



Gulfport Community Update

August 25 - 31, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of **Labor Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

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.

Upcoming Events:

Gulfport's **13th Annual Geckofest** will bring entertainment to the streets during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, August 31. Come face to face with live mermaids, magicians, jugglers, acrobats, fire dancers and more amid thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, 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.

Eat all you can at the **Gulfport Lions Club Labor Day Fish Fry** on Monday, September 2, 4 - 8 p.m. at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. Tickets: \$8 at the door. For more information, please call 321-5717.

Stroll on down to **the First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on September 6, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217.

Do not miss the **AVP Qualification Tournament** on Saturday and Sunday, September 7-8 at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex, 5500 Shore Blvd. S., Gulfport, FL 33707. The qualification format is a Single elimination tournament to qualify the final four (4) teams in the Main Draw tournament in St. Petersburg. Four (4) men's teams and four (4) women's teams will advance from Gulfport Beach to compete in the AVP St. Petersburg Open.

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 for more information.

The **Tangerine Bluesfest** is scheduled for 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, September 28. Visit www.tangerinebluesfest.com or www.so49.org for more information.

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. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.GulfportMA.com or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	124
Officer initiated calls for service	368
Offenses	38
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	30

Significant incidents or calls this week:

On August 20 at the 4900 block of 24th Avenue South, The victim reported that an ex-boyfriend stole her necklace back in May and pawned it. She discovered the theft two weeks ago and he admitted to the theft and promised to give it back. He has not returned the necklace and she wants to prosecute him for the theft.

At approximately 5:01 p.m. on August 20, at the 5700 block of 19th Avenue South, a resident reported that she believed someone siphoned gasoline out of her vehicle overnight. She believed this because, according to her, her dashboard indicated more gas in her tank the day before. The resident only wished to request extra patrol in the alley behind her house.

On August 21, at approximately 3:33 p.m., of the 5700 block of Tangerine Avenue South, a resident who has been on disability since 1998, and has not worked, reported that she received a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating she was employed in 2011 and earned over \$11000.00. The complainant disputed this with the Internal Revenue Service and now a joint investigation into the matter is being conducted with the Gulfport Police.

At approximately 3:12 p.m. on August 22, 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard, the assistant store manager of Family Dollar called to report that 3 female juveniles had stolen soda and then ran into the Save A Lot store. The juveniles were located and confessed to stealing the sodas. The manager decided not to prosecute, but did have all of them trespassed from the store.

Officers conducted a follow up investigation to a previous DUI case at 11:40 p.m. on August 22nd at the 5100 block of 14th Avenue South. Officers were able to locate the driver/suspect of the DUI crash. The blood results for the suspect came back, and it was determined that at the time of the crash, the person was impaired by a chemical substance. The driver was arrested for DUI with serious bodily injury and reckless driving.

At approximately 6:56 p.m., on August 23rd, officers were dispatched to the Family Dollar, 5015 Gulfport Boulevard, in reference to a theft. A black male suspect stole six bottles of body wash and exited the store. A store employee confronted the male upon exiting the store and was able to recover five of the six bottles. The suspect dropped his cell phone on scene when he fled.

At approximately 12:45 a.m., on August 24th, officers responded to O'Maddy's in reference to a female customer that was inside the bar causing a problem. Staff advised that the female had been issued a written trespass prior to this night. Wills was located inside the bar, arrested for trespassing after warning.

At approximately 1:27 p.m., 2600 block of Upton Street, a victim was working in his yard and went inside for a few minutes. During that time someone entered his open garage and stole two bicycles.

At approximately 1:27 p.m., on August 24th, employees of Family Dollar observed a black male with a backpack steal several bottles of Febreze and a can of Lysol and run out of the store. He fell while crossing Gulfport Boulevard and dropped his backpack. The backpack had pictures of him inside it. The investigation is on-going.

At 6:00 p.m., of the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard, a teenager left his \$350 bicycle lying on its side at the Citgo gas station while he shopped inside. When he came out, the bike was gone.

At approximately 12:05 a.m., on August 25th, at 54th Street and 29th Avenue South, Officer Parks attempted to stop a reckless driver. The driver accelerated and immediately lost control, crashing into a yard and destroying a fence. The driver then fled on foot. DNA evidence left behind will soon prove the identity of the offender.

A victim reported at the 5200 block of 14th Avenue South, on August 25 at 1:22 p.m, that someone cut the lock off of her shed and stole her \$300 Honda lawn mower.

A vehicle was stopped, 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard, for speeding and failure to maintain a single lane at 11:30 p.m. on August 25. The driver performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was placed under arrest for driving under the influence. The driver refused to give a proper breath sample.

At 7:30 a.m., On August 26, Officer Randazzo checked on a suspicious vehicle on 49th St with a white male sleeping inside. The male consented to a search of the vehicle which turned up an eyeglasses case full of paraphernalia, pills, and methamphetamine. He was arrested.

At 11:33 a.m., on August 26, at Townshores Buckingham, the victim reported that a male came by her condo and told her she had won a contest so she gave him a check written out for \$1.00 but without the amount written in. He then changed the check to \$9,100 and cashed it in St. Augustine. The investigation is on-going.

A trespassing occurred at the 5000 block of 17th Avenue South at 4:40 p.m. on August 26. A man returned to a house from which officers had given him a written trespass warning earlier. Police were summoned again and officers found the man drinking beer on the screened-in porch. He was arrested for trespassing.

Investigations:

Documented Follow-Ups:	31
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	9
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	4
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	14

Detective Hanh Pham received new leads in reference to the Joy Food Armed Robbery, which occurred in 2008. Detective Pham was provided with information in reference to the location of the possible gun that was allegedly used in the robbery. Detective Pham followed up with the leads by searching a back yard in St. Petersburg. However, the gun was not located.

Detective Embry arrested a suspect for sexual battery that occurred in Gulfport on 08/21/13. Detective Embry will also attempt to locate a suspect involved in dealing in stolen property case he is investigating and arrest her as well. In addition, Detective Embry will continue to investigate his assigned cases.

Officer Motte investigated two grand theft cases, unfortunately there was no follow up information in either case so both cases were suspended. This week Officer Motte also

mediated an altercation preventing a fight from occurring and began going class to class talking with students about crime prevention and how to report a crime at Boca Ciega High School.

Officer Langston conducted a random walk through of the girl's locker room, and noticed several items that were left unsecured. She made contact with the property owners, and notified them of the importance of securing their property while on campus. Officer Langston spoke with a citizen regarding a trespassing concern on school property. She attended the 9th through 12th grade assemblies, and spoke briefly with students. She assisted a student with a theft investigation. She mentored a student regarding the repercussions of delinquent behavior. Officer Langston investigated a suspicious vehicle/person complaint which happened off campus. She also assisted St Petersburg Police Department with an investigation regarding a domestic battery, and possible child neglect complaint.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed the Open case list, stolen bike list, FCIC property entry review and a review of domestic violence follow-ups. She also transcribed 3 taped statements and completed pawn checks on 13 cases with a known suspect or identifiable property.

Marine Unit: The marine unit had its "Police" decals and other agency insignia affixed to it and is deployed at the marina. It is still not registered as we are awaiting the title, so it is prepped for emergency response only at this point.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	21
Supplements reviewed:	55
Public records requests:	29
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	12
Citizens assisted:	30

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Business Tax Receipts: Thinking of starting a new business? Browse the City's website for the "City of Gulfport New Business Checklist". You'll find it at <http://www.mygulfport.us/> under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. If you have any questions regarding business tax receipts, please contact Lisa Giddens at (727) 893-1063.

Business License renewal notices have been sent out to all existing businesses. 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 Beginning in September, code enforcement moves to section 3, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Blvd. to the water and west from 58th Street and 59th Street to the City Limits.

The number of code enforcement cases for July was 288 for a fiscal year to date total of 1,735 cases. The number of citizen complaints for July was 17 for a fiscal year to date total of 149. This represents an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 8.6 percent.

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 <http://www.mygulfport.us/>

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, many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

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/.

Planning and Development

- Site plan application S13-06: 1737 49th Street S., 1743 49th Street S., and adjacent vacant lot.
- Site Plan application S13-07: 2914 Beach Blvd. S. – site plan to rebuild damaged front addition to restaurant and construction of uncovered elevated deck for outdoor seating.
- Site Plan application S13-08: 1219 61st Street S. – site plan for conversion of single family home to office use.

October 9, 2013 Board of Adjustment:

- Variance Request V13-14; 1737 49th Street South, 1743 49th Street South, and adjacent vacant lot; Variance request to reduce the parking requirement by 16 spaces from 46 to 30.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand seven hundred twenty (1,720) gallons of gas, and eight hundred nineteen (819) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy one (71) vessels.

Assisted with sixteen (16) pump-outs evacuating two hundred eighty two (282) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed one transient vessel from Belleview, Florida this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

Staff Activities:

- Removed dock box for repairs on pier six, slip three.
- Installed hasp on pier six, slip thirty, for new slip dock box.

- Repaired gate G on pier six.
- Repaired gate closer on pier three.
- Prepared ice machine for painting.
- Completed pump out maintenance.

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. 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.
- Completed GTV programming schedule and uploaded to website.
- Continued updating and enhancements to City Intranet, City calendar, Job Line, latest news, departmental pages, mobile website, Leisure Services Rec. Center & Library sub-site resources, and maintained mygulfport.us domain. Updated meeting video links on website to reflect new encoder.
- Continued updating City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Continued preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon, and updated event webpage.
- Updated Marina logo to reflect changes per Harbormaster.
- Updated trolley route map for Geckofest and distributed to media outlets.
- Continued preparations for welcome package.
- Met with Parks and Recreation Superintendent and Leisure Services Supervisors to discuss upcoming events.
- Commenced preparations for October Events/Meetings Calendar.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.

Parks

Inspected all parks for repairs.

Replaced couplings and end bracket hangers on fence at Caldwell Park. Painted poles and boxes on dog waste stations and replaced signs at Dog Park.

Replaced flags at Veterans Park and Library. Added sand and repaired nets at volleyball courts on Gulfport Beach. Checked all electric boxes on Beach Boulevard and repaired dock boards behind Coast Guard Auxiliary building at Clam Bayou.

Greased, sharpened, and replaced all blades on mowers. Replaced chains on reel mower at Hoyt field. Replaced new pull start on a line trimmer and a hand held blower.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned casino area, marina area, Neighborhood Center and beach streetscapes. Hand raked around pavilions and benches, and cleared debris from beach.

Mowed Tomlinson Park, Pasadena entrance area, Tangerine Greenways, 55th Street medians, Clymer Park, Clymer Greenways, Senior Center, Library, 28th Street signage area, Veterans

Park, City Complex, Fire Station, 56th Street ditch area, recreation center playing field, Clam Bayou, Wood Ibis Park and the 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 all non-irrigated areas were watered.

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. 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 hours are extending starting in September Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The new September calendar is out with valuable information. Stop by the Senior Center or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us and click the Senior Center link. Like us on Facebook at "Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation." Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 3 p.m. You must be over 50 and a Gulfport resident. Pre-qualification is also needed before use of the pantry. Please bring your Gulfport Picture I.D., a utility bill or bank statement for proof of address and proof of income (SSI) or other. For more information, please see Gail or Rachel at the Center or call 893-1231.

If you are looking to help the Center pantry, items needed at this time are: Peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups, and canned meat. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

If you are over 60 and meet the required criteria, you can get legal assistance from the **Community Law Program** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center at 5501 27th Ave. S. the 3rd Friday of the month. The next session is Friday, August 16. You must call 727-582-7480 to qualify and make the appointment. If you qualify, the legal assistance is free. The Community Law Program is provided by St. Petersburg Attorneys and exists to empower the most vulnerable in our community through pro bono legal representations and assistance and outreach.

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.

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.

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 June schedule at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. The Senior Center currently offers 49 monthly classes for residents over 50 to choose. Membership required.

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.

August beginner & intermediate computer classes are full.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Foundation** announces the purchase and upcoming arrival of **10 new Toshiba laptop computers**. They will come 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 both the Basic and Intermediate Computer Training Courses. The courses are both curriculum based and offer the student a “real world”, Windows-based learning experience. Windows 8 instruction is not offered at this time. Classes will be held at the Center at 5501 27th Ave. S. in Gulfport and start in September. We are pleased to have computer instructor, Anne Marie Pemberton, formerly of NASA for 25 years as the Chief Computer Systems Engineer for NASA Headquarters. Beginner’s classes will be on Tuesdays with the first class starting on September 3rd at 2p.m. Intermediate classes will be on Wednesdays with the first class starting on September 4th. There will be 4 classes per month. These classes will be fee based. Anyone aged 50+ may participate in the classes. Residents of Gulfport will pay \$40.00 for a series of 4 weekly classes. The Non-Resident fee will be \$50.00. Pre-registration for classes is at the Sr. Center at least 7 days before the first classes begin. Proof of age and residency such as a driver’s license and a City water bill is required at enrollment time. Cash or credit card payment will be accepted. Please call 727-893-2237 to enroll for class, or for further information.

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.

Singing Group practice which was held at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center at 5501 27th Ave. S. on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. is cancelled at this time. Once a new volunteer music instructor has been found, we will restart the class. We are also looking for a volunteer accompanist pianist. If you have questions or you are interested, please call Gail at 727-893-2237.

Come learn the top ten MOST IMPORTANT tips for healthy aging. Heidi Crocket from Aging Care Advocates will outline an integrated approach to healthy living, including how discoveries in neuroscience unlock the mystery to why we are able (or not able) to make healthier food and lifestyle choices. “Healthy Aging Tips: Top Ten List” is Wednesday, September 4 at 1:30 p.m.

The 1st Friday Flea is back and you won’t want to miss all the cool stuff you can buy for bargain prices! You can get your special finds on Friday, September 6, 9 a.m. – Noon.

Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$3.00 on Tuesday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Scott O’Berry has an open discussion during the “Coffee Club” on current events, the economy and investing, in a relaxed informal setting on Thursday, September 12 at 10 a.m. Free coffee and doughnuts. Sponsored by Edward Jones. FREE

Thursday, September 12 at 4 p.m. Jaclyn Moore, Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader, will conduct the workshop. Jaclyn will cover basic functions of the Apple iPad. There is limited space available and there is no fee to attend the workshop. Please bring your very own Apple iPad and Apple passwords! You must pre-register with Rachel (727) 893-1231 in order to reserve your spot or for more information. No walk ins.

“Happy Birthday to You” celebrates all birthdays Tuesday, September 17 at 12:00 p.m. A Birthday Party with cake and ice cream for everyone. Whether you are celebrating a September Birthday or not, this party is for you! Provided by Wellcare.

Harmonica Music Celebration is Wednesday, September 18 at 2 p.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Mingle at 1:30 p.m. with appetizers in the Theater Lobby. Celebrate the Harmonica clubs many years making beautiful music. Learn about their story and lifelong friendships! Free McDonalds coupon for every ticket purchased. Tickets: \$3.00.

Free Prostate Cancer Screening (blood test only) is offered at the Center on Friday, September 20 from 1 – 3 p.m. Please call 893-1231 to schedule an appointment. Offered by the J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation.

How important is your quality of life? Find out on Wednesday, September 25 at 1:30 p.m. Workshop provided by Access Community Services.

An Italian Feast and Entertainment are offered during A Night in Italy on Friday, September 27. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and Dance Performance at 7 p.m. by the Italian Folk Dancers. Ticket are \$10.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week’s events):

Sunday, August 18	6 – 7p.m. – Ballroom Dance Lesson with John 7 – 10p.m. – Ellis Hale’s Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 31)
Tuesday, August 20	9 a.m. - Intermediate Tai Chi with Marge (Turnout 24) Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson with Carol Baker 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom lesson 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 54)
Wednesday, August 21	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 156)
Thursday, August 22	9 a.m. - Tai Chi for Beginners (Turnout 21) 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 53)
Saturday, August 24	6 – 11 p.m. – “Gecko Fever” Gecko Ball (Turnout 315)

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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.

There is a Comic Magic Show featuring Cesar Domico scheduled for Thursday, September 26 at 8 p.m. inside the **Catherine Hickman Theater**. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

Sunday, August 18	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 35) 1 – 5 p.m. Birthday Party (Turnout 55) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous (Turnout 12)
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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 (Turnout 6)
Tuesday, August 20	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
Wednesday, August 21	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 9)
Friday, August 23	9 a.m. - Chair yoga 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

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 from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 19, 6 p.m. – *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Abuse.*

Tuesday, August 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, August 21, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 21, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, August 21, 6 p.m., *Gulfport Toastmasters*

Thursday, August 22, 10:30 a.m. – *Summer Story Time*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, August 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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

Thursday, September 12, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners Workshop*: Learn to use & enjoy your new technology. Each session is limited to 15 participants. Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat.

Thursday, September 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Children and teens in grades 1 – 12 will have the chance to create a book and participate in workshops. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 893-1073.

Thursday, September 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club*: Discussion of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Truman Capote, 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.

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: The popular Florida author returns! Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat for this event.

Saturday, September 21 - *Free Family Movie Day*: It's been a long summer, so join us as we resume our monthly program. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Show times are 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

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.

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.

Every Saturday beginning September 14, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*: Participants in grades 1 - 12 will attend workshops and have the opportunity to create a book. The winning book to be published by Trace Taylor Books! Parents welcome to attend. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic August 18-24, 2013:
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,847	596
Sun. 8/18	Library closed	
Mon. 8/19	297	95
Tue. 8/20	335	97
Wed. 8/21	328	105
Thu. 8/22	338	112
Fri. 8/23	296	96
Sat. 8/24	240	76

Recreation Center

The Game room is reserved for a birthday party on Saturday, September 14, 12 - 4 p.m. & Saturday, September 21, 3 – 7 p.m.

Programs, Classes & Activities

The **2013 Summer Recreation Program** ended with one hundred twenty nine (129) children registered

Thirty six (36) children have been registered 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.

Thirteen (13) children have been pre-registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and five (5) 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.

The Tot Time & VPK Program held its Open House on Wednesday morning with seven (7) children in attendance. There is also an Open House scheduled for Wednesday evening from 6-7 p.m.

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Thirty seven (37) Teens are registered for the **2013/14 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.

Staff Activities

John Lapham and Nicole Latragna participated in the ActiveNet Implementation Training via online and phone conference this week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Citizen Assists (Fire)
- 2 Electrical Hazards
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Unconfirmed Structure Fire

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, September 19 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.

Staff Activities:

- Fire Chief James Marenkovic is currently on Vacation. Lt. Adam Poirrier is serving as the Acting Fire Chief until he returns.
- Lt. Huffman attended a Fire Prevention Practices (FFP-1505) class and Lt. Fuchs attended a Fire Origin and Cause (FFP-2610) class at Diversified Fire and Safety located in Gulfport. Both classes are in preparation for upcoming certification exams.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Timothy Burton and Firefighter/EMT Chris Mathis attended a Fire Service Hydraulics (FFP-1301) class at St. Petersburg College. This is a required class to become a certified pump operator with the State of Florida.
- Phillips Healthcare installed updates to both department heart monitors (EKG). The updates completed a countywide upgrade to a new QCPR program. QCPR will allow personnel to get real-time feedback on CPR quality and improve patient outcomes during cardiac arrests.
- A St. Petersburg College EMT student continues to ride with the Gulfport Fire Department as part of the field internship program. The "B-shift" is supervising his development.
- All personnel continue to train on the new ePCR computer system. This advanced system will allow Paramedics to complete Patient Care Reports (PCR's) on a computer in the field as opposed to the current paper reporting system.
- All personnel have completed August CME training in preparation for all Paramedics to recertify in Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). ACLS refers to a set of clinical

interventions for the urgent treatment of cardiac arrest, acute coronary syndrome, stroke, and other life threatening medical emergencies.

- Pinellas County Fire and EMS has allowed the Gulfport Fire Department to use one of their ATV Special Rescue Units for the upcoming Geckofest. This unit will allow crews to safely navigate the large crowds and respond quickly to any emergencies in the downtown area.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Completed yearly termite inspection of Dog Park Building
- Hung pictures in B-Room at the Recreation Center
- Repaired two table legs at the Recreation Center
- Removed broken key from the Kitchen Door at the Senior Center
- Completed errands and trips to Tampa for parts for Garage Supervisor
- Completed monthly pest control on all City Buildings
- Completed air quality testing throughout the Senior Center
- Replaced ballast at the Library

Streets and Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement
- Continued curbside pick-up of bagged leaves
- Delivered commercial and residential recycling bins
- Installed new stop sign and pole at 46th Street & 27th Avenue South
- Cleaned and removed debris from the storm drain at 54th Street & 26th Avenue South
- Removed tree limb blocking the alley at 49th Street & 30th Avenue South
- Completed asphalt roadway work at 57th Street & 25th Avenue South
- Removed large brush and trash pile on 59th Street, between 15th Avenue and 17th Avenue South, per request
- Removed and disposed of dead animal carcasses in the roadway
- Graded and added fill in the alley at 60th Street & 7th Avenue South
- Added fill and set to grade the alley entrance at 59th Street & 11th Avenue South
- Cleaned storm drains along 25th Avenue, from 53rd Street to 57th Street South
- Removed illegal dumping at Osgood Point
- Graded and filled holes in the alley between 57th Street & 58th Street, and between 17th Avenue & 18th Avenue South
- Filled and graded the alley at 58th Street & 30th Avenue South
- Added millings and set to grade alley at 1201 59th Street South
- Repaired, added fill, and graded the alleyway at 1208 61st Street South
- Removed several loads of material from the 49th Street holding area
- Removed and disposed of several loads of debris from the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club Maintenance Building
- Assembled automated trash containers, and recycling containers for Geckofest
- Prepared road closing signs for Geckofest
- Deodorized commercial containers
- Removed tires and old parts from City Garage
- Cleaned truck wash area, and cleared debris from the Yard

- Removed and reset street signs
- Cleaned and removed debris from City storm grates

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 # 45, #46, #47 and #48 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 1 location for non-payment of service
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off
- Completed 87 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department
- Completed 5 Sunshine “One-Call, Call Before You Dig” Utility Locates
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach
- Wet-tapped 6” line and installed new 2” service line connecting to 2820 Dupont Street South
- Repaired water break 5209 14th Avenue South

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service Lift Stations #1 and #2, including (Saturday & Sunday)
- Daily rain fall check and documentation (includes Saturday & Sunday)
- Daily ground water elevation recording (including Saturday & Sunday)
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 and #2
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department / Garage
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Police Station / City Hall
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Senior Center
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5209 16th Avenue South

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed front and rear brake job on Police Vehicle #04
- Performed rear brake job on Sanitation Truck #46
- Repaired packing blade rail and track to keep packing blade from jamming on Sanitation Truck #41
- Replaced electronic shift module in front end loader
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various city vehicles

Distribution:

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