



Gulfport Community Update

July 28 - August 3, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Join the Gulfport Police Department for National Night Out at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Tuesday, August 6, 6 - 9 p.m. For more information call Lt. Mary Farrand at 893-1111.

2013 Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic basin ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

Upcoming Events:

Stroll on down to the **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on August 2, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made art and crafts, bath, body and 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 each Tuesday. Bring gently worn apparel to the Gulfport Fresh Market Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA in the Peninsula Inn Courtyard Tuesday, August 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information call 278-4285. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.GulfportMA.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

Learn to build a resume, practice impressing employers with mock interviews, and have fun with team building exercises during the Gulfport Library's two-part **Teen Financial Literacy & Job Skills Program** at 1 p.m. Wednesday, August 7 & Friday, August 9. Gain important career and financial skills that will help you impress potential employers and obtain the job you want. Participants must attend both sessions. For more information call 893-1074.

Celebrate the end of the Gulfport Library's **Summer Reading Program** with a performance by the one and only Jiggleman on Thursday, August 8 at 7 p.m. Jiggleman has performed around the country and on the Late Show with David Letterman, and he's sure to put on great show for us! For more information call 893-1074.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Offenses	42`
Arrests	12
Traffic citations	21

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Obrart was flagged down early July 28 after a witness reported that two men were fighting across the street from the Gulfport Recreation Center. Officers discovered a large pool of blood on the sidewalk in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard, and the door to an upstairs apartment was open. Jesse Albertson was in the shower washing blood off himself. He was extremely intoxicated and uncooperative. After some time officers determined he had been in a fight with a coworker. The victim was located at his residence in St. Pete and transported to a hospital where he received more than 50 staples to his head, then transferred to a trauma

center due to bleeding on his brain. The victim reported that Albertson and two unknown subjects jumped him and broke beer bottles over his head. Albertson was arrested for Aggravated Battery w/Deadly Weapon and possession of marijuana.

A caller reported his Schwinn Cruiser stolen from his friend's front yard in the 5100 block of 17th Avenue on the afternoon of July 23. The bike was not registered, and the owner was unable to provide a serial number.

Mandy Mertz was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear on a felony traffic violation. She was taken into custody without incident.

Officer Randazzo stopped a group of people walking in the area of 53rd Street & 26th Avenue early July 24 and discovered Maurice Ingram had a warrant out of Hillsborough for violation of probation. Ingram was arrested.

Officers responded to the 6100 block of 11th Avenue on the morning of July 24 regarding a vehicle burglary. The caller reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle sometime overnight and stole \$5 in quarters and a .38 caliber revolver.

Officer Langston ran the tag on a vehicle and discovered the registered owner had an outstanding worthless check warrant. Angel Marie Mullins was located at her apartment and arrested.

A man was arrested after he went to his place of employment on his day off while intoxicated and refused to leave when requested by management. When police arrived on scene, he was asked several times to leave, but he refused and stated he wanted to go to jail. He was taken to the Pinellas County Jail.

Three televisions were reported stolen from a home in the 2600 block of Miriam Street. The resident reported that his home was burglarized sometime between July 22 & July 25. There were no signs of forced entry.

Officers responded to a reported residential burglary in the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue on the morning of July 26 after a caller reported that he parked his bicycle in a fenced area of his yard and went inside his home. When he returned the bicycle was gone. There are no suspects.

St. Pete Police called for a Gulfport officer to investigate a reported vehicle theft on the afternoon of July 26. An officer met the victim at 43rd Street & 22nd Avenue in St. Pete and was advised that the theft took place in the 1300 block of 58th Street. The victim is acquainted with the suspect, who stole the vehicle in the victim's presence. Neither the vehicle nor the suspect have been located, and the investigation continues.

Officer Novack discovered an attempted break-in at a storage facility in the 4900 block of Tangerine Avenue while checking local businesses on the morning of July 27. Someone attempted to break into the business office and discharged several fire extinguishers. An hour after the original report, a man flagged down Officer Obrart to report that his Semi cab stored next to this property was burglarized. The was windows were broken and the interior had been ransacked.

While providing back-up for Officer Obrart on a traffic stop at 49th Street & 19th Avenue on July 27, Officer Randazzo observed a male juvenile riding a bicycle reported stolen from Gulfport recently. He also had a bag of marijuana in his pants pocket. Originally he claimed the pants were not his, then later claimed he found the marijuana and was looking for an officer to turn it over to when he was stopped. He was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Officer Randazzo witnessed a traffic crash at the intersection of 49th Street & 15th Avenue on the afternoon of July 27 after an eastbound car in front of him was hit by a truck that ran the red light. The car's driver was transported to Bayfront with injuries, and the truck's driver was cited.

Investigations:

Documented Follow-Ups:	34
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	6
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	13
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	7
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	8

Detective Hanh Pham was on vacation this week.

Detective Embry interviewed a suspect regarding a burglary to a residence and theft of a laptop computer. After searching her residence it was determined she was not involved and the case was suspended. He also investigated a credit card fraud in which a Yahoo account belonging to a female in Sicklerville New Jersey was used. However, no date of birth or physical address were provided in the subpoena so he was unable to locate the suspect after contacting several police departments and interviewing two people of interest in Pinellas County who had no knowledge of the incident.

SRO Motte assisted patrol and the First Annual Pinellas Police Explorer Academy this week

SRO Langston assisted patrol and attended a training class for school resource officers.

Analyst Palmisano completed pawn checks on 15 cases with a named suspect or identifiable property. She also attended a Webex training session presented by FDLE regarding changes in the submission of UCR.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	9
Supplements reviewed:	56
Reports disseminated:	26
Public records requests:	5
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	18
Citizens assisted:	40

MARINA

Pumped two thousand two hundred thirty four (2,234) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred twenty nine (1,429) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety three (93) vessels.

Assisted with thirty nine (39) pump-outs evacuating six hundred fifteen (615) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 40' motorboat, 34' motorboat, 36' motorboat and a 37' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

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. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updating and enhancements to City calendar, latest news, departmental pages, mobile website, Leisure Services Rec. Center & Library sub-site resources & employee Intranet, and maintained mygulfport.us domain.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.
- Compiled employee Intranet website training document.
- Attended Granicus Live Manager application training.
- Continued event preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon.
- Continued compiling data for 2013/14 Historical calendar.
- Set up PA system at Recreation Center for Summer Program Talent Show.
- Continued working on City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Commenced preparations for September Events/Meetings calendar.

Parks

Built new score keeper's bench and table at Hoyt Field.

Inspected all parks for repairs.

Inspected electrical outlets on Beach Boulevard & Recreation Center field.

Continued repairs at Skate Park.

Replaced bench slats at Clam Bayou and tightened slats on bench swing at beach.

Replaced flag at City Hall and fence rails at Clam Bayou & Wood Ibis Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced mower wheels & PTI unit.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Veterans & Clymer Parks; hand raked around pavilions and benches, and cleared debris from beach.

Mowed Beach area, Tomlinson Park, Tangerine lake area, Dog Park, Recreation Center grounds, 55th Street medians, Hoyt perimeter, Neighborhood Center grounds & 56th Street drainage area.

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 needed repairs.

Other Activities:

- All City park 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.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65

annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. The **summer schedule with new pickup times and trips** is available at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center, from GEMS drivers or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. 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. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center is open Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and; Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. through summer. Wii Bowling classes are offered at 6:30 p.m. every first & third Tuesday; Italian Class for Beginners every Tuesday at 6 p.m.; Italian Dance Practice every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., and; Card Games every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

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 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, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. 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. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

Sign up today to enjoy all the **classes and events** offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up a copy of the August schedule at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. The Senior Center currently offers 49 monthly classes for residents over 50. Membership required.

The **Senior Center Singing Group** has been discontinued until a new volunteer instructor is found. We are also looking for a volunteer pianist for the group. For more information call Gail at 893-2237.

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group will meet every Monday at 12:45 p.m. beginning August 5.

AARP Driving classes will be offered Tuesday, August 6 & 13 at 12:45 p.m. Participants must attend both classes. \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Call 893-1231 to register.

The **Coffee Club** will meet the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. beginning August 8.

Learn about consumer fraud and scams aimed at the elderly, ways to help protect yourself, and what to do if you become a victim as Stetson Elder Law presents **Elder Consumer Fraud Awareness** on Wednesday, August 7 at 1 p.m. Free

Challenge your mind and have fun during the **Puzzle Pages Party** at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of every other month beginning August 9!

What will you contribute to your family, community or yourself? How can you make it happen? **What will Your Legacy Be** will be presented by Pat Dunham at 11:30 a.m. Monday, August 12.

Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$3.00 during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** on Tuesday, August 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Learn to visualize what you want as Life Coach Kathy Lane discusses **The Law of Attraction** on Wednesday, August 14 at 1:30 p.m. Free

The Community Law Program offers pro bono legal assistance for qualifying seniors 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center every third Friday of the month. The next session is Friday, August 16. Call 582-7480 for qualification criteria or to schedule an appointment. The Community Law Program is staffed by St. Petersburg Attorneys to empower the most vulnerable in our community through legal representation, assistance and outreach.

Senior Center sponsor Wellcare will host a monthly **BirthDay Party** for Senior Center participants every third Tuesday beginning August 20.

Hula on down to the Gulfport Senior Center for tropical fun during the **Tiki Time Luau** on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 p.m. Enjoy Hawaiian music, "Pupus" (appetizers), a fantastic Hula dance demonstration and lessons, raffles, games and more. Tickets: \$3.00. Proceeds support the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

Victor R. Helou sings acapella with a side of comedy as he performs **Songs for the Pantry** on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:30 p.m. Victor has performed in various Broadway productions, movies, as well as commercials, print ads and voiceovers. The price of a ticket is non-perishable food item/s or a small grocery gift card. Thank you in advance for helping those less fortunate in your community.

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a call? 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, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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.

Over 50 and ready to get fit and meet new friends? Visit the **Foundation Fitness Center**. Summer hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Multipurpose Center and take a tour of our state-of-the-art fitness facility.

Call Rachel at 893-1231 to sign up for **August beginner & intermediate computer classes**.

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. To schedule an appointment call 893-2237 or 893-1231.

Join Aston Hugh for a new **Easy Tai Chi** class every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety visit <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, July 21	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 44)
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Tuesday, July 23	9 a.m. - Intermediate Tai Chi with Marge (Turnout 34) Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 11) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 13) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango Dance 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 50)
Wednesday, July 24	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 215)
Thursday, July 25	9 a.m. - Tai Chi for Beginners (Turnout 17) 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lessons with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa Dance (Turnout 27)
Saturday, July 27	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 200)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Every first & third 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
Thursday, August 8	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (Last week's events):

Sunday, July 21	Gulfport Community Players (GCP) <i>13th Annual Summer One Act Festival</i> (Turnout 167)
Friday, July 26	5:30 p.m. - <i>Multipuopse Senior Center Fundraiser</i> (Turnout 26)

Catherine Hickman Theater (Upcoming events)

Saturday, August 10	2 p.m. - <i>Noisemakers Kids 4-9 Years End of Summer Concert</i> 5 p.m. - <i>Noisemakers Kids 10 & up End of Summer Concert</i> Tickets \$5. For more information call 345-7472
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Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, July 21	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 23) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Saturday, July 27	6 p.m. - <i>Sweet 16 party</i> (Turnout 26)

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

Scout Hall (Last week's events):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tuesday, July 23	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)
Wednesday, July 24	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 12)
Thursday, July 25	9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice
Friday, July 26	9 a.m. - Chair yoga 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):

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

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, July 22, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, July 23 - *SCORE Counseling.*

Tuesday, July 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, July 24, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 24, 2 p.m. - Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5: *Mummy Mania*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, July 24, 3 p.m. - Teen Summer Reading Program: *Viva Florida! Paranormal Edition*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. - *Summer Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, July 25 - iPad for Beginners Workshop facilitated by Kailey Klasson.

Friday, July 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera Workshop* facilitated by Cathy Salustri.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 6, 9 a.m. - *Community Involvement Consulting:* A representative from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's office provides information and solicits questions and concerns from the public every first Tuesday of the month. First come, first served.

Wednesday, August 7 & Friday, August 9, 1 p.m. - *Your Career, Your Finances & You* teen financial literacy & job skills program.

Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5 End of Summer Program Party with Jiggleman.*

Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program End of Summer Gaming Nite & Party with special guest gamer Paul Stonebridge.*

Thursday, August 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of My Antonia* by Willa Cather over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Please call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, August 27 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

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

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

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Summer Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers. Don't miss our special *Summer Storytime Garden Jamboree* on the last Thursday of every month. Sing songs, play instruments & have a great time in the new Circle of Friends Garden!

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

Library Services/Statistic July 21 - 27, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,792	581
Sun. 7/21	Library closed	
Mon. 7/22	365	120
Tue. 7/23	382	94
Wed. 7/24	293	93
Thu. 7/25	327	113
Fri. 7/26	217	84
Sat. 7/27	198	65

Recreation Center

The Game room was reserved on Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. for a Family Reunion with ninety (90) attendees.

The Game room is reserved for: a Graduation party on Saturday, August 3, 5 - 10 p.m., and; for baby showers on Saturday, August 10, 12 - 4 p.m. & Saturday, August 17, 12 - 5 p.m.

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred twenty three (123) children are registered for the **2013 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended care until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Participants enjoy activities, field trips, lunches, positive role models and a safe environment to call their own.

Registration is underway for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. 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.

Seven (7) children have been pre-registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and three (3) 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 3 and are limited to 10 children each.

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

Eighty four (84) teens are registered the **2012/13 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Fifteen (15) **FY2012/13 Skate Park** registrations have been issued to date.

Staff Activities

Asaph Graham worked the room rental on Saturday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Single Engine Responses

Life Safety:

- 3 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 Site Plan Review

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, August 15 at 7 p.m. CERT educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

Staff Activities:

- GFD staff continued training on the new ePCR computers which will allow Paramedics to write the Patient Care Report on a computer instead of paper reports used in the past. This new system also includes a database and servers purchased by Pinellas County EMS.
- Fitch & Associates presented their final report to the Board of County Commissioners on August 1. Discussions between the board and City staff will continue.

- GFD has completed the annual pump test for 2013 the E-One Apparatus as required for ISO recertification. There were no discrepancies.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the annual monthly Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting in Largo on August 1.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced batteries in 6 emergency lights at Theater & Senior Center.
- Replaced emergency light and both air conditioning thermostats at Theater.
- Repaired shingle on Historical Building roof.
- Installed drop outlets on canopy gutters behind Neighborhood Center.
- Extended gutter downspout on Recreation Center roof to improve drainage.
- Replaced wheels on Police Station parking compound south gate.
- Installed new ice machine in City Yard.
- Repaired electronic handicap buttons on Public Service Building door.
- Repaired exit light Game Room and two tables at Recreation Center.
- Cleared drain lines in wall and urinals at Beach restrooms.
- Replaced soap dispenser in men's handicap restroom stall at Library.
- Delivered mail for Finance Department.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Assembled and delivered new 40 & 90 gallon automated containers.
- Continued citywide street and curb sweeping.
- Repaired numerous potholes throughout City.
- Removed sign obstruction at Freemont Street & 7th Avenue.
- Removed debris from behind Scout Hall.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Reset storm drain cover at 54th Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed tree limb to open alleyway at 54th Street & 18th Avenue.

- Continued storm line cleaning at 54th Street & 21st Avenue and 9th Avenue between Freemont & 60th Streets.
- Cleaned storm water boxes on Freemont, Gray & 60th Streets.
- Added fill and graded alley near Habana Café entrance per direction.
- Replaced concrete storm drain lids at 9th Avenue and Gray & 60th Streets.
- Removed and disposed of debris on beach and parking lot.
- Completed millings work at 49th Street holding area.
- Removed debris from the roadway on 9th Avenue.
- Replaced 300 gallon waste receptacle at Habana Café.
- Removed and reset storm drain covers for JTV.
- Removed fallen tree from road and sidewalk at 52nd Street & Preston Avenue and tree limb from roadway at 53rd Street & 18th 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).
- Disconnected water service at 81 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 151 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 2 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 6 backflow devices due in July.
- Replaced 11 old water meters with new style meters.
- Rebuilt OS&Y valves on 4" backflow at 6300 Pasadena Point Boulevard South.
- Collected Quarterly TTHM's and HAA5's samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 5122 16th Avenue.
- Replaced water service at 5831 24th Avenue.

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.
- Cleaned & televised sewer main & lateral at 1820 56th Street, and sewer lateral at 1604 58th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced #08 fuel injector, injector wiring harness and rocker arm on Sewer Department Vehicle #80.
- Replaced transmission on Police Vehicle #16.
- Repaired hydraulic oil leak on Recycle Truck #40.
- Preventative maintenance performed on Fire Truck #E17.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With the longer hours of summertime before us, the visions of those home improvement projects start to become a reality. Before you embark on your home improvement project give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements and to help you through the process. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself projects.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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 (727) 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 check their website at www.pcclb.com.

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 beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

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

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th 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.

To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.

August 14, 2013 Board of Adjustment:

V13-13; 5926 Skimmer Point Boulevard South - Variance request to reduce the applicant's waterfront property right-hand side one-third setback requirement by 20.96 feet from 28.13 feet to 7.17 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a boat lift.

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Attorney
- Department Directors
- The Gulfport Gabber
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
- The St Petersburg Times