



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 31 - September 7, 2013*

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

Help reduce the pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, September 14 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

**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.

It was a beautiful day for the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Geckofest** on Beach Boulevard on August 31, as the daylong spectacle brought mermaids, magicians, jugglers, acrobats, fire dancers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians to the Waterfront District, creating a circus atmosphere (photos below).



### **Upcoming Events:**

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

Do not miss the **AVP Qualification Tournament** on Saturday & Sunday, September 7 & 8 at the Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex, 5500 Shore Boulevard. 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.

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](http://www.GulfportMA.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com).

Find the perfect conversation piece at **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on September 21, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217.

Plans are underway for the **Keep Gulfport Weird Mini Triathlon** scheduled for Saturday, September 28. The course will incorporate 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.

The **Tangerine Bluesfest** is scheduled for 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, September 28. Visit [www.tangerinebluesfest.com](http://www.tangerinebluesfest.com) or [www.so49.org](http://www.so49.org) for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	149
Officer initiated calls for service	278
Offenses	28
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	32

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

Christopher Allen was arrested for possession of marijuana on the afternoon of August 27 during a traffic stop in the 4900 block of Tangerine Avenue. He was issued a notice to appear in court.

Officers were dispatched to the Family Dollar on the morning of August 28 after two women left the store with merchandise they did not pay for. The tag on the car they were driving was registered to a rental company, and the company provided the renter's information to the PD. An investigation is ongoing.

A woman's Giant Transcend 25-speed bike was reported stolen from a fenced yard in the 5200 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the morning of August 28. The owner was unable to provide a serial number.

Benjamin Langkamp was arrested at his ex-girlfriend's house on the evening of August 29 on an outstanding arrest warrant for 7 counts of felony drug charges.

Officer Obrart was at Palms of Pasadena on August 30 to guard an arrested subject who had to be treated for an illness prior to being transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

The day shift patrol squad responded to BCHS on the morning of August 30 to assist with a fight in progress. Multiple juveniles were arrested.

A resident in the 5600 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that sometime between 1 & 10:30 a.m. August 30, two iPods were stolen from her unlocked vehicle which was parked in her driveway.

A resident in the 2800 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> reported on the afternoon of August 30 that his flat screen TV was stolen from his enclosed porch. Officer Randazzo responded to a suspicious person complaint a short time later regarding two males trying to hide a flat screen TV in a dumpster at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard. The TV was recovered and a suspect has been identified.

Officers were dispatched to the 2900 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of August 31 after a caller reported witnessing a white Mazda strike an unoccupied black Chevrolet Camaro and leave the scene. The witness provided both tag numbers, and officers made contact with the owner of the Camaro. The Mazda has not been located, and the investigation continues.

GPD is investigating a late-reported vehicle burglary in which unknown subjects entered an unlocked vehicle in the 5200 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and took a laptop computer and approximately five dollars in change.

Officers responded to the 1800 block of 57<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of September 2 after a caller reported a man, later identified as Marc Ortiz with a gun. They located his loaded SKS AK-47 assault rifle in a nearby yard. According to victims and witnesses Ortiz had a verbal altercation with another male subject, and retrieved the firearm from his vehicle and made the weapon ready to fire. The victim and witnesses took cover inside the house until police arrived. Ortiz was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and possession of marijuana.

**Investigations:**

Documented Follow-Ups:	25
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	10
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	7

Detective Hanh Pham investigated several Grand Theft Auto cases with negative results. He also spoke to an inmate at the Pinellas County Jail regarding a ten-year-old missing person case and will follow-up with new leads.

Detective Embry attempted to locate Tracy O'Brien, for Dealing in Stolen Property. However, the addresses listed for the suspect did not exist. She was arrested by SPPD on August 31 for Detective Embry's Probable Cause Affidavit.

Officer Motte taught traffic safety and the laws of the road to three Driver Education classes. He also mentored several students and mediated several altercations, preventing fights occurring. On Friday he and Officer Langston arrested five subjects involved in two separate brawls. Three other students received school consequences. Additionally, Officer Motte covered an away varsity football game between Boca Ciega and Pinellas Park.

Officer Langston counseled a student regarding family related concerns and another regarding a past family violence incident, mentored a student regarding his class schedule and future career goals. She also investigated a complaint of a possible emotionally disturbed student, assisted EMS with a medical call that occurred at the school, assisted administrative staff by providing intelligence information related to an incident that occurred off campus involving BCHS students, identified and notified the school of repeat truant students, and checked bicycles at the school, comparing them against the GPD stolen bicycle list. No stolen bicycles were recovered. Additionally, Officer Langston responded to and investigated a fight that occurred after school, and responded to a fight during lunch involving several students.

Analyst Palmisano was out of the office for 20 hours, including Labor Day. She updated the sex predator/offender display in the police lobby, adding a new offender who recently moved to the City.

The Special Enforcement Team (S.E.T.) conducted a 4 hour roundup for the narcotics task force. Four (4) arrests were made for previous transactions that occurred in Gulfport. Additional charges were filed against two of the subjects who were discovered to be in possession of narcotics while being searched.

The new Marine Unit was put into service this week, and Sgt. Burkhart spent time at Gulfport Marina with DeBaylo Marine fitting the new aluminum boat lift to the new boat. Chief Vincent and Sergeant Burkhart worked with Justin Shea and Vice Mayor Dan Liedtke to produce a video introduction for the new boat. The video was published on September 5.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	5
Supplements reviewed:	9
Public records requests:	13
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	28

## **MARINA**

Pumped four thousand four hundred four (4,404) gallons of gas, and one thousand two hundred forty two (1,242) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty four (164) vessels.

Assisted with thirty two (32) pump-outs evacuating six hundred fifty five (655) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

### **Transient vessels:**

Marina staff welcomed 2 28' sailboats, a 25' sailboat 20' motor boat, 24' motorboat, 30' powerboat, 28' powerboat and a 25' powerboat this week.

### **Staff Activities:**

- Pumped water from derelict boats.
- Replaced dock box pier two slip 17.
- Replaced GFI outlet pier three slip 27.
- Completed pump out maintenance.

## **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 September 3 City Council meeting, September 4 Special Budget meeting and September 6 Community Marketing Workshop. Made DVD copies for City Clerk and rebroadcast on GTV.
- Continued updates to City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Directed video footage shoot of new police vessel.
- Providing event support and photographic coverage for AVP Volleyball event on Gulfport beach.

- Commenced design and updating of presentation board for Gulfport Police Department.
- Continued preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon.
- Continued preparations for welcome package and October Events/Meetings calendar.
- Assisted IT Department with daily operations.

## **Parks**

Inspected all parks for repairs.

Inspected electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard in preparation for GeckoFest.

Replaced couplings and end bracket hangers on fence at Caldwell Park.

Repaired dock boards at Clam Bayou and behind Coast Guard Auxiliary building.

Added sand to beach volley ball courts, built new court and repaired net.

Painted dog waste poles & boxes, and replaced signs at Dog Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades, replaced chains on Hoyt Field reel mower and pull starts on line trimmer and hand-held leaf blower.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Casino, Marina area, Neighborhood Center and Beach Streetscapes; trimmed palms at Clam Bayou, hand raked around pavilions and benches, and cleared debris from beach.

Mowed beach area, Marina area, Clymer & Veterans Parks, Senior Center grounds, Library, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Chase block, Scout Hall & Dog Park.

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. 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 welcomes everyone 50 and over 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 a copy of the September calendar or download your copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

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. Classes are open to adults 50 and older. Gulfport residents pay \$40 for a series of 4 weekly classes, and the nonresident fee is \$50; beginner classes are on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and Intermediate classes are on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Proof of age and residency is required at enrollment time. September classes are full, and there are no classes scheduled for October. Call 893-2237 for more information.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

A new **Bring Your Own Computer (B.Y.O.C.) Social Media class** will be offered every Monday at 10 a.m. to help seniors understand social sites like Facebook. Call 893-1231 to Register. Space is limited.

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

Watch a **FREE movie** and enjoy lunch for \$3.00 at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 10.

Join Scott O'Berry for an open discussion of current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed informal setting during the **Coffee Club** sponsored by Edward Jones on Thursday, September 12 at 10 a.m. Free coffee and doughnuts will be served.

Gold Award Girl Scout Project Leader Jaclyn Moore will host a **Basic iPad workshop** at the Senior Center on Thursday, September 12 at 4 p.m. Bring your own iPad and Apple passwords! The workshop is free, but space is limited. Call Rachel at 893-1231 to reserve your spot or for more information. No walk ins.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Celebrate this month's birthdays with cake & ice cream for everyone on Tuesday, September 17 at 12 p.m. Sponsored by Wellcare.

Celebrate the **Harmonica Club's** many years making beautiful music and learn about their story and lifelong friendships on Wednesday, September 18 at 2 p.m. in the Catherine Hickman Theater. Appetizers will be served in the Theater Lobby at 1:30. Tickets: \$3.00. A free McDonald's coupon will be presented with every ticket purchased.

The J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation will offer free **Prostate Cancer blood test screenings** at the Senior Center on Friday, September 20, 1 - 3 p.m. Call 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

How important is your quality of life? Learn to bring new personal satisfaction into your world at the **Access Community Services Workshop** on Wednesday, September 25 at 1:30 p.m.

The Senior Center's annual **Night in Italy** event is scheduled for Friday September 27. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a dance performance by the Italian Folk Dancers in the Hickman Theater. Tickets: \$10, available at the Senior Center.

Want to know more about Hospice? Join Janet Pattison from **Suncoast Hospice** on Monday, September 30 at 2:30 p.m. for free information.

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.

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.

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

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

Monday, August 26	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance (Turnout 112)
Tuesday, August 27	6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 35)
Wednesday, August 28	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 182)
Thursday, August 29	9 a.m. - Tai Chi for Beginners (Turnout 21) 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera

	8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 28)
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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.

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Thursday, September 26, 8 p.m. - *Comic Magic Show* for ages 7 & up featuring Cesar Domico. Tickets: \$20 in advance/ \$25 at the door. For more information call 1-800-838-3006, ext.1.

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

Sunday, August 25	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 13) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Saturday, August 31	2:30 p.m. - Royal Community Church dinner (Turnout 69)

**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, August 27	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
Wednesday, August 28	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 8)
Friday, August 30	9 a.m. - Chair yoga

**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, August 26, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, August 27 - *SCORE Counseling.*

Tuesday, August 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, August 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, August 28, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, August 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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 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 the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

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.

Tuesday, September 24 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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.

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 August 25 - 31, 2013:  
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,834	582
Sun. 8/25	Library closed	
Mon. 8/26	366	107
Tue. 8/27	420	112
Wed. 8/28	324	103
Thu. 8/29	275	96
Fri. 8/30	285	99
Sat. 8/31	142	52

**Recreation Center**

The Game room is reserved for birthday parties on Saturday, September 14, noon - 4 p.m., and Saturday, September 21, 3 - 7 p.m.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Thirty seven (37) for the **2013/14 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. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Twelve (12) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) 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 turned 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.

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

Thirty nine (39) 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**

Alton Hooker opened the Recreation Center on Saturday morning for Cleaning Concepts to clean and wax the VCT tile.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 26 new, 1 closed
- Water payments: 1096 transactions totaling \$206,374.98
- On-Line Water payments: 90 transactions totaling \$9,972.65

- Bright House payments: 11
- Utility Bills Mailed 8/28/13: 1263
- Payroll 8/30/13: 159 transactions totaling \$168,539.97
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 9 totaling \$17,334.19

The City is notifying customers via utility bills of a proposed 12% increase to water, sewer and stormwater rates effective October 1, 2013 and advising of the Public Hearing for second reading of the ordinances.

TRIM notices were mailed by the property appraiser on August 19. The City is proposing a millage rate of 4.039 mills, the same as last year. A Budget Hearing was held on September 4, and a second is scheduled for 7 p.m. September 18 at City Hall.

Administrative Service staff is also preparing Fiscal Year 2014 Budget documents.

Administrative Service staff would like to congratulate Carmen Rodriguez on her promotion to the Payroll-Accounting Technician Position and to Lalanda Little for joining the department. Look for her smiling face at the front counter!

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 56 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Elevator Rescue

### **Life Safety:**

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 Smoke Detector

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

### **Staff Activities:**

- Chief Marenkovic met with South County Fire Chiefs and Pinellas County Emergency Management to discuss updates to Hurricane Evacuation plans and new reporting procedures.
- The Gulfport Fire Department is continues to train on the new ePCR computers. Chief Marenkovic and Lt. Adam Poirrier attended an Administrator QA & Data management training course with Zoll and the County on the usage of software for the new electronic Patient Care Reports.
- Lt. Poirrier taught 6 students Heart Saver CPR and AED training at the Fire Station on September 3. All students passed the course.

- City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a one year agreement with the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners authorizing the Gulfport Fire Department to provide Advanced Life Support First Responder Services. The contract goes into effect on October 1, 2013.
- Inspector Vento completed a final fire inspection on the new sprinkler heads at Boca Ciega Nursing Home. There were no violations.
- Inspector Vento met with manager of PYCC to discussed latest inspection report for clarification items on the report. They discussed options for Standpipe/Sprinkler system and performed a walk-thru of the facility.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Installed flushometer in Senior Center lobby restroom.
- Replaced ballast in boys' restroom at Recreation Center.
- Repaired air conditioning in Public Services building break room and at Casino.
- Repaired closet door in Police Department Lieutenant's office.
- Installed two new "P-Traps" in Senior Center kitchen sinks.
- Installed GeckoFest banner over Gulfport Boulevard.
- Set up Council Chambers for meeting.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Repaired two tables at Recreation Center.
- 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.
- Removed and disposed of debris around stormwater outfall at Beach area and storm drains along Tangerine Avenue greenway & throughout City.
- Assembled, delivered, and set up automated trash containers for GeckoFest, set up recycling containers and posted road closing signage along Beach Boulevard.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at various locations.
- Continued removal of maintenance debris from Pasadena Yacht & Country Club.
- Removed and replaced traffic control device hit by a car near Boca Ciega High School.
- Removed and reset storm drain cover at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Delivered new automated containers for trash.
- Removed street debris, trash and recycling containers following GeckoFest.
- Disposed of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Removed abandoned debris in the roadway along Beach Boulevard.
- Removed debris following Tuesday Fresh Market.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping.
- Removed and disposed of curbside yard waste.

### **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 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non pay recheck to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 100 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Installed 7 new service lines to apartments at 2820 Dupont Street, and cut & capped old 2" service line at 6" water main.
- Repaired water break at 5217 Newton Avenue.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced serpentine belt on Engine #17.
- Performed preventative maintenance and serviced air conditioner on Fire Department Pumper #17.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements. 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).

**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 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.

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 have moved to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area and generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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).