



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.

Participants must register no later than Friday, September 19 for the **4th Annual Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 27. Registration is \$10 per person, and participants will receive a Keep Gulfport Weird t-shirt. 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 893-1118 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 893-1118 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	122
Self-initiated calls for service	482
Offenses	15
Arrests	1
Traffic citations	33

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 2200 block of 53rd Street on the morning of September 12 regarding an ongoing dispute between a male and female. The woman called 911 because the man turned her home's power off. The woman was intoxicated to the point of incoherence, and was taken into custody under the Marchman Act.

A woman was arrested for retail theft after she stole two packages of Bic lighters from the Family Dollar.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of September 12 regarding an intoxicated woman trying to hitchhike, and stumbling into the roadway. She was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act.

A central air conditioning unit was stolen from a residence in the 5800 block of 9th Avenue and discovered in the backyard of a residence down the street. The resident of the location where the air conditioner was found said he did not know how it got there. Evidence was collected at the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

A resident in the 5800 block of Tangerine Avenue discovered the tires slashed on three vehicles in her driveway on the morning of September 16. She indicated that she received several text messages throughout the night from a former friend asking her to come outside.

Officers responded to Stetson College of Law after a student made disturbing comments to another student earlier in the day. Campus security and administration were aware of the

comments and sent out a safety alert to all students. Contact was made with the subject the next day and he has been trespassed from campus.

A white male wearing all black clothing and a Marlins hat stole the tip jar from Hong Kong Express on the evening of September 17. The investigation is ongoing.

A resident visiting a neighbor in the 5300 block of 11th Avenue observed a black male teenager run under her carport and steal her bike. He was last seen riding south on 53rd Street.

Detective Pham was on the marine unit for 5 hours this week.

Investigations:

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	9

Detective Pham completed supplemental investigative reports; checked pawn database records for matches with reported stolen property, and; checked up on registered sex offenders assigned to him.

Detective Crowson investigated and collected evidence for a case in which suspect Jason Burns committed burglary, auto theft, fraudulent use of a credit card and dealing in stolen property. Burns is currently in custody in Orlando. This case will be brought to the State for a warrant. Det. Crowson also completed two supplemental investigative reports.

School Resource Officer Motte arrested a student with an active warrant/pick up order; mentored a student; continued Explorer recruitment at BCHS, and; conducted two Explorer meetings.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated two narcotics violations. Narcotics were found in one of the incidents and the student was charged with possession and violation of probation. She also assisted a GPD patrol officer with identifying a student in a BOLO and completed a supplement; assisted a SPPD detective in recovering a stolen laptop; responded to two trespass calls on campus; completed a found property report; responded to four disturbances spoke with a parent regarding a bullying issue; mentored a student regarding her negative behavior towards her mother; mentored a parent and student regarding an incident at the school; attended an Explorer post meeting, and; provided security for the junior varsity home football game.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	5
Supplements reviewed:	66
Public records requests:	23
Background checks:	2

Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	40

MARINA

Pumped one thousand seven hundred sixty six (1,766) gallons of gas and seven hundred (700) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy nine (79) vessels.

Assisted in twenty two (22) pump outs evacuating three hundred ninety five (395) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 30' powerboat, 28' sailboat and 21' powerboat this week.

Staff activities:

- Installed dock box on pier four, slip eight.
- Replaced line hanger on pier two, slip six.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Purchased drinks for resale.

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.
- Distributed October calendar to all City facilities.
- Commenced preparation of November calendar.
- Provided control room coverage for September 16 City Council meeting, and uploaded video to City website.
- Updated Recreation Center webpage.
- Accepted registrations for Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon and ordered t-shirts for participants

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.

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.

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' October birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, October 17. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

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, September 7	6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance hosted by Swingtime (Turnout 227)
Tuesday, September 9	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 19) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 46)
Wednesday, September 10	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 204)
Thursday, September 11	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 20)
Saturday, September 12	7 p.m. - St. Pete Glitter Queens go Calypso fundraiser (Turnout 265)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$7
- Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
- Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
- Every Thursday 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

- Sunday, September 7 9 a.m. - Faith International Church services (Turnout 27)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Monday, September 8 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting (Turnout 18)
- Tuesday, September 9 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)
- Thursday, September 11 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 8)

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):

- Tuesday, September 9 6 p.m. - Gulfport/Stetson Relay for Life Kickoff party (Turnout 8)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Sunday, September 21, 3 p.m. - O Som Do Jazz, Featuring Rio de Janeiro singer Andrea Moraes Manson and a crew of experienced musicians performing Brazilian jazz, Bossa Nova, samba-jazz, Balanço and MPB. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino. For more information visit www.osomdojazz.com.

Scout Hall (last week's events)

- Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
- Monday, September 8 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 28)
- Tuesday, September 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Wednesday, September 10 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 13)

Friday, September 12 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

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:

Monday, September 8, 3 p.m. – Science Club for Grades K-5, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, September 9 - *Computer class for beginners.*

Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey.*

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

Wednesday, September 10, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*

Wednesday, September 10, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, September 11, 10:30 a.m. - *LGBTQ Collection Committee meeting.*

Thursday, September 11, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop* facilitated by Cailey Klasson & Alex Hooks.

Friday, September 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club.*

Friday, September 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m. - *Florida Planning & Zoning Association meeting.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Monday, September 29, 5:30 p.m. - *Intro to Edible Landscape Design by Growing Greener* facilitated by Crea Egan. For more information call 560-0608 or email eat.be.grow@gmail.com.

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 September 7-13, 2014: Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2012	621
Sun. 9/7	Library closed	
Mon. 9/8	408	126
Tue. 9/9	354	104
Wed. 9/10	392	113
Thu. 9/11	346	101
Fri. 9/12	316	100
Sat. 9/13	193	65

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 three (23) 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, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with the City Manager & Councilmember Roman on Monday to discuss the Recreation Division's Tot Time & VPK Programs.

John Lapham attended the Gulfport Little League meeting on Monday evening.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Council

Four (4) **Gulfport Teen Council** members attended the monthly meeting on Friday afternoon. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez was also in attendance. Topics discussed: Advisor report, approval of the August minutes, Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer for 2014-2015 Term, discussion of the Florida League of Cities Conference, Old Business and New Business.

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Taryn Spence presented the Teen Council's new Mission Statement at the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 25 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fire
- 2 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 4 Fire Inspections
- 2 Plans Review
- 4 C.O.'s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department has finished their September 2014 Online CME course.
- Chief Marenkovic and Inspector James Lundh conducted a Final Fire Alarm Control Panel test with Piper Fire protection at Holy Name of Jesus Church on September 18.
- Firefighter Brian Campbell and Firefighter Scott Burford participated in a Lieutenant Promotional Exam on September 16 & 17. Both currently function as Acting Lieutenants for the Agency.
- Gulfport Fire Department EMT and Paramedics will renew their State of Florida Department of Health Certifications. The deadline is December 1.

- 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

- Replaced a/c filters on all City units.
- Installed two “mist sprayers” in Senior Center activities room.
- Replaced flapper and toilet handle in Casino men’s room handicap stall.
- Replaced ballast in Theater dressing room.
- Replaced fluid master, flapper, and handle on upstairs toilet at Little League Complex.
- Ran errands to purchase parts for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Lowered and raised flags in honor of 9/11.
- Repaired air hockey table at Recreation Center, and replaced faucet in men’s room handicap stall.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in Senior Center lobby restroom.
- Replaced water filter under sink in City Hall break room.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed fish and debris from beach.
- Set forms for trash cans, and placed 3 new trash receptacles on Beach Boulevard.
- Replaced 4 trash receptacles on Shore Boulevard.
- Graded volleyball courts.
- Cleaned base lines and reworked clay areas at Hoyt Field.
- Replaced hardware on gates at Little League fields.
- Cleared blocked fountain at Dog Park.
- Removed graffiti from playground at Tomlinson Park.
- Adjusted light timer at tennis courts.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Library, Senior Center & Neighborhood Center Grounds, Tangerine Greenway & 55th Street medians.
- Mowed Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center grounds, Veterans, Tomlinson, Wood Ibis & Clymer Parks, Trail Spur, Tangerine Greenways & lakeside, and Clam Bayou.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex and Recreation Center.
- Greased mowers & sharpened/replaced blades, repaired tires on tiller and replaced spindles on Toro mowers.
- 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 300-gallon cardboard recycling container from Habana Café.
- Removed debris and graded beach.
- Removed old street signage from 58th Street at 29th & 31st Avenues, and Osgood Point.
- Continued automated street sweeping throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Replaced storm drain lid at 56th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Removed glass in roadway at 58th Street & Tangerine Avenue.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 83 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 3 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 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Commenced semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach.
- Repaired water break at 5907 17th 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.
- Cleared mainline sewer stoppage at Gray Street & 11th Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 6149 11th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced catalytic converter and rear tires on Police vehicle #501.
- Repaired AC on pump Fire truck #P17.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced fan clutch on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us 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.

October 8, 2014 Board of Adjustment:

- V14-16; 5401 Shore Boulevard South; Variance Application to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 14 spaces from 14 to zero off-street parking spaces for additional outdoor seating associated with a proposed second floor addition of an existing restaurant.
- V14-17; 5949 Seabird Drive South; Variance Application to reduce the left-hand side one-third setback requirement by 15.5 feet, from 26.67 feet to 11.17 feet to allow for the removal of an existing boat lift and installation of a proposed new boat lift.