



Gulfport Community Update

September 7 - 13, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

2014 Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic began on June 1 and ends November 30. Late August thru September is peak season for storms in the Gulf. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

Upcoming Events:

The **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.

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

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

October is Gulfport History month, and in honor of the occasion the Gulfport Historical Society will host a reception and **Gulfport Yesterday and Today** photo exhibit at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 6 p.m. Friday, October 3. Call 893-1111 for more information.

It's time again for **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk/Truck**. Gulfport residents can get rid of their stuff or trade it for other stuff at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center on Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Extra plants? Bring them to the plant exchange. The Police Department will be on hand to register bicycles for residents. Call 893-1111 for more information. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Call 893-1118 for more information.

Take a run through history on Friday, October 10, and catch a glimpse of coastal Florida the way it used to be - and in Gulfport, the way things still are. Gulfport offers runners a chance to run through vintage Florida neighborhoods during the **Flying Mullet 5K and One-Mile Doggie Dash 5K** run through downtown's Historic Waterfront District, and past the reigning Mullet King's home. Many fishermen, including our reigning King once earned their living netting mullet, a vegetarian fish that's quite the oddity in the fish world. Both events begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28th Avenue. Register online at www.active.com. For more information call 656-5420.

Get your volunteer group together for **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, October 11, 9 - 11 a.m. at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4. Visit the Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Hail the Mullet King at the **Gulfport Historical Society Birthday Bash** at the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28th Avenue on Saturday, October 11 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The day's activities will

include: Mullet Toss with prizes; Trolley tours through Gulfport, cake, crowning of the Mullet King, kids relays, adult games of skill, and a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Gulfport Historical Society. For more information call Miki Vaughan at 321-5705 or email dreamsfloat@me.com.

Enjoy rides, games, food & drink, dancing and entertainment during **Holy Name Oktoberfest**, a local fall festival which has been an annual event in Gulfport for over 30 years, at Holy Name Church, 5800 15th Avenue Thursday-Saturday, October 16-19. For more information call 344-2744.

Come by land or by water to the **City of Gulfport Fall Coastal Cleanup** at Clam Bayou Nature Park Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. - noon. Bring a kayak to search for items in the bayou or enjoy the park by foot to help pick up the surrounding area. Snacks will be provided. Register the day of event. For more information call 893-1118.

The Gulfport Historical Society presents **Gulfport Under the Stars** on Saturday, October 25, 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy dinner, dancing and music during this beautiful outdoor event Tickets: \$25, available at the Gulfport Casino and Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. Call 656-5420 for more information.

Get scared and have fun during the **City of Gulfport Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard on Friday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. Enjoy carnival games, costume contest, haunted house, tot boo room and Snack Shack. For more information call 893-1068.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	165
Self-initiated calls for service	468
Offenses	35
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	22

Significant incidents or calls this week:

St. Petersburg Police asked GPD for help on September 4 when an armed robbery suspect they were looking for reportedly crossed 49th Street into Gulfport. Officers circulated the area but the subject was not found.

A man reported that after his vehicle was impounded by The Car Doctor following a crash, items were stolen from inside. An investigation is ongoing.

A in the 2600 block of 56th Street resident reported on September 5 that his house guest disappeared with his car and ATM card. The car was found abandoned in South St. Petersburg and evidence indicates the suspect used the ATM card at several locations.

A woman was caught shoplifting at a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard even though she had plenty of money to pay for the five-dollar item. The suspect, 59 year-old Evelyn Everett had several prior convictions for theft so this instance was a felony.

A resident in the 4900 Block of 31st Street reported on the morning of September 6 that his car had been stolen by an acquaintance. The car was located at the Oar House Bar in St Petersburg, and officers made contact with the suspect who was very intoxicated. He was arrested for grand theft auto.

Individual involved in some kind of dispute at a store in St. Pete was being chased by an acquaintance in another vehicle. He clipped the guide wires to a power pole on Tangerine Avenue, then abandoned his sister's Mercedes and ran. He was spotted inside the Gulfport

Elementary School gate by a maintenance worker, and fled the area. Officer Priest will attempt to locate him for follow-up.

A resident in the 5100 block of Newton Avenue reported on the morning of September 8 that someone stole several pieces of lawn maintenance equipment from the bed of his truck. There are no suspects.

A resident reported that someone entered his truck while it was parked either at Gulfport beach or at his home in the 4700 block of Coronado Way and stole his wallet.

A resident reported that their child's Razor scooter was stolen from in front of a store. The scooter was later found by a neighbor and returned to the owner.

Officers were dispatched to the 5800 20th Avenue in response to a call from a resident regarding a juvenile male hiding behind a vehicle. The juvenile fled eastbound on 20th Avenue and was not located.

A resident in the 5100 block of Preston Avenue reported on the morning of September 10 that her car's window was broken while it was parked outside her home. Nothing inside the vehicle was disturbed.

A resident in the 5100 block of 15th Avenue reported that someone he knew took one of his personal checks, wrote it out to herself for \$75, and cashed it at the bank. The victim did not wish to prosecute.

Officer Randazzo interviewed a suspect in a hit and run case. The suspect admitted he was driving the vehicle and was arrested.

Investigations:

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	4
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	2
Cases still active:	7

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	21
Supplements reviewed:	111
Public records requests:	23
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	5
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	53

MARINA

Pumped two thousand forty three (2,043) gallons of gas and five hundred eighty three (583) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy seven (77) vessels.

Assisted in thirty seven (37) pump outs evacuating four hundred ten (410) gallons of waste.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Distributed Newsletter and calendars to Tuesday Market vendors.

Multipurpose Center

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

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

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

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

Join Stephanie & Kym from Keller Williams for **Real Estate Chit Chat** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, September 15 to find out what's new in the real estate world over light refreshments. Bring your questions.

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's annual **Night in Italy** event is scheduled for Friday September 19. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a dance performance. Tickets: \$10, available at the Senior Center.

The Professional Speakers Bureau of Tampa Bay will offer an **open discussion forum** on Monday, September 22 at 3 p.m. to provide education, resources and information pertinent to aging well. Call 893-5657 to register.

Enjoy a **Day of Pampering** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 23 when Heatherlee from Mary Kay will give a complete makeover to the first 10 people who sign up.

Discover your beliefs about money, prosperity and how monetary philosophies affect relationships at 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 23 when Len Leeb hosts **For Love and Money**.

Join us for **Medicare Made Easy** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 24 and learn how to apply for Medicare & Medicaid, what's covered, and health and drug coverage choices.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games at our new class on Mondays at noon.

Experts and beginners are welcome at our new **Improv & Storytelling** class every Monday at 5:30 p.m. Learn the basics of Improvisation and create and perform new stories together.

Join us for lots of fun & laughter at **These Joints are Jumping** at Scout Hall every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. when we'll dance in our chairs to music we love!

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

Join St. Petersburg General Hospital Director of PCU Nancy Arbasak at 2:30 p.m. Monday, September 29 for our monthly **HCA Health Talk**. This month's topic: *Chest Pains? Don't Ignore the Signs*.

Health insurance can be puzzling. Representatives from Medicare supplement companies and SHINE representatives will help you put together the pieces of the insurance puzzle during **Health Insurance Expo 2014** on Wednesday, October 1, 1 - 5 p.m.

Visit the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center **First Friday Flea Market** on October 3, 9 a.m. - noon to find your perfect item. We have jewelry, art, household items, small furniture, knick knacks and more all at bargain prices.

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 October 7. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

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 October 9.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, October 9.

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 October 13. 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, October 14.

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 31 | 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 146) |
| Tuesday, September 2 | 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 46) |
| Wednesday, September 3 | 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 217) |
| Thursday, September 4 | 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 23) |
| Saturday, September 6 | 6 p.m. - Dinner Dance with Maggio Total Sound (Turnout 82) |

Casino (*upcoming events*):

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Saturday, September 13 | 7 p.m. - <i>St. Pete Glitter Queens Go Calypso</i> : A night of Caribbean music, food & fun. Proceeds benefit The Kind Mouse, feeding chronically hungry children in Pinellas County. Tickets \$50, available at www.stpeteglitterqueens.org . |
| 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

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

Sunday, August 31 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, September 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 6)

Thursday, September 4 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 7)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 28)

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 (*last week's events*):

Friday, September 5 6 p.m. - Art Reception with Cathy Salustri (Turnout 80)

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Tuesday, September 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Wednesday, September 3 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 8)

Friday, September 4 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, September 2 - *Computer class for beginners.*

Tuesday, September 2, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, September 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 3, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, September 3, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, September 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Outreach.*

Thursday, September 4, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop* facilitated by Cailey Klasson & Alex Hooks.

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

Saturday, September 6, 1 p.m. - *Toastmasters practice session.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, September 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Mark from the New Testament* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m. - *Juniper concert:* Enjoy a beautiful blend of Celtic and alternative music. Open to all ages. Our free concerts are always a hit so be sure to reserve your spot by calling 893-1073. Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

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.

Tuesday, September 23 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, August 27, 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.

Tuesday, September 30, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting.* For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, October 2, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop:* Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to register.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime:* Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic August 31 - September 6, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,892	558
Sun. 8/31	Library closed	
Mon. 9/1	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 9/2	498	136
Wed. 9/3	424	106
Thu. 9/4	353	107
Fri. 9/5	303	92
Sat. 9/6	266	88

Recreation Center

The game room is reserved 6-10 p.m. Saturday, September 20 for a birthday party, and 2:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 27 for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Twenty five (25) children are 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.

Eighteen (18) children are 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.

Thirty seven (37) 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, German, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 2 Plans Review
- 1 C.O.

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

- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in Auto Extrication techniques with the Pinellas County training group at the drill grounds this week.
- Chief Marenkovic and the new Fire Inspector James Lundh attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshals meeting at the Pinellas County Certified License Board building in Largo.
- Pinellas County Fire & EMS updated all County Radios in the apparatus, and hand held portables.
- GFD continues hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cut shelving for Senior Center food pantry, re-caulked and painted wall & employee sink area in kitchen, installed mist spraying device in exercise room, and assisted with room setups for events.
- Moved desk from Public Services Building storage area to Casino.
- Inspected underneath Casino for leak under bar area, replaced wood flooring in two locations and adjusted closet door following carpet installation.
- Ran errands for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Veteran's Park, Beach streetscapes & Recreation Center grounds.
- Mowed Clymer, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, Senior Center & Library grounds, and 28th Street signage area.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell Park, Recreation Center and Hoyt Field.
- Greased mowers & sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed glass from roadway at York Street & 31st Avenue.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Removed old tires and vehicle parts from City Garage.
- Removed debris from City Yard.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced "School Crossing" sign at 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard following vehicle strike.
- Reset storm water lid and cleaned box at 56th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Removed Palm Tree at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue following vehicle crash.

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 #23, 24, 25 & 26 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 86 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 4 old waters meter with new style meters.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 2 backflow devices due in September.
- Repaired water break at 5931 Tangerine Avenue.
- Installed backflow and water meter at 5117 8th 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced thermostat on Police vehicle #102.
- Replaced right side window motor and driver's side window switch on Building Department vehicle #13.
- Replaced brakes on Police vehicle #91 and Police vehicle #12.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for August was 215 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 2,223. The number of citizen complaints was 22 for a YTD total of 200. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 9 percent.

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

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

September 16, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

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