



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 24 - 30, 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.

This Labor Day Weekend the Auto Club Group and Bud Light will offer **Tow-to-Go service** to discourage intoxicated drivers from getting behind the wheel and risking the lives and safety of others. Always choose a designated driver for a safe ride home. To request a ride call 1-855-2-Tow-2-Go (1-855-286-9246).

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:**

**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](http://www.facebook.com/Geckofest) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or call 322-5217.

Meet Photographer Cathy Salustri at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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](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).

Want to get your 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](http://www.relayforlife.org/gulfportfl).

Time to register for the **4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.SO49.org) or [www.Tangerinebluesfest.com](http://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	143
Self-initiated calls for service	474
Offenses	43
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	41

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

A resident in the 5400 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his brother in-law took his tools and pawned them without his permission. When officers placed the suspect under arrest, the victim changed his mind about pressing charges and the suspect was released at the scene.

While police were assisting a Child Protection Investigator (CPI) at a residence in the 2200 block of York Street, convicted felon Rodney Hammonds was found to be in possession of a .40 caliber handgun. He was arrested and the gun confiscated.

A woman living in the unincorporated area called the sheriff's office to report that her ex-boyfriend, a Gulfport resident was intoxicated and trying to retrieve his motorcycle from her front yard. Deputies responded to the location but the suspect was gone. GPD Officer Obrart spotted suspect Michael Parks pulling into the Gulfport McDonald's parking lot and he was arrested for DUI. He refused to give a breath sample, which resulted in an additional misdemeanor charge since he had refused in the past.

A resident in the 5600 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue received a call at work from a neighbor advising her that her front door was open and her dog was loose. The resident came home to find several items missing from her home.

An officer was dispatched to Wood Ibis Park regarding a leaking water fountain and discovered the copper line to the fountain had been cut. The water department responded and turned off the water. The fountain was repaired the following day.

Sergeant Vandenberg stopped a vehicle at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue after the driver failed to stop at a stop sign at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and sped down Tangerine Avenue. Driver Gary Gwinn was arrested for felony driving while license suspended or revoked. Passenger Melody McPeek was arrested after providing a false name because she was aware she had a warrant for failure to appear. She also had several syringes in her purse which tested positive for heroin.

A male subject reported that he had been battered the night before at a bar in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard. Investigating officers reviewed video footage from inside the bar that showed

the complainant had actually taken the first swing. When he was told there was video of the incident he changed his story and said he couldn't remember what occurred.

While issuing a parking ticket Officer Petit discovered the car's registered owner had an outstanding traffic warrant out of Hillsborough County. The driver approached her car and after the warrant was confirmed she was arrested.

Two bicycles were reported stolen from separate residences in the 4900 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

A resident in the 1000 block of Freemont Street reported that he returned from a week's vacation and discovered his loaded handgun was missing from the center console of his vehicle. The car's door was slightly ajar.

Officer Petit ran the tag on a car backing out of a driveway in the 4700 Block of Baywood Point Drive and conducted a traffic stop after discovering the registered owner's driver license was suspended. The driver also had an outstanding warrant for retail theft so he was arrested.

A flatbed tractor-trailer ran over and destroyed a stop sign at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue while delivering an excavator to a nearby construction site. When City street workers made contact with the driver he refused to give his information and left the scene. Driver Donald DeRemer was located by police the next day and charged with leaving the scene of a crash with property damage.

A resident in the 5000 block of Jersey Avenue reported that someone entered their unlocked car and took a black bag containing a school ID, office key, and flash drives.

Officers responded to a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard regarding a male who refused to leave when asked by the bartender. He was given a written trespass and advised that he would be arrested if he returned. While officers were still outside the location, he threw out the written warning and walked back inside the bar. He was arrested for trespass after warning.

The Marine Unit was used for eleven hours this week. Seven boat stops were conducted and contact was made with twelve boaters. Detective Sergeant Woodman and Detective Pham also used the Marine Unit this week to assist Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers with a special detail checking live-aboard vessels to ensure they are using the required marine sanitation devices.

**Investigations:**

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	10

Detective Pham conducted an interview at the Osceola County Jail in a grand theft case and obtained a confession from the suspect; exceptionally cleared a theft case in which the property was retrieved but the victim did not want to press charges; assisted Detective Crowson with

arresting a suspect in Largo; spent approximately 25 hours composing supplemental reports, and; checked pawn database records for stolen property matches.

Detective Crowson investigated and attempted to interview a suspect in a stolen license plate case; interviewed and arrested a suspect for dealing in stolen property, and; completed five investigative supplement reports.

School Resource Officer Motte broke up a fight and mediated both students; assisted school staff during two fire drills, both without incident; mentored two students, and; met with Chief Vincent regarding the Explorer post to develop new ideas for the 2014/15 school year.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a medical call, a reported petit theft of headphones, two trespassers on campus, and two disturbances; counseled and provided mediation to three students; intervened in two physical altercations, and; conducted three mental health assessments resulting in two Baker Acts.

Crime Analyst Palmisano updated the sex offender PowerPoint & flyer photos, and removed a sexual predator who no longer living in Gulfport; created and distributed an "Attempt to ID" bulleting for Ofc. Cavanah in a retail theft investigation; completed a review of reports dated August 12-26 for property reported stolen with a known serial number to verify the items were entered into FCIC/NCIC, and; completed pawn checks on 16 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	18
Supplements reviewed:	115
Public records requests:	30
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	1
Citizens assisted:	25

### **MARINA**

Pumped three thousand eight hundred seventy eight (3,878) gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred fifty six (1,356) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty eight (128) vessels.

Assisted in twenty (20) pump outs evacuating three hundred ten (310) gallons of waste.

#### **Staff activities:**

- Replaced vacuum pump on east pump out.
- Installed new cap on casino dock.
- Completed pump-out maintenance.
- Adjusted boat lift for new slip renter.
- Picked up drinks for resale.

#### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 32' powerboat this week.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **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-615](http://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 Recreation Center & Senior Center information and monthly meeting schedule on City website.
- Provided control room coverage for August 28 Code Enforcement Special Magistrate hearing, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Updated Trumba Calendar site
- Continued editing Senior Center Long Term Healthcare informational footage.
- Continued preparation of October calendar and events.
- Attended October events planning meeting.
- Distributed Newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors and GeckoFest street closure letters to residents and businesses on Beach Boulevard & side streets.

### **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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

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' September birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, September 19. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

The Senior Center offers a free **Mini Health Fair** at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next screening is September 25. Blood pressure checks provided by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center, and vein screenings by Premier Vein Institute.

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

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

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

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

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

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take

advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

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

Sunday, August 17      6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson  
7 p.m. - Marion DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 51)

Tuesday, August 19      9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 15)  
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 43)

Wednesday, August 20      6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 212)

Thursday, August 21      9 a.m. - Summer Rec Tai Chi (Turnout 17)  
6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 28)

Friday, August 22      6 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 75)

Saturday, August 23      8 p.m. - Gecko Ball (Turnout 430)

**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

Friday, August 29      8 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga La Playa Admission \$15

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

Sunday, August 17      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 52)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 19      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Thursday, August 21      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* (Turnout 107)

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

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

Monday, August 18 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, August 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, August 20 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)

Friday, August 22 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

**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 19, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for beginners.*

Tuesday, August 19, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 20, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, August 20, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins over coffee & light refreshments.*

Thursday, August 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Friday, August 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Creating & Growing Plants in an Earth Box.*

## Upcoming Events:

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.

Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m. - *Home Gardening: Rain Barrels* presented by UF/IFAS Extension of Pinellas County. Learn to save water water in a recycled plastic drum for use on landscaping. Attendees will receive instructions on how to build and install a rain barrel. Finished rain barrels will be available before the workshop for \$35.00. For more information, or to reserve a barrel, call 453-6524. Attendees are invited to stay after class to informally discuss gardening-related issues. For more information call 893-1073.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto: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 17 - 23, 2014:

### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,987	631
Sun. 8/17	Library closed	
Mon. 8/18	481	133
Tue. 8/19	343	97
Wed. 8/20	327	100
Thu. 8/21	255	104
Fri. 8/22	276	94
Sat. 8/23	288	89

## Recreation Center

The game room was rented 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, August 23 for a baby shower with fifty five (55) in attendance.

## Programs, Classes & Activities

Twenty two (22) 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.

Fifteen (15) children have been 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.

Thirty four (34) 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**

Recreation Staff attended CPR & First Aid Training on Wednesday morning.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Single Engine Response

#### **Life Safety:**

- 1 Plans Review
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://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 will staff a Special Rescue with a Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic during GeckoFest on August 30. The FD will also perform Fire Inspections for all Vendors.
- Representatives from Pinellas County Fire & EMS visited the Fire Department to update the ePCR configuration.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance**

- Installed "Book Exchange" in front of Casino and cabinet doors on Fire Station pantry.
- Replaced toilet handles in PD jail area & City Hall employee men's room, and toilet paper dispenser at Library.

- Moved 6 tables from Casino to Scout Hall and set up for event.
- Repaired a/c in Senior Center exercise room, two tables in Recreation Center art room, water fountain in Theater lobby, water heater at Casino, and handicap toilet in Recreation Center men's room.
- Opened Neighborhood Center for Pinellas County polling place set-up; and secured building following poll closing.
- Purchased and installed 6' x 8' "Wally Watt" shed behind Senior Center kitchen.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Removed broken sign and electrical service from City entrance area at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Pinellas Trail.
- Cleaned graffiti from beach pavilions & Tomlinson Park playground equipment.
- Replaced slats on bench at Skate Park.
- Ordered sign for playground at Tomlinson Park, and installed temporary signage.
- Repaired water line on fountain at large dog park and installed water line for fountain at Wood Ibis Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers on Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Clymer & Tonkin Parks, Scout Hall & Casino grounds, Dog Park, and 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area.
- Mowed Clymer, Caldwell, Calm Bayou, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, Recreation Center, Senior Center, Library, Lion's Club, Senior Center & Scout Hall grounds, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Chase Block, Dog Park, beach green spaces., 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, Tangerine & Clymer greenways, Tangerine lakeside, Trail Spur and York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library, Chase Block & Library.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on backpack blower, adjusted valves on stick edger, repaired tires on mowers, replaced belts on reel mowers, flushed gas tank and rebuilt carburetor on reel mower.
- 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.
- Delivered 300-gallon container for cardboard recycling to Smokin' J's.
- Removed and disposed of derelict sailboat at Gulfport Municipal Marina.
- Painted and marked raised sidewalk at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and repaired sidewalk at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Filled hole in roadway on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Replaced stop sign and pole at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue following vehicle strike.
- Set concrete bollard at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired commercial 6-yard dumpster and delivered to Smokin' J's Restaurant.
- Assembled seven 300-gallon containers for Geckofest event.
- Striped alley on 57<sup>th</sup> Street between 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenues, set grade and added millings.
- Cleaned and removed mildew from stop signs at Gray Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Continued storm line cleaning on 56<sup>th</sup> Street between Gulfport Boulevard & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **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 #45, 46, 47, & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 80 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 2 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 meters that were 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 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Replaced water service line at 5926 Tangerine Avenue.
- Repaired water break at 2301 49<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Replaced transducer at Lift Station #1.
- Repaired 48" storm water drainage pipe at Pasadena Place.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Transported Sanitation vehicle #46 to Tampa Crane for replacement of main boom pivot pins and bushings.
- Replaced brakes and right side lift gate cable on Streets vehicle #71.
- Replaced battery on Parks vehicle #25.
- Replaced turbocharger and cleaned aftercooler on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- 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](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 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> 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.

Beginning in September Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to the City boundaries. 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](http://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.