



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 4 - 10, 2013*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**2013 Hurricane Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic basin ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits.

The Gulfport Police Department hosted **National Night Out** at the Neighborhood Center on August 6. On display were emergency vehicles, including marked and unmarked police patrol cars, a mobile crime lab, the marine patrol unit and more (photos below).



### **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 art and crafts, bath, body and 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 each Tuesday. Bring gently worn apparel to the Gulfport Fresh Market Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA in the Peninsula Inn Courtyard Tuesday, August 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information call 278-4285. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com).

Stroll on down to the **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on August 17, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217.

Dust off that polyester leisure suit and shine that disco ball for the **Fifth Annual Gecko Ball Gecko Night Fever** at the historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Boulevard Saturday, August 24 from 6 until 11 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person. Flash back to the disco era with music, dance moves, outfits, hair and fads of the 70s.

Gulfport's **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Geckofest** will bring entertainment to the streets during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, August 31. Amid the thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, expect to come face to face with live mermaids, magicians, jugglers, acrobats, fire dancers and more, creating an "up close and personal" circus

atmosphere throughout the village. Festivities will take place on Beach Boulevard in Gulfport from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Plans are underway for the **Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 28. The course will incorporate in order, a 1 mile run, 3 mile bike ride and 1/4 mile swim. The race is designed to be short enough to invite participation from most age groups and fitness levels, whether individually or in teams, and is intended to simply be fun. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/keep-gulfport-weird-triathlon](http://www.mygulfport.us/keep-gulfport-weird-triathlon) for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

#### ***Calls for Service:***

Offenses	28
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	20

#### **Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Brittany Wisheart was arrested by Gulfport police for leaving the scene of a crash in the early morning hours of July 30 after the black BMW convertible she was driving knocked over two mailboxes on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then continued east into St. Petersburg where she crashed into multiple objects before the car broke down. St. Petersburg police responded to the scene and charged her with DUI.

Anthony Okuma was arrested after he turned himself in to the GPD for an outstanding warrant for driving on a suspended license.

A caller reported her vehicle stolen from the 2700 block of 45<sup>th</sup> Street. The vehicle which was left unlocked with the keys in a purse inside was recovered at 46<sup>th</sup> Street & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Officers responded to the 5600 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of July 30 after a caller reported that tools and a bicycle were stolen from a deck behind a residence sometime between July 28 & 30. There are no suspects.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of July 31 in an attempt to locate a subject wanted by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. They located Brian Hyz and placed him under arrest on an outstanding warrant.

Officers responded to the 2200 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on August 1 after a 911 call regarding a man breaking into an occupied house. They located Thomas Daubs in the area, and an eyewitness identified him as the person who repeatedly kicked the front door, and tore a screen off a window, causing approximately \$1200 in damages but failing to gain entry. Daubs was intoxicated and trying to get to his former employer.

While investigating a minor vehicle crash at the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of August 1, officers suspected one of the drivers was intoxicated. Once the crash investigation was completed, a DUI investigation was initiated. It was determined that Nicole Zeeman was intoxicated and she was arrested.

Catherine Widere was arrested on two outstanding warrants on the evening of August 2. She was taken to the Pinellas County jail.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the evening of August 3 regarding a prowler. They discovered the tires on three vehicles had been slashed. No positive identification could be made on the suspect.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of August 4 regarding two neighbors arguing. One neighbor allowed his dog to urinate on the other's potted plants. She in turn sprayed his front porch and door with a garden hose. Officers calmed the situation and both neighbors agreed to avoid each other.

While checking the Tomlinson Park area on the evening of August 5, officers discovered a male subject sleeping at a picnic table. It was determined that he was homeless and passing through Gulfport. He advised of park hours and directed to leave the area.

Officers were dispatched to 700 51<sup>st</sup> Street on the afternoon of August 6 after a caller reported a vehicle fire. They attempted to make contact with the registered owner with negative results. Shortly after, the owner contacted PCSO to report her vehicle stolen. PCSO advised they would take the stolen and the recovered vehicle reports, and Gulfport PD is handling the arson investigation.

### **Investigations:**

Documented Follow-Ups:	33
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	8
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	18

Detective Hanh Pham contacted the SPPD Street Crimes Unit regarding Henry Cummings, and was advised that Cummings was taken into custody by Violent Crimes Task Force. Detective Pham interviewed Cummings, but he denied committing the Strong-arm Robbery incident at the Walgreens store in Gulfport. He did admit to being there and taking the bag. The case was closed by arrest.

Detective Embry attempted to locate a suspect involved in a grand theft auto case but the address listed for the suspect was a business. He also attempted to locate a suspect involved in a criminal mischief case with negative results, and continued investigating his assigned cases.

SRO Motte assisted patrol all week.

SRO Langston was in SRO school all week.

Analyst Palmisano submitted the semi-annual UCR data to FDLE, compiled and distributed the open case list, and updated the sex offender display and pamphlet, adding a new offender who recently moved into the City.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	12
Reports disseminated:	25
Public records requests:	10
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	30

### **MARINA**

Pumped two thousand two hundred thirty four (2,234) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred twenty nine (1,429) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety three (93) vessels.

Assisted with thirty nine (39) pump-outs evacuating six hundred fifteen (615) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

### **Transient vessels:**

Marina staff welcomed a 40' motorboat, 34' motorboat, 36' motorboat and a 37' motorboat this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615). It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updating and enhancements to City calendar, latest news, departmental pages, mobile website, Leisure Services Rec. Center & Library sub-site resources & employee Intranet, and maintained mygulfport.us domain.
- Provided control room coverage for August 6 City Council meeting & August 8 Council Workshop. Made DVD copies for City Clerk and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Continued working on City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Attended Live Manager Granicus application training and utilized application during City Council meeting and Workshop.
- Continued preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon, and designed event webpage.
- Attended PIO training and received updated PIO manual.
- Completed September Events/Meetings calendar and sent to printer.
- Assisted IT Department with Audio/Visual and PC repairs.

### **Parks**

Inspected all parks for repairs.

Inspected electrical outlets on Beach Boulevard.

Continued repairs at Skate Park.

Replaced bench slats at Tangerine Lake and fence rails Wood Ibis Park.

Replaced 3 rail posts & boards, and remounted trash can at Clam Bayou Park following vehicle strike.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades and replaced pull strings on line trimmer & stick edger, and carburetor & fuel lines on backpack blower.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Dog Park, Chase Block, Veterans Park and Scout Hall grounds; hand raked around pavilions and benches, and cleared debris from beach.

Mowed Clymer, Caldwell, Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, City Complex, Senior Center, Library/28<sup>th</sup> Avenue signage area, Marina area, Recreation Center entrance area, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, Chase Block, Dog Park, Tangerine Greenway and Trail spur.

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 needed repairs.

**Other Activities:**

- All City park 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.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)**

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. The **summer schedule with new pickup times and trips** is available at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center, from GEMS drivers or online at [www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org](http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org). 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. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

**Multipurpose Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center is open Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and; Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. through summer. Wii Bowling classes are offered at 6:30 p.m. every first & third Tuesday; Italian Class for Beginners every Tuesday at 6 p.m.; Italian Dance Practice every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., and; Card Games every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

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 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, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. 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. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

The **Senior Center Singing Group** has been discontinued until a new volunteer instructor is found. We are also looking for a volunteer pianist for the group. For more information call Gail at 893-2237.

Sign up today to enjoy all the **classes and events** offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up a copy of the August schedule at the Senior Center or online at [www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org](http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org). The Senior Center currently offers 49 monthly classes for residents over 50. Membership required.

What will you contribute to your family, community or yourself? How can you make it happen? **What will Your Legacy Be** will be presented by Pat Dunham at 11:30 a.m. Monday, August 12.

Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$3.00 during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** on Tuesday, August 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Learn to visualize what you want as Life Coach Kathy Lane discusses **The Law of Attraction** on Wednesday, August 14 at 1:30 p.m. Free

**The Community Law Program** offers pro bono legal assistance for qualifying seniors 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center every third Friday of the month. The next session is Friday, August 16. Call 582-7480 for qualification criteria or to schedule an appointment. The Community Law Program is staffed by St. Petersburg Attorneys to empower the most vulnerable in our community through legal representation, assistance and outreach.

Hula on down to the Gulfport Senior Center for tropical fun during the **Tiki Time Luau** on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 p.m. Enjoy Hawaiian music, "Pupus" (appetizers), a fantastic Hula dance demonstration and lessons, raffles, games and more. Tickets: \$3.00. Proceeds support the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

Victor R. Helou sings acapella with a side of comedy as he performs **Songs for the Pantry** on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:30 p.m. Victor has performed in various Broadway productions, movies, as well as commercials, print ads and voiceovers. The price of a ticket is non-perishable food item/s or a small grocery gift card. Thank you in advance for helping those less fortunate in your community.

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

The **Coffee Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

Senior Center sponsor Wellcare will host a monthly Birthday Party for Senior Center participants every third Tuesday beginning August 20.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will purchase 10 new Toshiba laptop computers equipped with Windows 7 and the MS Office Suite. The new computers will be network-ready, providing access for email and web browsing and will be used exclusively for the center's monthly **Basic and Intermediate Computer Training Courses**. Both courses are curriculum based and offer the student a "real world" Windows-based learning experience. Classes will begin in September. We are pleased to have former NASA Headquarters Chief Computer Systems Engineer Anne Marie Pemberton as our instructor. Beginner classes will be Tuesdays at 2 p.m. beginning September 3. Intermediate classes will be on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. beginning September 4. These classes will be fee based, and are open to adults 50 and older. Gulfport residents will pay \$40 for a series of 4 weekly classes. The Nonresident fee is \$50. Proof of age and residency is required at enrollment time. Cash or credit card payment will be accepted. Call 893-2237 to enroll or for more information.

Challenge your mind and have fun during the **Puzzle Pages Party** at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of every other month!

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a call? 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, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

**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.

Over 50 and ready to get fit and meet new friends? Visit the **Foundation Fitness Center**. Summer hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Multipurpose Center and take a tour of our state-of-the-art fitness facility.

**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. To schedule an appointment call 893-2237 or 893-1231.

To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety visit <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>.

**Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center**

**Casino (last week's events):**

Monday, July 29	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance (Turnout 130)
Tuesday, July 30	9 a.m. - Intermediate Tai Chi with Marge (Turnout 28) Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker (Turnout 10) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson (Turnout 6) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango Dance 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 48)
Wednesday, July 31	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 216)
Thursday, August 1	9 a.m. - Tai Chi for Beginners (Turnout 17) 6:30 p.m. - Family Reunion (Turnout 175)
Saturday, August 3	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 207)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Every first & third 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	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

There were no events in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** last week.

**Catherine Hickman Theater (Upcoming events)**

Saturday, August 10	2 p.m. - <i>Noisemakers Kids 4-9 Years End of Summer Concert</i> 5 p.m. - <i>Noisemakers Kids 10 &amp; up End of Summer Concert</i> Tickets \$5. For more information call 345-7472
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**Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):**

Sunday, July 28	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 11) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, August 1	2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting

**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

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

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tuesday, July 30	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)
Wednesday, July 31	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 12)
Thursday, August 1	9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice
Friday, August 2	9 a.m. - Chair yoga 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, July 29, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, July 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, July 31, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 31, 2 p.m. - Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5: *Angry Birdfeeders*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, July 31, 3 p.m. - Teen Summer Reading Program: *Steampunk Projectiles*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, August 1, 10:30 a.m. - *Summer Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

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

## Upcoming Events:

Thursday, August 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of My Antonia* by Willa Cather over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Please call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, August 27 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Tuesday, September 2, 9 a.m. - *Community Involvement Consulting*: A representative from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's office provides information and solicits questions and concerns from the public every first Tuesday of the month. First come, first served.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto: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 July 28 - August 3, 2013: Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,848	582
Sun. 7/28	Library closed	
Mon. 7/29	343	101
Tue. 7/30	358	97
Wed. 7/31	333	109
Thu. 8/1	318	98
Fri. 8/2	277	100
Sat. 8/3	204	63

## Recreation Center

The Game room is reserved for baby showers on Saturday, August 10, 12 - 4 p.m. & Saturday, August 17, 12 - 5 p.m.

## Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred twenty nine (129) children are registered for the **2013 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended care until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Participants enjoy activities, field trips, lunches, positive role models and a safe environment to call their own.

Registration is underway for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. 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.

Seven (7) children have been pre-registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and three (3) 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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 3 and are limited to 10 children each.

**Contractual classes:** Chair Yoga, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

Eighty six (86) teens are registered the **2012/13 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Fifteen (15) **FY2012/13 Skate Park** registrations have been issued to date.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Single Engine Response
- 1 Fuel Spill
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 2 COs

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, August 15 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

### **Staff Activities:**

- GFD staff continued training on the new ePCR computers which will allow Paramedics to write the Patient Care Report on a computer instead of paper reports used in the past. This new system also includes a database and servers purchased by Pinellas County EMS.
- Gulfport, South Pasadena, St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island & St. Petersburg Fire personnel commenced their August St. Pete College CME: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Refresher. All Pinellas County Fire Departments are due for recertification between September and November.

- The Gulfport Fire & Rescue and the CERT Team attended annual National Night Out with the Gulfport Police Department on August 6.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Repaired time clock at Library.
- Replaced bubbler on water fountain in Public Services Building lobby.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Billing Department.
- Installed aluminum canopy over new ice machine in City Yard.
- Set up Senior Center Room #106 for event.
- Rebuilt outdoor light fixture at Neighborhood Center.
- Oiled locks on crossing guard traffic cones for the Police Department.
- Completed monthly replacement of air conditioner filters on all City buildings.
- Replaced battery of emergency light in the lobby area of the Public Services Building.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaves pick-up.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Assembled and delivered new 40 & 90 gallon automated containers.
- Continued citywide street and curb sweeping.
- Repaired numerous potholes throughout City.
- Graded outfall swale, Beach parking lot and Beach between Casino and Pier.
- Added fill and graded roadway at Pasadena Place.
- Cut and removed tree limb obstructions in roadway.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at Clinton Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue South.
- Removed tree and brush overgrowth in alleyways for traffic flow.
- Removed abandoned debris in roadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of several loads of debris from the 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Trimmed palm tree obstruction at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Backfilled sidewalk at Pasadena Place.
- Added fill and graded roadway at Osgood Point.
- Completed Code Enforcement abatement property clean-up at 5609 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of old tires and parts from City Garage.
- Installed stop sign & pole at Upton Street & 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and stop sign, pole & street signs at Upton Street & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.
- Installed new crosswalk signs at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed new "Children at Play" signage at Little League fields.
- Removed debris obstructions from storm drains.
- Completed asphalt roadwork on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 53<sup>rd</sup> & 54<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Removed sign poles from Little League area.
- Reset storm water cover at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Trimmed low tree limbs obstructing sidewalk at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street & 25<sup>th</sup> 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 #09, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 55 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 20 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 160 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 2 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 9 meters that were stuck and not recording usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired water breaks at 5819 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5015 Gulfport Boulevard & 6125 Renaldo Way.

## **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**

- Rebuilt/repared three water valves and repaired a/c system on Fire Truck #P17.
- Replaced air charge cooler hose on Sanitation Truck #43.
- Replaced broken grabber belt on Sanitation Truck #41.
- Replaced A/C blower motor and A/C blower wheels on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Replaced tensioner pulley assembly and belt on Streets Department Truck #38.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

With the longer hours of summertime before us, the visions of those home improvement projects start to become a reality. Before you embark on your home improvement project give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements and to help you through the process. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself projects.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

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

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 (727) 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 check their website at [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

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Staff anticipates sending Business License renewal notices out in mid-August. Licenses are good from October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If a license is not renewed by October 1, a 10 percent penalty shall be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent for each month thereafter until it is paid.

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**August 14, 2013 Board of Adjustment:**

V13-13; 5926 Skimmer Point Boulevard South - Variance request to reduce the applicant's waterfront property right-hand side one-third setback requirement by 20.96 feet from 28.13 feet to 7.17 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a boat lift.

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Attorney
- Department Directors
- The Gulfport Gabber
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
- The Tampa Bay Times