



Gulfport Community Update

August 17 - 23, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of **Labor Day**. The sanitation pick up schedule will not be affected.

A few tickets are still available at the Gulfport Casino for the **September 4 Tampa Bay Rays home game**. 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: 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. Late August thru September is peak season for storms in the Gulf. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Meet Photographer Cathy Salustri at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, September 5, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception and photo exhibit of her **Adventures in Small Town Paradise** series. For more information call 893-1118.

Everyone is welcome at the **Monthly Citywide Crime Watch meeting** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. For more information call 893-1111.

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. Donate, swap or trade gently used clothes at the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard during Gulfport Fresh Market September 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 453-9093 or 902-2326 for more information. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Want to get your local group or organization involved to help fight cancer? The **Relay for Life Gulfport/Stetson Kickoff Party** is Tuesday, September 9 at 6 p.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Learn about great opportunities to form a team, recruit friends & family, and support survivors at this meet & greet with The American Cancer Society Relay For Life. Call 812-7021 or visit www.relayforlife.org/gulfportfl.

Time to register for the **4th Annual Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 27. Register in advance to receive a cool bright t-shirt with the Keep Gulfport Weird logo. Registration is \$10 per person. Participants must register no later than Friday, September 19. The race is designed to be short enough for most ages and fitness levels, whether individually or in teams.

Bring a chair and enjoy two days of live Blues and Country music at the **Seventh Annual Tangerine Blues Fest** on the Tangerine Greenway noon - 9:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28. Check out the lineup at www.SO49.org or www.Tangerinebluesfest.com. Free admission. Please no coolers or dogs. Call 327-3509 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	145
Self-initiated calls for service	369
Offenses	28
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	9

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported on evening of August 14 that the back door of her home had been forced open, and a safe containing cash stolen. There is a possible suspect in the case.

Officers responded to the 5000 block of Shore Boulevard in the early morning hours of August 15 after an individual who had been trespassed from a bar created a disturbance in front of the establishment. He was arrested for disorderly intoxication after he refused to leave.

Officers took an intoxicated woman into protective custody under the Marchman Act early August 15 after she was pepper sprayed during an altercation in the 4800 block of 29th Street.

A man was arrested for lewd and lascivious exhibition after he exposed himself to a woman and her child inside a coin laundry at 15th Avenue & 49th Street. He was apprehended after fleeing to a business across the street when the woman warned him she was calling police.

An October 2013 Fleeing and Eluding case was closed when Richard Loesch III arrested on August 17. DNA evidence left at the scene implicated Loesch as the driver who fled from a traffic stop at high speed and crashed his truck into a tree.

Robert Haynes was arrested on August 17 when he was discovered riding a stolen bicycle. During a search, he was found to be in possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and paraphernalia for injecting the drug.

Officer Hutsko determined a juvenile was the perpetrator of a burglary in which an expensive Nikon digital camera was stolen. The subject was located at his home and arrested.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 14th Avenue on the evening of August 17 regarding a male shooting a gun into the air. All parties were gone upon police arrival, however the caller advised the male was shooting down the street. Bullet casings were located near 51st Street & 14th Avenue. Officers notified local hospitals and SPPD.

Officers responded to the 1800 block of 60th Street after a caller reported he stepped away from his car keys for a short period of time when he heard his vehicle start up and drive off. The case remains under investigation.

A resident in the 800 block of Fremont Street left his unlocked truck parked at his house overnight. He was just married and the truck was full of wedding gifts, many of which were missing the next morning.

A bail bondsman reported on the morning of August 20 that a possible fugitive with an outstanding felony warrant was hiding at a house in Gulfport. Officers surrounded the house and eventually one of the residents allowed a search to be conducted. The suspect was located hiding in a rolled up carpet in the garage.

Officers received a tip that a recently-released convict who failed to report to his parole officer was staying with family in Gulfport. Originally sentenced on narcotics charges and battery on a police officer, the suspect was arrested on an outstanding warrant for violation of parole.

Sgt. Woodman & Ofc. Wodraska used the marine unit this week to arrest a burglary suspect.

Investigations:

New cases:	20
Cases assigned:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	24
Cases cleared with arrest:	4
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	4
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	12

Detective Pham investigated a grand theft case and obtained a confession from a suspect accused of stealing baseball bats from Hoyt Field. He also cleared three Beachway Mobile Home burglary cases by arrest; assisted Detective Crowson with locating burglary and theft suspects; spent approximately 20 hours composing investigative reports, and; made contact with sex offenders he is responsible for overseeing.

Detective Crowson investigated and interviewed a possible suspect in a burglary in which two bicycles were stolen from inside a residence; attempted to locate a suspect in a purse theft case involving fraudulent use of a credit card; attempted to interview an incarcerated suspect in two burglaries but the suspect refused to speak; investigated an armed burglary and collected finger prints & DNA samples, and; determined an IRS scam she was investigating occurred in another jurisdiction, and forwarded the case.

SRO Motte mentored a troubled student; trespassed a disruptive student caught on campus while on a 10-day suspension; spoke at freshman assemblies about the role of the school resource officer; completed all athletic sporting contracts between BCHS & GPD, and; assisted CIS with case agent review forms for officers no longer employed with Gulfport PD.

SRO Langston addressed a parent regarding a civil matter; identified and intercepted a trespasser on campus; created an abandoned property report; investigated a missing juvenile; responded to three disturbances; counseled a student with family issues, and; arrested a shoplifting suspect in a case assigned to her during summer break.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis of bicycle thefts for Officer Mills; created and distributed an "Attempt to ID" bulletin for Detective Pham in a retail theft investigation; initiated an analysis of residential burglaries, and; created a new crime prevention flyer to be posted on the Gulfport PD Facebook regarding telephone fraud.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	16
Supplements reviewed:	15
Public records requests:	27
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	10
Citizens assisted:	31

MARINA

Pumped two thousand one hundred sixty seven (2,167) gallons of gas and one two hundred eighty nine (1,289) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty six (66) vessels.

Assisted in forty three (43) pump outs evacuating five hundred thirty two (532) gallons of waste.

Staff activities:

- Repaired boat lift on pier four, slip one.
- Installed light bulbs in pedestals in BCYC.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Purchased drinks for resale.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 4 powerboats and a sailboat 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.
- Distributed September calendar and weekly newsletter to Tuesday Market vendors and City facilities.
- Updated information on GTV615 and City website.
- Provided control room coverage for August 19 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued editing Bike Theft video & Senior Center Long Term Healthcare informational footage.

Multipurpose Center

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

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

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

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

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

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

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is September 2. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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

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

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is September 8. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 9.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers **free Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is September 11.

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

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

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' August birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, September 19. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

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

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, August 10	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 45)
Tuesday, August 12	9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 21) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)
Wednesday, August 13	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 239)
Thursday, August 14	9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 22) 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 28)

Saturday, August 16 7 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 100)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

Every Thursday 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Saturday, August 23 6 p.m. - 2014 Gecko Ball Admission \$35

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

Sunday, August 10 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 52)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 12 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Thursday, August 14 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

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 (*upcoming events*):

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

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

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

Monday, August 11 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 22)
Tuesday, August 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 16)

Wednesday, August 13 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 10)

Friday, August 15 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, August 12, 10 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Outreach.*

Tuesday, August 12, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners.*

Tuesday, August 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 13, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, August 13, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. - *LGBTQ Committee meeting.*

Friday, August 15, 10 a.m. - *Meditation Class.*

Friday, August 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 16, 12:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day* facilitated by Sheri Stanley.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Creating & Growing Plants in an Earth Box.* Learn how to install this user-friendly technique which has become wildly popular in the home gardening world. Attendees are invited to stay after class and informally discuss their gardening-related issues. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, August 26 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 893-1073.

Thursday, September 4, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop:* Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey:* The popular author returns to discuss his latest novel, Tiger Shrimp Tango. Call 893-1073 or stop by the Reference Desk to register.

Saturday, September 20, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy two newly released movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Monday, September 22, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session:* Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument and get in touch with your musical self. For more information call Alex at 893-1073.

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 August 10 - 16, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,721	551
Sun. 8/10	Library closed	
Mon. 8/11	395	116
Tue. 8/12	361	96
Wed. 8/13	322	109
Thu. 8/14	300	102
Fri. 8/15	352	103
Sat. 8/16	212	70

Recreation Center

The game room was rented 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday August 16 for a birthday party with approximately fifty (50) in attendance.

The game room is reserved 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, August 23 for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Eighteen (18) children have been registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in 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.

Twelve (12) children have been pre-registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents. Classes begin Tuesday, September 2.

Eighteen (18) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

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

Staff Activities

John Lapham drove the Gulfport Teen Council to the Florida League of Cities Conference in Hollywood, Florida.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Teen Councilmembers Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Savannah Roderick, Taryn Spence, Abigail Zigmund and City chaperones John Lapham & Ariel Storch attended the Florida League of Cities Conference on Saturday. The conference hosted a Youth Program facilitated by Scott C. Paine, PhD. Participants were presented topics on Government and participated in group discussions related to those topics.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Electrical Hazard
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 1 Plans Review
- 1 Fire Inspection

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the B-shift is his preceptor.
- GFD participated in the Drive Safe Back to School campaign at Gulfport Boulevard & 52nd Street on August 18. Please be cautious of children and drive safely now that school is back in session.
- The City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a three year agreement with the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners permitting the Gulfport Fire Department to provide Advanced Life Support First Responder Services.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blocked toilet in Recreation Center men's restroom.
- Delivered school supplies to 4 local area schools.
- Repaired electrical outlet and automated front door at Senior Center.
- Ran errands to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Repaired a/c at Casino & Police Station, and replaced filters on all City units.
- Completed required annual inspection/replacement of all City fire extinguishers.
- Obtained tags from DMV for new truck.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Repaired bench slats at Tomlinson Park, bench at Wood Ibis Park, bench swing on beach, and kick plate at Williams Pier.
- Cleaned and graded around pavilion #7 following completion of construction, and installed picnic tables.
- Continued replacement of gate hardware on gates at Lum Field.
- Continued to work on tree lights and electrical outlets, and inspected light timers on Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Clymer & Tonkin Parks, Scout Hall & Casino grounds, Dog Park, and 28th Street signage area.
- Mowed Clymer & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center grounds, 28th Street signage area, 14th Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area, Community Garden, Chase block, Scout Hall and Dog Park.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library and City Complex.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, adjusted valves on backpack blowers, and replaced hydraulic pump & motor on truck #51 and lift-gate & carburetor on line trimmer.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Cut and removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Assembled and installed new "Bike Route" sign at 55th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of derelict sailboat from Gulfport Municipal Marina.
- Completed street striping at 58th Street & 7th Avenue.
- Painted school zone signs and crosswalk at 52nd Street & 15th Avenue.
- Delivered two cardboard recycling containers to Habana Café.
- Cleaned storm grates, added fill, fixed washouts, and graded bank area at 52nd Street terminus.
- Disposed of debris from 49th Street holding area, and old tires from City garage.

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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 2 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 95 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meter.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Mailed results of lead and copper monitoring program to DEP and participating households.
- FDEP conducted Sanitary Survey Inspection of Gulfport Water system.
- Replaced water service line at 5125 28th 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced batteries on Vehicle #78.
- Replaced front shocks & brake pads on Vehicle #25.
- Replaced air compressor cylinder head on Vehicle #44.
- Replaced both lower control arms and strut tensioners on Vehicle #6 (performed under warranty by Dodge).
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

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

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.

September 16, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

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