



Gulfport Community Update

August 31 - September 6, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mayor Sam Henderson led the way during the 14th Annual Geckofest parade on August 14, kicking off the day's events. This year's event was larger than ever with an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 visitors throughout the day (photos below). Live music, kids' activities, great street vendors, the parade and costume contest provided visitors with plenty to do and see. A portion of the day's proceeds were donated to local organizations.



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:

Find one of a kind items, crafts and art at **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district 6 - 10 p.m. September 5. Free admission. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Meet Photographer Cathy Salustri at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, September 5, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception and photo exhibit of her **Adventures in Small Town Paradise** series. For more information call 893-1118.

Everyone is welcome at the **Monthly Citywide Crime Watch meeting** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. For more information call 893-1111.

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. Donate, swap or trade gently used clothes at the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard during Gulfport Fresh Market September 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Want to get your group or organization involved to help fight cancer? The **Relay for Life Gulfport/Stetson Kickoff Party** is Tuesday, September 9 at 6 p.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Learn about great opportunities to form a team, recruit friends & family, and support survivors at this meet & greet with The American Cancer Society Relay For Life. Call 812-7021 or visit www.relayforlife.org/gulfportfl.

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 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 at 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	143
Self-initiated calls for service	474
Offenses	43
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	41

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A subject working on a house in the 5600 block of 15th Avenue reported on August 28 that he left his wallet on the kitchen counter while he worked outside. When he went back inside his wallet was gone. The front door to the residence was left unlocked.

A resident in the 5400 block of 10th Avenue reported a bicycle stolen from a fenced backyard on the morning of August 29. The bicycle was not locked, and the gate was left open.

Officers cleared Beach Boulevard of parked cars in preparation for Geckofest early August 30. Four cars were impounded and several others were moved by their owners.

Officers responded to the 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard regarding a crash involving 2 vehicles on August 30. One of the drivers fled on foot prior to police arrival, leaving the vehicle at the scene. There were no injuries reported.

Officers were dispatched to the 2500 block of 50th Street regarding a suspicious vehicle parked in a driveway with the engine running. A male was passed out in the driver's seat with the keys in the ignition. Officers made contact with him and smelled a faint odor of alcohol. He performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was taken to jail. His BAC was .11.

An officer stopped a vehicle at 47th Street & 22nd Avenue in the early morning hours of August 31 after the speeding driver failed to maintain a single lane. He was arrested after performing poorly on field sobriety tasks. His BAC was .11.

Officers responded to Save-a-Lot regarding a male who stole a package of ribs and fled on foot towards 49th Street. He was taken into custody by Officer Randazzo.

A lawn mower was reported stolen from an unlocked shed in the 2700 block of Tifton Street on September 1. There are no suspects.

An officer on routine patrol in the 3100 block of Miriam Street recognized a male from previous contacts and ran his name in FCIC/NCIC, and discovered a warrant from Pinellas County. The male was taken into custody without incident.

A resident in the 5600 25th Avenue reported on the morning of August 12 that his bicycle was stolen from his fenced backyard. The bicycle was not locked, but is registered with GPD.

An elderly resident in the 2500 block of 50th Street reported that a handy man has been working on her house and borrowing her car. The handy man has charged the resident nearly \$16,000 and is suspected of forging a check and attempting to cash it. The investigation is ongoing.

Investigations:

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	9

Detective Pham conducted sex offender checks; worked an off-duty detail at Geckofest; spent approximately 18 hours composing investigative supplement reports, and; checked pawn records for potential matches with reported stolen property

Detective Crowson identified a suspect in a stolen firearm case; interviewed a scooter theft suspect after the suspect was arrested by SPPD for driving the stolen scooter; interviewed a bicycle theft suspect at the Juvenile Detention Center, and; completed six investigate supplement reports.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Motte arrested two students for fighting on campus; continued organizing the explorer post and creating new recruitment flyers, and scheduled school assemblies to recruit new students for the post; mentored a student on better life choices, and;

made contact with a student reported to be in possession of a gun on campus, determining that the student did not have a firearm or access to a firearm.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Langston investigated two disturbances, a burglary, a hit and run (AOA SPPD), an attempted fraud/grand theft incident, theft of cell phone, and three trespassers who fled on campus. She also counseled and provided mediation to four subjects; intervened in two physical altercations; conducted one mental health assessment which did not meet the criteria for a Baker Act; provided security for a varsity football game, and; exceptionally cleared a grand theft case.

Margaret Palmisano created and distributed an "attempt to ID" bulletin for Officer Iwanowski for a retail theft investigation; completed the monthly hate crime review and reported to FDLE that no hate crimes were reported, and; created a new form for officers to use to request a bulletin be created and distributed.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	21
Supplements reviewed:	32
Public records requests:	24
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	56

MARINA

Pumped four thousand five hundred ninety eight (4,598) gallons of gas and two thousand two hundred fifty four (2,254) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty five (125) vessels.

Assisted in forty three (43) pump outs evacuating four hundred eighty (480) gallons of waste.

Staff activities:

- Repaired dock box on pier four and gate lock on pier two.
- Replaced 30-AMP breaker on pier four slip 32.
- Removed fence fabric from storage area.
- Performed pump out maintenance.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed four vessels from Sarasota, 2 28' sailboats, a 25' sailboat, 20' motor boat, 24' motorboat, 30' powerboat, 28' power boat, 25' powerboat and a 30' powerboat this week.

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.
- Updated Recreation Center & Senior Center information and monthly meeting schedule on City website and Trumba calendar site.
- Provided control room coverage for September 2 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued editing Senior Center Long Term Healthcare informational footage.
- Finished preparation of October calendar and sent to printer.
- Provided photographic and technical assistance during Geckofest.

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 **Neighborhood 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.

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 September 8. 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, September 9.

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 September 11.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11.

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

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.

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*):

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|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, August 24 | 3 p.m. - Family Reunion (Turnout 90) |
| Monday, September 25 | 7 p.m. - Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 136) |
| Tuesday, August 26 | 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 44) |
| Wednesday, August 27 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 221) |
| Thursday, August 28 | 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson & dance (Turnout 13) |
| Friday, August 29 | 8 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga La Playa (Turnout 78) |

Saturday, August 30 9 a.m. - Geckofest VIP lounge (Turnout 200)

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

Saturday, September 6 6 p.m. - Dinner Dance with Maggio Total Sound. Enjoy dance favorites from the 50s - 80s! For more information call 804-5325 or email maggiototalsound@yahoo.com. Dance tickets: \$13 in advance/\$15 at the door. Order dinner in advance for \$15 per person. Tickets available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar

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

Sunday, August 24 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, August 30 6 p.m. - Birthday Party (Turnout 35)

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 (*upcoming events*):

Friday, September 5, 6 p.m. - Art Reception with Cathy Salustri. Free admission

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Monday, August 25 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, August 26 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Wednesday, August 27 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)

Friday, August 29 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)
Saturday, August 30 7 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 45)

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, August 26 - *Primary Election Polling Location.*
Tuesday, August 26 - *Computer class for beginners.*
Tuesday, August 26, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*
Tuesday, August 26 - *SCORE Counseling.*
Wednesday, August 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*
Wednesday, August 27, 2 p.m. - *Advance computer class.*
Wednesday, August 27, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*
Thursday, August 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*
Thursday, August 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Affordable Care Act Outreach.*
Friday, August 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey:* The popular author returns to discuss his latest novel, Tiger Shrimp Tango. Call 893-1073 or stop by the Reference Desk to register.
Friday, September 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club:* We'll screen a flick and provide some crunchy munchies. Enjoy an afternoon networking with other fans.
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:* Further details forthcoming about this very special musical evening. 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, August 26 - *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.

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 riddell@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 24-30, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,061	614
Sun. 8/24	Library closed	
Mon. 8/25	412	113
Tue. 8/26	404	112
Wed. 8/27	394	105
Thu. 8/28	269	99
Fri. 8/29	332	102
Sat. 8/30	233	66

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, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with Luke of Kompan Playgrounds to discuss designs for Tomlinson Park. She also attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 52 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 3 Electrical Hazards
- 1 Water Recues
- 1 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- Fire Inspection (numerous conducted at Gecko-Fest 8/30)
- Re-inspections
- C.O.s
- Plans Review

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 is hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program. Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the B-shift is his preceptor.
- Pinellas County 911 Communication conducted radio reprogramming to portable and mobile devices compatible with the requirements of digital upgrading/conversion.
- E-17 and SR-17 provided EMS standby and vendor inspections for GeckoFest. SR-17 ran 5 medical calls during the event.
- Lt. Poirrier returned from a two-week program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD where he attended the first of several classes required in the Executive Fire Officer Development Series. Executive Development is the entry course for the EFOP.
- The Fire Department and Building Department continued plans reviews and fire inspection requirements this week for the renovation project at Stetson Law College.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced two faucets in Recreation Center restrooms.
- Installed new light sensor above Theater signage.

- Assembled new office chair for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Reset employee time clocks following storm-related power outages.
- Repaired Casino stage floor and temporarily relocated office furniture in preparation for carpet installation.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in Dog Park men's restroom.
- Cleared Senior Center dining room a/c drain.
- Ran errands to Tampa for Vehicle maintenance Supervisor.
- Replaced restroom soap dispenser in Senior Center Lobby area.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up barricades, trash, no parking signs, electric outlets and event signs in preparation for Geckfest, and removed following event.
- Added shell to holes in paths at Wood Ibis Park & Clam Bayou.
- Cleared drinking fountain drains at Dog Park & Clam Bayou.
- Cleared weeds from pitcher's mounds at Hoyt & Lum fields.
- Removed fish and debris from beach.
- Built forms for new trash cans.
- Installed new signage at Tomlinson Park & beach pavilion #7.
- Graded volleyball courts.
- Replaced tennis net at Chase Block courts.
- 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.
- Cut and removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed and disposed of palm tree in roadway at 5417 21st Avenue.
- Filled holes and removed garbage at 5702 15th Avenue per Code Enforcement request.
- Assembled and delivered automated garbage containers for GeckoFest, and cleaned up along waterfront following event.
- Cleaned storm drain lines on 56th Street from Gulfport Boulevard to 25th Avenue.
- Added fill and graded alleyways at 59th Street & 11th Avenue, Beach Boulevard & 31st Avenue, and at 54th Street & 17th Avenue.
- Cleaned and removed debris from City yard.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin pile at Neighborhood Center.

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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 41 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 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.
- 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.
- Flushed water main from Royal Palms Drive to Skimmer Point Drive.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 15 backflow devices, due in September.
- Repaired water leak at 1514 55th Street.
- Replaced backflow and water meter at 4926 Gulfport Boulevard.

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

- Repaired a/c on Police vehicle #18.
- Sent Sanitation vehicle #45 to dealer for repair of electrical system.
- Replaced service brake switch on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced batteries and fan clutch on Streets vehicle (Dump Truck) #37 in preparation for vehicle for sale.
- Replaced pivot arm bushing on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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 have moved to 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.

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.