive Safe Back to School campaign at the Gulfport Boulevard/52<sup>nd</sup> Street crosswalk on August 10. Please be cautious of children and drive safely now that school is back in session.

Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh reviewed the Geckofest Site Plan provided by Justin Shea. The Fire Marshal is expected to arrive on site to inspect each vendor on the morning of

the event September 3. It is mandatory that all food vendors have adequate fire extinguishing equipment at their booth with current certification tags attached and ready for inspection.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired a/c units at Parks office and above Council Chambers.
- Set up Council Chambers for Budget Workshop.
- Assembled new chair for Library.
- Replaced ballast in ladies restroom at Theater.
- Performed annual sprinkler inspection at City Hall.
- Cleaned and painted water fountain at Pier entrance.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Repaired fire alarm panel at Casino.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Prepared Gulfport Beach for Volleyball tournament.
- Set up equipment in preparation for Gulfport Night out.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Tangerine & Greenways, Beach, Marina, Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, 55<sup>th</sup> Street median, and York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center and continued installation of irrigation sleeves for Shore Boulevard improvements.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields daily.

### **Streets, Stormwater & Sanitation**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Replaced damaged storm drain lid at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & Shore Boulevard.

- Reset bricks along edge of roadway at 5720 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed “Children Playing” sign at 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Filled depression in road at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Installed curbing on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between 53<sup>rd</sup> & 54<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Recycled 6,738 pounds of collected electronics, through “E-Waste” solutions provider, NWI Recycling, Inc.
- Removed old signage around City yard and disposed of old tires from garage.
- Performed sidewalk work along 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Continued automated stormline cleaning throughout City.
- Set new (7' x 7') storm lid at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 30 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 118 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 11 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 5 water old water meters with new style meter.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.

## **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Manually operated lift station pumps to minimize sewer overflow following heavy rain.
- Set up sewer by-pass at Lift Stations #1 and #2, and removed sand from wet wells.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5150 Gulfport Boulevard.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced hydraulic cylinder, and coolant line on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Removed spark plugs in Police vehicle #12 and rotated engine for removal of water, and to prepare vehicle for evaluation of mechanical function. Sent to dealer for evaluation and repair of flood damage.
- Cleaned air intake system in Police vehicle #102 for repair of stalling problem.
- Replaced hydraulic line on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced hydraulic bucket lines on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Repaired and recharged A/C in GEMS vehicle #11.
- Removed and cleaned fuel lines and filter housing on Parks Tractor #23.
- Replaced headlight on Sanitation vehicle #44.

- Replaced windshield washer pump on Police vehicle #156, and cleared blocked windshield washer nozzles.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at [www.pced.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

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

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and

check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

#### WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

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