



Gulfport Community Update

September 4-10, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

Pinellas County Mosquito Control technicians continue to aggressively treat known breeding areas by ground and by air. Residents who would like to request additional mosquito spraying in their area are asked to call 464-7503. The City of Gulfport advises residents to dress wisely, use a good mosquito repellent, and drain standing water around their homes. For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito_control.htm.

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

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

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

Upcoming Events:

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

The next **Keep Pinellas Beautiful/Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, September 10, 9 - 11 a.m. Participants will meet at shelter 4. For more information email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

The City of Gulfport will host a workshop at the Gulfport Casino at 6 p.m. Monday, September 12 to explore options for **Veterans Park reuse planning enhancement** and to incorporate infrastructure to aid in area drainage/water quality. This reuse project will include public engagement to define the community's desire for future park changes/enhancements, and will include concept plan alternatives that are reflective of the community's ideas and wishes while incorporating storm water management facilities, resulting in a locally-preferred master plan. For more information call 893-1095 or email Community Development Director Fred Metcalf at fmetcalf@mygulfport.us.

The topic for the Monday, September 12 and the **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch meeting** will be *Traffic Stops the Temporary Detention by Police*. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

and will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. For more information call Volunteer Coordinator Richard Grimberg at 893-1022.

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, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch meeting** is 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 14 at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. Call 893-1022 for more information.

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for the **Saturday, September 17 Tampa Bay Rowdies vs. Carolina Railhawks game**; Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley. Departures from the Casino begin at 5 p.m. and the game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1118.

Visit assorted vendors, listen to live music and dine in one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants during **First Saturday Art & Gallery Walk** on Saturday, September 17, 6 - 10 p.m. Want to become a vendor? Call 322-5217 for more information.

Tickets for the **September 21 Tampa Bay Rays vs. New York Yankees** games are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat & complimentary Ray's baseball hat. All Rays fans with tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game on the Gulfport Trolley. Departures from the Gulfport Casino begin at 5 p.m. Return trips begin during the 7th inning. For more information call 893-1118.

The next **Strand Neighborhood Watch meeting** is Wednesday, September 21 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Recreation Center, located at 5730 Shore Boulevard. Call 893-1022 for more information.

Enjoy great smoked food at Smokin' J's, 5145 Gulfport during the monthly **Citywide Business Watch meeting** Thursday, September 22 at 6 p.m. Call 893-1022 for more information.

The next monthly **Stetson Neighborhood Watch meeting** is Wednesday, September 28 at 7 p.m. (location TBD). Call 893-1022 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	194
Self-initiated calls for service	353
Offenses	31
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	59
Ordinance violations	29

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Alpha and Charlie Squads dealt with issues related to Tropical Storm Hermine on September 1: Officers were dispatched to the beachfront regarding a boat that broke anchor and washed up near the shoreline. All parties were accounted for and uninjured. A total of four vessels broke anchor and washed up near shore during the storm. Officer Randazzo stopped a driver preparing to tow an individual on a wakeboard through floodwaters, and warned the pair against

doing so. There were also multiple calls for downed power lines, trees & limbs, and street flooding. The last bands of the storm passed through the area early September 2.

Officers were dispatched to the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 52nd Street after a car stopped to make a left-hand turn from GPB, and was struck from behind by another vehicle. There were no injuries and both vehicles were driven from the scene.

A sailboat drifted into Williams Pier, damaging the railing which required closure of the pier. A section of the railing was found jutting from a vessel that was badly damaged during the storm.

A resident in the 5000 block of 8th Avenue exited his residence and caught a man stealing his bicycle from his fenced yard. He was able to recover his bicycle.

Officers responded to a two car crash at the intersection of 49th Street & 15th Avenue after a driver sideswiped a pole and hit a parked vehicle. The occupants, a mother and two children were transported to a hospital with minor injuries.

Officers impounded several vehicles parked between the 2800 & 3100 blocks of Beach Boulevard early September 3 in preparation for Geckofest. Residents in the area were notified in writing in advance that they were required to move their cars.

The victim of a burglary in St. Petersburg reported that his stolen iPad was sending him a GPS tracker signal from Gulfport. Officers made contact with the clerk at a business in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard who provided the device and stated that a man attempted to sell it to the owner earlier in the day. The iPad was placed into property and evidence for SPPD processing.

Two men identified as Jordan Franco and Dakota Eggers were arrested after they attacked another man in the restroom at O'Maddy's. Franco stabbed the victim several times before fleeing the scene, and was apprehended a short distance away. Eggers was wounded by Franco during the melee and transported to a hospital prior to being arrested for battery.

Officer Carter made contact with Charles Lovett who was sleeping on the trail spur after dark on September 4. Lovett ran and was found hiding in a large trash can on Emerson Avenue. He was arrested for trespassing on the trail, resisting without violence and violation of felony curfew probation.

A driver backing out of a driveway in the 5100 block of 15th Avenue on September 5 accelerated across the street through a neighbor's fence and into his water heater, causing several hundred dollars' damage. She was cited for improper backing and violation of learner's permit.

An officer stopped a car reported stolen in the Save-A-Lot plaza on September 6. The vehicle, a rental that was not returned on time was impounded.

The marine unit was out on the water for 2 hours this week. The Gulfport shore line was checked for damage and damaged vessels, and one contact was made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0

Cases exceptionally cleared 3
Cases still active: 6

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft case, a burglary and a fraud case, and; placed a hold on an item at a pawn shop.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two burglary cases, a lewd and lascivious battery, a fraud and an auto theft.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored a student; met with the parents of a student; broke up a fight, and; assisted other agencies with locating wanted/missing juveniles. He has been working with the Department of Juvenile Justice in arranging a Juvenile GAAP meeting for youths from Gulfport and surrounding areas. Officer Motte also assisted patrol while school was closed for two days due to Tropical Storm Hermine.

Records

Reports reviewed 16
Supplements reviewed: 37
Public Records requests: 17
Background checks: 1
Bike registrations: 0
Fingerprints 2
Subpoenas processed: 5
Citizens assisted: 13

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*, facilitated by Alex Hooks.

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

Tuesday, August 30 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

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

Wednesday, August 31, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, August 31, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Thursday, September 1, 10:30 a.m. - *Todler Storytime*.

Friday, September 2, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, September 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, September 12, 1 p.m. - *Roots and Shoots*: Overview of Jane Goodall and her. For more information email rootsandshootspinellas@gmail.com.

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

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

Thursday, September 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway.* Visit the Circulation desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1074.

Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop:* Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

Saturday, September 17, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.* Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, September 20, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Tinker Lab:* Previously known as the Middle School Robotics Club, the group meets every third Tuesday of the month for hands-on exploration and experimentation. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074

Thursday, September 22, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga:* The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Monday, September 26, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night:* Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, September 29, noon - *Lunch and Learn presents The Remarkable Robert Green Ingersoll:* Dr. Donald B. Ardell will discuss why, throughout the last 30 years of the 19th century, Ingersoll was as sensational an attraction as modern superstar acts, yet he is unknown to most Americans today. Listen to recitations of a few of "The Great Agnostic's" profound speeches. He opposed slavery in all its forms, including dogmas and superstitions that inhibited reason, science and human happiness. Bring your lunch and listen to excerpts performed by the speaker, an Ingersoll aficionado and a new resident of Gulfport.

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

Tuesday, October 4, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

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

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

Library Services/Statistic August 28 - September 3, 2016:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,359	582
Sun. 8/28	Library closed	
Mon. 8/29	267	87
Tue. 8/30	344	128
Wed. 8/31	137	69
Thu. 9/1	143	48
Fri. 9/2	304	118
Sat. 9/3	160	116

PARKS & RECREATION

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-640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2016-2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Provided up-to-date storm information on City website, Facebook and e-news distribution, and assisted staff during EOC activation.
- Provided technical assistance at Theater for Recreation program during storm.
- Distributed September calendars.
- Continued preparation of October calendar.

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.

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

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

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

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

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is September 12. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** at 10 a.m. the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is September 12.

Join Wendy from Humana at 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 12 for **Is Your Plate Heart Healthy?**

We've all been hurt by the actions or words of another. You can hold onto anger & resentment or you can embody forgiveness and go forward. Join Master Life Coach Kathy Lane as she explores **The Practice of Forgiveness** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 14.

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

Fraud is a major concern among Floridians as identity theft and other scams run rampant. The **AARP Fraud Watch Network** will explore fraud trends and behavior, the con artist's playbook, fraud prevention strategies and available numerous resources during an informative presentation at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 21.

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. provides quality **legal advice and services** to Gulfport Senior Center participants 10 a.m. - noon every fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is September 26.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is September 29.

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, October 4.

Find unique treasures during our next **First Friday Flea Market** on October 7, 9 a.m. - noon.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 13 at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

Events scheduled for Wednesday, August 31 & Thursday, September 1 were cancelled due to street flooding associated with Tropical Storm Hermine

Sunday, August 28 3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 86)

Tuesday, August 30 9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 19)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 10)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (turnout 50)

Friday, September 2 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 9)
6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 253)

Saturday, September 3 6 p.m. - Gecko VIP lounge (Turnout 100)

Casino (upcoming events):

Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi

6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

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

Monday, September 26 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):

Friday, September 2 6 p.m. - Art exhibit showcasing the works of Verna McClain (Turnout 75)

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

Sunday, August 28 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 12)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 30 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, September 1 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 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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

Sunday, August 28 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 11)

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

Monday, August 29 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 19)

Tuesday, August 30 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 24)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 26)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 1 - 7 p.m. Saturday, September 24 for a wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

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

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

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

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

Staff Activities

The Recreation Center was closed Thursday and Friday due to the storm. Nicole Latragna worked the EOC Call Center on Thursday, and notified After School Program parents of the closure.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 5 Structure Fires
- 3 Structural Collapses
- 6 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 18 Wires Down
- 8 Trees Down
- 3 Water Rescues
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Citizen Assist

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O
- 1 Plans Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly. The next meeting is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 20.

Eckerd College, located at 4200 54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg will offer **Basic CERT training** at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday, September 20 & 22, & 9 a.m. Saturday, September 24.

Chief Marenkovic & the FD personnel were in Activation mode with the Emergency Operations Center resulting from Tropical Storm Hermine from August 30 through September 2. ROC meetings were attended the City Manager, Public Works and Public Safety. GP100, E17, U17, GP402 responded to multiple wires and trees down throughout the area, carports down in Town Shores and localized flooding in streets and homes in the downtown area. A few water rescues were performed with no injuries or drownings.

EMT Brian Campbell and Paramedic Jose Hernandez staffed Special Rescue 17 for Geckofest on September 3, running 3 medical calls. Inspector James Lundh inspected all vendors prior to the start of festivities.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in mid-County High Rise evolution, Hose Management, Courtyard Elevated Waterway and Search & Rescue training at the SPC Academy Drill Grounds on September 6, 7 & 8.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired faucet in men's restroom outside Casino.
- Replaced toilet paper dispenser in men's restroom at City Hall.
- Set up Council Chambers for meeting.
- Installed temporary condenser a/c unit at Public Services Building.
- Replaced faucet in ladies handicap restroom at Recreation Center.
- Tightened toilet seat and faucet in restroom at Recreation Center.
- Cleared blocked toilet and replaced toilet paper dispenser in Public Services building upstairs restroom.
- Disposed of electronics at City Hall.
- Repaired ice machine at Fire Station.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Cleaned debris from parks and beach area following storm.
- Cleaned Parks Department shop and storage areas.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Cleared storm drains on Shore & Beach Boulevards.
- Removed fallen tree at 52nd Street & Newton Avenue and assisted with branch removal along City streets
- Installed event banners and set up trash/recycling bins in preparation for Geckofest.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed City complex, Neighborhood Center, Marina, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces, 55th Street & 14th Avenue medians, Hoyt Field perimeter Chase block, Dog Park, Pasadena entrance area, Pinellas Trail Spur and Wood Ibis, Clymer, Caldwell & Veteran's Parks.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Marina, Beach streetscapes & Neighborhood Center.
- Continued installation of irrigation sleeves for Shore Boulevard improvements.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired line trimmer and stick edger.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields daily.

Streets, Stormwater & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Distributed approximately 5000 sand bags to Gulfport residents.
- Cleared debris and seaweed from Beach.
- Set high water barricades at beach and throughout City during storm.
- Removed trees blocking roads at 51st Street & 26th Avenue and at 47th Street & 27th Avenue.
- Cleaned up debris following Geckofest.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 09, 10, 11 and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 86 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 123 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with new style meters.
- Repaired water break at 719 Fremont Street.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.

- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Monitored sewer lift stations during heavy rain.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced rotation motor in Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Removed water from engine, replaced starter motor and delivered Police vehicle #12 to dealer for repair of locked up engine.
- Replaced tire on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Repaired tire on Streets vehicle #34.
- Unplugged exhaust system catalytic converter and replaced mass air flow sensor in Building Maintenance vehicle #24.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicles #46 & #47.
- Repaired electrical problem in Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement continued this week in Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets.

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

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.