



Gulfport Community Update

August 30 - September 5, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall and all facilities will be **closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Gulfport City staff continues performing daily water quality testing at Gulfport Beach and Marina due to recent heavy rain showers. The beach is currently open. The latest results are provided below. Visit www.mygulfport.us for the most up-to-date information.

<u>Gulfport Casino</u>		<u>Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)</u>			<u>Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)</u>		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1524608-01	9/3/15 8:40 a.m.	36 B	4	9/3/15 9:20 a.m.	60 B	10	9/3/15 9:20 a.m.

<u>Gulfport Marina</u>		<u>Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)</u>			<u>Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)</u>		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1524608-02	9/3/15 9:00 a.m.	8 B	4	9/3/15 9:20 a.m.	10 U	10	9/3/15 9:20 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Visit the Gulfport Merchants Association **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on September 4, 6 - 10 p.m. This event features new artists every first Friday & third Saturday offering a variety of sculpture & paint mediums, jewelry, photography, folk art, upcycled items, body products, handmade/designed clothing and accessories and more. Live musicians appear at several venues throughout the evening. Experience a shopping, dining and cultural experience unlike any other. Complimentary parking is available nearby with courtesy trolley rides available from off-site parking areas. Gulfport events are pet and family friendly. Visit www.SIKpromotions.com for vendor information. For general information, visit www.facebook.com/GulfportArtWalk or www.GulfportMA.com, or call 322-5217.

Meet local artists from the **Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA)** during an opening reception for an exhibit of their works at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, September 4 at 6 p.m. PAVA works include paintings in watercolor, oil & acrylic, mixed media, drawings in ink, charcoal & colored pencil, and photographs. Each work will reflect the unique talents and interests of the artist.

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (SO49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

The **15th Annual Geckofest** will provide entertainment during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, September 5. Come face to face with acrobats, aerialists, break dancers, escape artists, magicians, jugglers, fire performers and more mid the thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages creating an interactive circus atmosphere throughout the waterfront village. A kids' zone and Mardi Gras-themed costume contest offer a little lagniappe for everyone! All festivities will take place on Beach Boulevard from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Geckofest is free and family-friendly. For more information call 322-5217.

The annual **Gulfport Lions Labor Day Fish Fry** is Monday, September 7, 4 - 7 p.m. at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. The menu features freshly fried pollack, homemade hushpuppies, coleslaw, baked beans, tarter and cocktail sauce, coffee and iced tea. Bring the entire family and eat all you can for just \$9 per person/\$4.50 for children under 10. Tickets will be sold at the door, or contact your local Lion friends. B.Y.O.B. All proceeds will be allocated to community outreach programs. For more information call 515-7509.

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.

Ward 4 Councilmember Michael Fridovich will host a Community meeting at the 49th Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street at 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 9, providing an opportunity for Ward 4 and Gulfport residents to address concerns and issues. For more information call 893-1012 or email mfridovich@mygulfport.us.

Enjoy the morning air while volunteering with family and friends during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 12. If you're looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring a picker/grabber and gloves, and be sure to wear sun protection and comfortable footwear. Water will be provided. For more information, email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com or visit www.Facebook.com/gulfportneighbors.

Gulfport Residents are invited to attend the **Osgood Point Trail Connector Public Outreach meeting** in City Hall Council Chambers at 6 p.m. Monday, September 14. View the plan to connect the Pinellas & Sunshine Skyway Trails through downtown Gulfport as the Design Engineers introduce the first step of this 5-phase plan. For more information call 893-1063.

Tickets for the **September 17 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Baltimore Orioles game** are available at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. The \$25 price includes round trip transportation via the Gulfport Trolley. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Casino to Tropicana Field begins at 5 p.m. Return transportation will begin during the seventh inning. For more information call 893-1070 or 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	152
Self-initiated calls for service	450
Offenses	40
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	107
Ordinance violations	51

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Janet Stepp was arrested on a Manatee County warrant for battery after being stopped for a stop sign violation in the 5300 block of 28th Avenue on August 27.

A resident in the 5200 block of 21st Avenue reported on August 28 that he found a former employee in his backyard, and an altercation ensued before the subject left. He was located by SPPD with extensive injuries. It appears the original complainant lured the victim to his house where he and two other people assaulted him.

Sergeant Vandenberg was dispatched to the Gulfport Marina at the request of management to trespass Flint Stults from the docks after he threatened staff. Sgt. Vandenberg and FWC Investigator Rosas tried several times to reason with Stults, but he refused to leave. Sgt. Vandenberg deployed his pepper spray when Stults continued to resist as he was taken into custody. Stults was charged with resisting arrest with violence, obstruction, and trespassing. His boat was later impounded.

The owner of the Beach Haus Restaurant reported that two bicycles worth \$400 were stolen from the bike rack in front of this business. The bikes' locks had been cut.

Officer Embry conducted a traffic stop on a motorcycle in the 5800 block of 18th Avenue because driver Cody Lesley was not wearing eye protection. Lesley had three outstanding Pinellas County warrants for resisting an officer without violence, battery, and criminal mischief, and was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers made contact with two individuals near Tomlinson Park early August 28 after an anonymous caller reported two suspicious persons in the area. Todd Williams consented to a search of his person and was found to be in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine and a glass pipe. He was arrested for drug and paraphernalia possession.

Officer Mills had probable cause for the arrest of Jennifer Dupuy for domestic battery but she managed to elude arrest until officers from Alpha Squad located her in her backyard. Dupuy was taken into custody without incident.

Officers responded to a disturbance at Seaside Villas early August 30, and determined that a domestic battery had occurred. Thomas Latimer, a professional wrestler with the stage moniker "Bram" was arrested for battery by strangulation and false imprisonment.

Officer Embry conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with a headlight out in the 5800 block of 15th Avenue on August 31, and determined that driver Brian Horne did not have a valid license and is a habitual traffic offender. Horne was arrested.

Officers provided traffic control while GFD fought a structure fire in the 2800 block of Skimmer Point Drive. The home's occupants escaped the blaze, and no injuries were reported.

A resident in the 6300 block of 9th Avenue reported on the morning of September 9 that sometime overnight someone entered her fenced backyard and stole her red and yellow Briggs and Stratton lawnmower.

A resident of the Town Shores Groton Building reported that someone stole his white 2013 Honda Civic from his parking space overnight. The vehicle was likely unlocked, with a valet key in the glove box.

A resident of the Town Shores Jameson Building reported that someone entered his vehicle overnight and stole his prescription sunglasses from the visor.

Officer Crane stopped Marc Gonzalez 1500 Block of 58th Street for speeding, and determined that Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol. He performed poorly during field sobriety tests and was arrested for DUI. He refused to provide a breath sample.

David Dinkins was arrested on September 2 for driving on a suspended license and a warrant for failure to pay child support following a traffic violation stop at 9th Avenue & Freemont Street.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 14.5 hours this week. Sergeant Woodman and Detective Pham worked with the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to post four derelict vessels.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	10
Cases assigned:	8
Cases suspended-no leads:	1
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0

Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases unfounded-no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports in an exploitation of the elderly case, an attempted murder and two burglaries, and; developed probable cause for a suspect in an attempted murder case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports in two grand theft cases, two residential burglaries, two frauds, a stolen vessel, a sexual battery and an auto theft, and; conducted Facebook research on known juvenile offenders regarding recent vehicle burglaries and auto theft cases.

School Resource Officer Motte assisted Officer Langston with breaking up a fight at BCHS; conducted the Monday night Explorer meeting; taught at the Gulfport Police Departments Teen Academy, covering the topics of SRO and the Explorer post; recruited students for the Gulfport Explorers; gave a presentation on the Explorer post to students at Pinellas Park High School; mentored a student; assisted SPPD with locating a student whom they arrested on multiple grand theft auto charges, and; assisted BCHS with a medical distress call.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a found property (bike) case; responded to a fight in progress; assisted with a student possibly under the influence of an unknown drug; assisted Motte on an AOA SPPD call and an AOA SPPD detective in a shooting investigation; spoke with student regarding a bullying issue and mediated with the students responsible for the bullying; spoke with a parent regarding her child skipping school; spoke a to student regarding her reservations about taking a certain class, provided security at a football game, and; covered a shift for Charlie squad.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Ross in an attempt to identify a retail theft suspect; compiled and distributed the open case lists; completed pawn checks on 15 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description, and; completed a review of stolen property with a known serial number for documentation of entry into FCIC/NCIC.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	10
Supplements reviewed:	57
Public records requests:	13
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	19
Citizens assisted:	47

MARINA

Assisted in twenty three (23) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifteen (315) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand eight hundred eighty eight (2,888) gallons of gas and one thousand two hundred ninety (1,290) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety nine (99) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 28' sailboat, 22' sailboat and a 34' sailboat this week.

Staff activities:

- Installed GFIC on pier two, slip seven.
- Repaired exhaust fans in men's restroom.
- Pumped out derelict boat on pier three, slip thirty four.
- Secured derelict boats in marina.
- Repaired gate on pier three.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, August 25, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, August 25, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 26, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 26, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, August 26, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 27, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga.*

Friday, August 28, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 29, 11 a.m. - *Gulfport All Ages AA Committee meeting.*

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 8, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club:* This new group will meet every second Tuesday of the month. Start creating and commanding your own robot! Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 727-893-1074.

Monday, September 14, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club:* We'll 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.

Thursday, September 17, 11 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* 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 or visit the Library for more information.

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey:* The popular author of Florida fiction returns with a lively and entertaining look at our state.

Saturday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Thursday, September 24, 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga: Story-time Yoga:* All children must be accompanied by caregiver. Mats a plus, but not required.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.* For more information call 360-9069.

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

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 around the rocking chair near the Easy books. 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/Statistics August 23-29, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,352	744
Sun. 8/23	Library closed	
Mon. 8/24	442	140
Tue. 8/25	354	126
Wed. 8/26	362	121
Thu. 8/27	429	120
Fri. 8/28	401	105
Sat. 8/29	325	108

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.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain and training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, main index slides, and Senior Center, Recreation & Board of Adjustment information on City website.
- Provided control room coverage for September 1 City Council meeting, and September 3 Special City Council meeting, uploaded videos to City website and rebroadcast meetings on GTV-640.
- Commenced preparations for Citywide Yard Sale, Keep Gulfport Weird, and Veterans Day Parade.

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 \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride.

GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital & Medical Centers 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 Tuesday & 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 **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 us for lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 8.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Get your blood sugar and blood pressure checked on Thursday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy ice cream with your friends during our **Monthly Ice Cream Social** at 3 p.m. Thursday, September 10. This event is sponsored by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is September 14. 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** every second Monday of the month. The next meeting is September 14.

Learn how giving to a charitable organization can help you and the cause during **Charitable Giving**, presented by Scott O'Berry of Edward Jones on Wednesday, September 16 at 2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:45 p.m. Thursday, September 17. Join us for healthy, tasty treats.

In honor of National Senior Center Month, the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center will host an **Open House** on Friday, September 18, 4 - 7 p.m. Find out what the Senior Center has to offer you, your family and community through guided tours, class demonstrations, informative presentations and community resource information. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call the Event Line at 893-5657.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and glucose screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is September 24.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, September 25. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Find great deals during **First Friday Flea Market** on October 2, 9 a.m. - noon.

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 6.

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. 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.

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, August 23	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 101)
Tuesday, August 25	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 20) Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Paul Kirk (Turnout 8) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 60)
Wednesday, August 26	10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 24) 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 247)
Thursday, August 27	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 11) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 26)
Saturday, August 29	6 p.m. - 2015 Gecko Ball (Turnout 402)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn 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	6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, September 4, 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring a selection of works by local members of the Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA). Free admission/cash bar.

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

Sunday, August 23 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church bible study (Turnout 12)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 25 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 27 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 9)

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

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Tuesday, August 25 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 12 for a Bridal Shower, and 6-11 p.m. Saturday, September 19 for an Anniversary party.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty four (34) children are registered for the **2015/16 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. 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.

Ten (10) children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and (10) 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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8.

Eighteen (18) teens are registered for the **2015/16 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: Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities:

Marivel Gutierrez attended the storm preparedness meeting on Friday, and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 36 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 2 Fire Re-Inspections
- 1 Fire Investigation
- 1 C.O.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting at the SPC Epi-Center in Largo on September 3.

The contract agreement between the Pinellas County Professional Firefighters Local IAFF 4966 and the City of Gulfport was approved by City Council at their September 1 meeting.

Chief Marenkovic & Inspector Lundh reviewed the Geckofest Site Plan.

Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for a Paramedic Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced faucet in men's restroom at beach.
- Repaired a/c units at Historical Museum and Senior Center room #106.
- Replaced railing on upstairs level at Recreation Center and repaired toilet in employee lounge.
- Hung bulletin boards at Casino.
- Performed annual termite inspections at Scout Hall and Dog Park building.
- Performed monthly a/c filter change for all City units.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Painted bike rack at Tomlinson Park.
- Blocked parking spots on Beach Boulevard in preparation for installation of light poles.

- Continued replacing outlets on Beach Boulevard.
- Continued replacement of damaged boards on Clam Bayou docks.
- Cleaned and pressured washed drinking fountain at large dog park.
- Picked up and transported School Year Child Program participants to Rec Center.
- Replaced flags at Veterans Park and Williams Pier.
- Secured Parks Department and other city facilities in preparation for storm.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Clymer Park, Casino, Beach & 49th streetscapes, hand raked around benches and pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Inspected irrigation systems at Caldwell Park and Beach streetscapes.
- Mowed Wood Ibis, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, Clam Bayou, trail spur, Recreation Center, Gulfport Beach & Marina green spaces, 14th Avenue medians and Pasadena entrance area.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced chain drive and adjusted bed knives on reel mowers at Hoyt & Little League Fields.
- 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 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 asphalt and 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 and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Assisted residents with filling sandbags during storm preparation.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Installed two "No Parking" signs on Tangerine Avenue between 49th & 50th Street.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.

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).
- Completed routes 9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 49 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 150 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.

- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach and Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 8 old water meters with new electronic meter.
- Started locating water mainline valves in the southeast section of town.

Sewer

- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise & preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall & Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned sewer main line on Essex Avenue from 54th Street to Beach Boulevard.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced alternator and electrical junction box in Fire Engine #E17.
- Replaced batteries, fan clutch, and alternator in Streets vehicle #38.
- Delivered Police vehicle #91 to dealership for warranty repairs.
- Replaced tires, batteries, and rear axle seal on Sewer vehicle #26.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Performed preventative 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, 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.pccclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

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

September 9, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

5708 Gulfport Boulevard; Variance Application V15-19 to reduce the required off-street parking requirement by 2 spaces, from 6 spaces to 4 as part of a proposed conversion of a current single-family house to a commercial retail use of the principal structure and property.