



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 23 - 29, 2015*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Harbormaster Denis Frain reports that the **Gulfport Casino Docks are closed for renovation and the installation of floating docks.** The docks will reopen Friday, September 4. The improvements will increase boating capacity. Boaters should consider using the Gulfport Municipal Marina during the closure. The Marina is located at 4630 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Boaters can dock at the Marina 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday for no charge. For more information, call 893-1071 or visit [www.mygulfport.us/marina](http://www.mygulfport.us/marina).

Gulfport City staff continues performing water quality testing at Gulfport Beach and Marina following a sanitary sewer overflow into Clam Bayou during heavy rains in early August. The beach is currently open. Please visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) for up-to-date information.

The Gulfport Library Circle of Friends is searching for the City's first **Poet Laureate**. Any Gulfport resident age 18 and over may enter the contest. According to the Library of Congress, a poet laureate is a poet who is expected "to raise the consciousness of the population to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry." A panel of five judges will conduct a blind review of submissions. The Poet Laureate will be confirmed by the Gulfport City Council, and will agree to host 2 to 4 poetry events under the auspices of the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library within 12 months of being named, and may be asked to compose and deliver a poem for special events in or on behalf of Gulfport. No compensation will be provided. Gulfport residents interested in applying should submit three works of poetry as one attachment, along with a brief autobiography in the body of an email addressed to [teachedit@yahoo.com](mailto:teachedit@yahoo.com) by September 4. Only email submissions will be accepted and must include the applicant's name, Gulfport address, phone number and age. Applicants are not required to have published poems prior to entering the contest. Call 941-447-7811 for more information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Get your tickets for the **Seventh Annual Gecko Ball** on Saturday, August 29. Mardi Gras will be the order of the evening, featuring festivities and pageantry, high energy dancing, New Orleans-style music, food and more. Hors d'oeuvre and tapas, cocktail specials and a cash bar will also be offered. Live music by the Jammin' Jambalaya Band will fill the dance floor. Tickets: \$35, available at Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 366-4086 or email [dan@iqc.org](mailto:dan@iqc.org).

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).

Everyone is invited to the monthly **Crime Awareness Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 2, at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information call 418-0126.

Visit the Gulfport Merchant's Association **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on September 4, 6 - 10 p.m. This event features new artists every first Friday and third Saturday, and includes a variety of sculpture & paint mediums, jewelry, photography, folk art, upcycled items, body products, handmade/designed clothing and accessories and more. Live musicians appear at several venues throughout the evening. Experience a shopping, dining and cultural experience unlike any other. Complimentary parking

is available nearby with courtesy trolley rides available from off-site parking areas. Gulfport events are pet and family friendly. Visit [www.SIKpromotions.com](http://www.SIKpromotions.com) for vendor information. For general information, visit [www.facebook.com/GulfportArtWalk](http://www.facebook.com/GulfportArtWalk) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com), or call 322-5217.

Meet local artists from the **Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA)** during an opening reception for an exhibit of their works at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Friday, September 4 at 6 p.m. PAVA works include paintings in watercolor, oil & acrylic, mixed media, drawings in ink, charcoal & colored pencil, and photographs. Each work will reflect the unique talents and interests of the artist.

The **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Geckofest** will provide entertainment during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, September 5. Amid the thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, expect to come face to face with acrobats, aerialists, break dancers, escape artists, magicians, jugglers, fire performers and more, creating an interactive circus atmosphere throughout the waterfront village. A kids' zone and Mardi Gras-themed costume contest offer a little lagniappe for everyone! All festivities will take place on Beach Boulevard from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Geckofest is free and family-friendly. For more information call 322-5217.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 12. If you're looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring a picker/grabber and gloves, and be sure to wear sun protection and comfortable footwear. Water will be provided. For more information, email [gulfport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com) or visit [www.Facebook.com/gulfportneighbors](http://www.Facebook.com/gulfportneighbors).

In honor of National Senior Center Month, the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center will host an **Open House** on Friday, September 18, 4 - 7 p.m. Find out what the Senior Center has to offer you, your family, and your community through guided tours, class demonstrations, informative presentations, and community resource information. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the Event Line at 893-5657.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### ***Calls for Service:***

Dispatch calls for service	100
Self-initiated calls for service	480
Offenses	36
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	100
Ordinance violations	71

### **Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on August 20 after a caller reported a trespasser at a vacant property. A juvenile reported as a runaway was taken into protective custody and returned to his legal guardian.

A resident in the 3000 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street reported on August 21 that cash was missing from her apartment. The victim suspected relatives who visited recently were involved in the theft.

A resident in the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard reported that a man working on her condo may have stolen jewelry and cash from her home. She invited the man in to look at the jewelry but later noticed her possessions missing.

A resident in the 3000 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street reported that he left his unlocked 2013 GMC Denali truck parked in his driveway with the keys inside early August 22. The truck was stolen within a few hours.

Officer Affeldt stopped a car in the 4900 Block of Gulfport Boulevard for an equipment violation in the early morning hours of August 23. She smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car and driver Tremond Webb admitted to having a small baggie of marijuana in the car. He was issued a notice to appear.

Ofc. Novak arrested Nicholas Jackson on a warrant for resisting an officer on August 24 after complaints from a McDonald's employee that he was intoxicated inside the restaurant. During a search officers located a bag containing a large amount of individually packaged heroin and crystal meth tied to Jackson's waist. He was also charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Officers responded to the 800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street after a caller reported that he was approached by a male who asked him for money to pay for a ride to All Children's Hospital to see his sick child. When the victim took out his wallet, the suspect grabbed the wallet and ran east on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Officers dispatched to a 911 hang up at a business in the 1000 Block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street discovered that 3 females had refused to pay for services provided. The owner attempted to lock them inside to call the police, and one of the suspects punched her and hit her with a flip flop. Another employee filmed the incident on his cell phone. The suspects fled in 2 cars but an employee was able to get the tag information from both vehicles. Sharon Jones, Shanitria Jones, and a juvenile were arrested in.

Officers responded to the 1600 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on August 25 after a caller reported missing items from a vehicle left unlocked for a week after it broke down. The vehicle was left in the parking lot of a business, and a set of shocks and screws/bits were taken.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block Newton Avenue regarding 2 pit bulls tethered together in a back yard with no food, water or shelter. The dogs were freed and given water. The owners arrived and were hostile toward the officers at the scene. They were given a warning, and officers will be following up.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 12.5 hours this week conducting routine patrol and evaluating abandoned/derelict vessels.

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

New cases:	31
Cases assigned:	8
Cases suspended-no leads:	20
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	4
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	4
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	5

## **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations on a runaway case, a theft, a grand theft auto and a burglary; completed investigative supplement reports on a burglary, a runaway, and several theft cases; conducted vessel stops and posted notice stickers on derelict vessels in the bay, and; attended an invest meeting with the SAO for a Grand Theft Auto case.

Detective Crowson completed investigative supplement reports and closed 4 cases with arrest in the Michael Sampson burglary investigation.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored two students; met with school staff and reviewed the school's crisis plan; filled out several contracts to cover off duty athletic events; mediated an altercation preventing a possible fight in school; assisted Officer Langston with the recovery of a missing juvenile and the arrest of a wanted parental kidnapper; taught officer safety to the Explorer team, and; discussed SRO responsibilities and the police explorer program with the Teen Police Academy.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a found property case (unsecured bike), a trespasser on campus, an animal call (student found a rabbit); recovered a missing juvenile from West Virginia; spoke with student regarding a bullying issue; assisted with traffic control on 58<sup>th</sup> Street during morning traffic congestion, and; provided security at a pre-season varsity football away game at Dunedin.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper documentation that the items were entered into FCIC/NCIC; completed pawn checks on 21 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description; started a crime analysis of criminal mischiefs involving vehicle tires occurring around the city, and, submitted recommendations for distributing information to help protect seniors from being victims of crime.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	87
Public records requests:	9
Reports disseminated	8
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	35

## **MARINA**

Assisted in thirty one (31) pump outs evacuating four hundred (400) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand nine hundred seventeen (2,917) gallons of gas and one thousand four hundred sixty one (1,461) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty five (125) vessels.

### **Staff activities:**

- Closed Casino courtesy dock for reconstruction.
- Readjusted bunks on dock 4-3.
- Repaired gate at BCYC.
- Removed dock box on pier 4-2.
- Performed preventive maintenance on pump-outs.

## Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 32' powerboat this week.

## 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.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain and training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, and Recreation & Board of Adjustment information 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 \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital & Medical Centers 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 **Neighborhood 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 **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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

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 1.

**First Friday Flea Market** returns after a long summer. Find great deals on September 4, 9 a.m. - noon. We've been gathering goodies all summer. Don't miss out!

Join us for lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 8.

**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 to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. Counselor Roger Baxter will provide free, unbiased counseling regarding the upcoming Medicare open enrollment season at 3 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Get your blood sugar and blood pressure checked on Thursday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy ice cream with your friends during our **Monthly Ice Cream Social** at 3 p.m. Thursday, September 10. This event is sponsored by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and glucose screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is September 24.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, September 25. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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. 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.

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

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

Sunday, August 16	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Good Times Band (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, August 18	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 14) Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Paul Kirk (Turnout 7) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 64)
Wednesday, August 19	10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 18) 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 237)
Thursday, August 20	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 11) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 27)

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

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker

2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8  
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson  
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn  
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 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Saturday, August 29 6 p.m. - 2015 Gecko Ball! Tickets \$35 at Beach Bazaar or online at  
[www.gulfportMA.com](http://www.gulfportMA.com)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):**

Friday, September 4, 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring a selection of works by local members of the Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA). Free admission.

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

Sunday, August 16 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 27)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 18 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 20 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 7)

**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

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

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

Tuesday, August 18 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 22)

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

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

## **LIBRARY**

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

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

Tuesday, August 18, 2 p.m. - *FHA Mortgages for Seniors*.

Tuesday, August 18, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, August 19, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, August 19, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class*.

Wednesday, August 19, 4 p.m. - *Ukulele Group organizational meeting*.

Wednesday, August 19, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, August 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, August 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Analects of Confucius over coffee & light refreshments*.

Friday, August 21, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Monday, August 31, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam*: Alex invites everyone to bring their acoustic instruments as he begins a new season of group musical creation.

Thursday, September 3, 3 p.m. - *Essential Oils*: Jen Schaefer of Gulfport Yoga presents an introduction to using them to enhance your quality of life.

Tuesday, September 8, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club*: This new group will meet the second Tuesday of the month. Start creating and commanding your own robot! Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 727-893-1074.

Monday, September 14, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1074 for more information.

Thursday, September 17, 11 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information.

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: The popular author of Florida fiction returns with a lively and entertaining look at our state.

Saturday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*. For more information call 360-9069.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information email [robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com](mailto:robynfeatherstonesq@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 near the Easy books. 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/Statistics August 16-22, 2015:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,165	728
Sun. 8/16	Library closed	
Mon. 8/17	391	135
Tue. 8/18	420	116
Wed. 8/19	355	127
Thu. 8/20	375	112
Fri. 8/21	330	111
Sat. 8/22	249	96

**Recreation Center**

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty (50) children are registered for the **2015/16 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. 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.

Ten (10) children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and (10) 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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8.

The **2015 Summer Recreation Program** ended with one hundred fifty two (152) children registered.

Eighty two (82) teens are registered for the **2014/15 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Fourteen (14) have been registered for the **2015/16 program**. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

**Staff Activities:**

Marivel Gutierrez, Joanne McRoberts and Kimberly Titara attended a VPK Technical Assistance meeting in Clearwater on Tuesday afternoon.

**Teen Council** President Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Advisor Marivel Gutierrez volunteered at the SoTangerine Market on Saturday morning.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Calls for Service:**

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls (1 Trauma Alert)
- 1 Outside Fire
- 2 Structure Fire
- 1 Gas Leak

- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 3 Fire Alarm
- 1 Hazmat

### **Life Safety:**

- 16 Fire Inspections
- 1 C.O.

Lt. Adam Poirrier is serving as Acting Fire Chief while Chief Marenkovic is on vacation.

Lt. Burford attended “First Pass” training at county EMS on August 21. “First Pass” is a program to assist with Quality Assurance in EMS incident responses.

FF/PM Hernandez and FF/PM Steindl received new Veridian bunker gear from MES, the first two pairs of Veridian bunker gear the department has purchased. Favorable pricing allowed for the purchase of an additional set of life saving gear.

The B-shift and Chief Marenkovic participated in the annual “Back to School” event on Monday, manning school zones to remind drivers to be cautious as schools were back in session.

MES repaired several of the FD’s SCBA air packs and bottles this week.

All department fire extinguishers were inspected and tagged on Wednesday.

Lt. Poirrier attended a Geckofest planning meeting at the Casino.

Inspector Lundh attended a fire line pressure test at the Town Shores Lancaster building, and performed an occupancy load measurement for Scout Hall this week.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired a/c unit on east side of Library.
- Lubricated locks on crossing guard cones.
- Replaced ballast on Theater roof.
- Replaced two belts on east a/c unit at Casino.
- Installed black-out shield on light fixture on outside of Fire Station.
- Replaced ballast in men’s restroom inside Casino
- Painted Recreation Center rooms A & B, hallway and doors.
- Repaired handicap toilet in the men’s restroom at Beach.
- Performed annual inspection and replacement of all building & vehicle fire extinguishers.
- Replaced handle on toilet Public Services building break room.
- Cleared blocked toilet in ladies restroom at City Hall.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Painted bike rack at Skate Park.
- Installed a temporary A/C unit in Parks office/break area.
- Replaced outlets on Beach Boulevard.
- Replaced damaged boards on Clam Bayou docks.
- Replaced fence rails along Tangerine Greenway, and at Wood Ibis Park.
- Drove school bus for School Year Child program.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Clymer Park, Casino, Beach streetscapes & Neighborhood Center grounds; continued trimming Oleanders at 58<sup>th</sup> Street terminus.

- Inspected irrigation systems at Senior Center, Library and Chase Block.
- Mowed Clymer & Tangerine greenways, Tomlinson, Wood Ibis & Clymer Parks, City Complex, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, Library & Senior Center grounds, Chase block & Dog Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced carburetor on backpack blower.
- 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 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 asphalt and 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 and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed and reset school zone sign at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Delivered new cones for school zones.
- Installed new signs at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue & at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue per PD request.
- Replaced 6-yard dumpster at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Graded Beach parking lot.
- Installed sidewalks at 55<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard, 55<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Assembled commercial 300-gallon containers for cardboard recycling.
- Replaced cardboard recycling containers at Neptune Grill & O'Maddy's.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.

### **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).
- Completed routes 45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 116 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 7 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.

- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach and Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 7 old water meters with new electronic meter.
- Started locating water mainline valves in the Northeast section of town.

### **Sewer**

- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise & preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall & Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced front tires and charged AC on Building Department vehicle #13.
- Repaired tire on Streets vehicle #69.
- Replaced alternator and fan clutch on Streets vehicle #38.
- Removed and rebuilt hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced ECM on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced starter on Utilities vehicle #22.
- Performed preventative maintenance on Parks vehicle #77.
- Replaced wheel seal on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Performed preventative 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, 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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week in Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. 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 please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**September 9, 2015 Board of Adjustment:**

5708 Gulfport Boulevard: Variance Application V15-19 to reduce the required off-street parking requirement by 2 spaces, from 6 spaces to 4 as part of a proposed conversion of a current single-family house to a commercial retail use of the principal structure and property.