



Gulfport Community Update

September 8 - 14, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

It was a beautiful weekend and the atmosphere was energetic for the **AVP Qualification Tournament** on Gulfport Beach September 7 & 8 (photos below). Four (4) men's & four (4) women's teams advanced to the Main Draw tournament in St. Pete.



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:

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.

Have a beautiful night at the **Second Annual Royal Ball** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, September 14, 7 - 11 p.m. This event includes dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, music, dancing, a cash bar and more. Tickets: \$50. Proceeds benefit Creative Clay Children's Programs. For more information call 686-2317.

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.

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 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	169
Officer initiated calls for service	210
Offenses	41
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	24

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the morning of September 5 that her car was entered through an unlocked door and change was stolen.

Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard on September 5 regarding an expired tag, and discovered that the driver also had a suspended driver license. The driver was issued a criminal citation and released.

On the evening of September 5 a resident in the 5400 block of Jersey Avenue reported a black Mustang drove slowly around the neighborhood several times, and parked down the street. Officers circulated the area but did not find a vehicle matching that description.

On the afternoon of September 6 Sgt. Marotta attempted to stop a stolen vehicle at 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard. The vehicle fled and a brief pursuit ensued. The driver and front seat passenger jumped from the car while it was moving and it crashed into a parked SUV in the 6000 block of 3rd Avenue South. Officer Motte found the driver, Cedric Sanders hiding in a trash can. Sanders, who is on probation for grand theft, was charged with grand theft auto, fleeing and eluding, DWLSR, violation of felony probation, and reckless driving.

A woman came to the Gulfport Police Department on the evening of September 6 to report a fraudulent use of her credit card. She advised that on August 23 her ex-boyfriend took her bank card without her knowledge and rented a U-Haul truck.

Officer Obrart made contact with Harald Fritz at Beach & Shore Boulevards early September 7 and discovered an eyeglass case in his possession containing two needles, a spoon, and a

crushed white pill that he admitted was Dilaudid. He was arrested for possession of paraphernalia.

Officers received a tip from an arrested subject that a person living the 3100 block of 56th Street was growing marijuana in the backyard and that it could be seen from the alley. Officers observed several plants on a table in the backyard and made contact with the homeowner to request permission to search the yard and sheds. He agreed to a search of the yard. Approximately 20 marijuana plants were recovered, and the homeowner was arrested for manufacturing marijuana.

Officers responded to the 2500 block of 54th Street on the afternoon of August 7 after a resident reported two bicycles stolen from his yard. A short time later, a neighbor saw a juvenile in the victim's backyard. One of the stolen bikes was found stashed in the yard and the other was found a few blocks away. The juvenile was arrested for loitering and prowling.

Officer Marshall and Officer Mills attempted to stop a dirt bike at 11th Avenue & 54th Street for speeding, but the driver fled. They did not pursue the vehicle, but the driver later crashed and was charged with multiple offenses after being located in the backyard of a residence in the 6200 block of 15th Avenue.

Officer Horning stopped two suspicious males at 49th Street & 15th Avenue in the early morning hours of September 8. Edward Staples was issued a notice to appear for carrying a concealed knife.

Officer Horning arrested Richard Allen on a warrant for tampering with evidence. Marijuana and a pipe were discovered in Allen's possession while he was being arrested.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 27th Avenue on the morning of September 8 after a woman reported that someone had attempted to steal her vehicle. The windows were broken out and the steering column was torn open. The investigation continues.

Dennis Coble called 911 on the evening of September 8 and told responding officers that he felt he was not paid properly by his part time employer, Gulfport Liquors. When told that the police do not enforce civil matters, Coble then alleged that an employee attacked him in the liquor store. Video surveillance revealed that Coble's claims were untrue and he was arrested for false report of a crime and misuse of the 911 system.

Officers responded to the 2200 block of 49th Street in the early morning hours of September 9 after a caller reported that a man was standing in the parking lot of the Super Gas, which was closed, trying to flag down passing motorists. Police made contact with the man, identified as Samuel Simmons and determined that he had an outstanding arrest warrant for failing to appear in court for burglary and cocaine possession. Simmons was arrested.

Investigations:

New Cases:	17
Cases Assigned:	09
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	02
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	00
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	01
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	05
Cases Rejected back to patrol:	00
Supplements Received:	23
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	02
"Previously" Cleared With Arrest	07
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	01
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	01
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	00

Detective Hanh Pham suspended a Grand Theft Auto case due to lack of leads. He also tried to take Alan Drew Danks into custody for Grand Theft, and covered the school on Monday while Officer Langston was on vacation and Officer Motte was in ACISS training.

Detective Embry investigated a credit card fraud case which he determined to be unfounded. He also met with a suspect involved in a Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property case.

Officer Langston mediated with two students involved in an ongoing dispute, responded to a disturbance call that occurred after school, and investigated two separate thefts of cell phones. In both cases the suspects were identified, and the phones were recovered. She also assisted in an investigation involving an allegation of physical and/or sexual abuse, and is also currently working on a proposal to introduce a peer mentoring program at the school.

Officer Motte mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring, mentored several students, taught a Driver's Ed Class about traffic laws and safety, completed a Baker Act evaluation and covered the home JV football game between Boca Ciega & Dixie Hollins. The game was canceled partway through due to rain and lightning in the area.

Officer Motte investigated a disturbance on campus regarding a possible firearm; however, no firearm was found. Due to heightened tensions between two rival neighborhood groups Officer Motte coordinated with patrol officers to increase their presence around the school. He is working with the SPPD gang unit, since many of the incidents involve students who live in St. Petersburg. There were no reported issues after dismissal on Friday afternoon. Officer Motte also arrested a student for Aggravated Battery on a School Board Employee in which a teacher was hit on the head with a coffee mug after the student was caught cheating on a test.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	23
Supplements reviewed:	95
Public records requests:	21
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	26

MARINA

Pumped two thousand four hundred twenty nine (2,429) gallons of gas, and one thousand ninety seven (1,097) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety five (95) vessels.

Assisted with nineteen (19) pump-outs evacuating two hundred eighty (280) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 31' sailboat and three powerboats this week.

Staff Activities:

- Repaired dock box at fuel pump.
- Replaced light at fish cleaning table.
- Checked boats in dry storage.
- Replaced GFI outlet at ice machine.
- Purchased drinks for resale.

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.
- 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.
- Finalized City Council 2013/14 Events Resolution.
- Finalized City of Gulfport Historic calendar & October Events/Meetings calendar, and sent both to printer.
- Commenced preparations for Historical Society Birthday Bash and confirmed schedule of events.
- Continued design and updating of presentation board for Gulfport Police Department.
- Continued preparations for Keep Gulfport Weird triathlon, and met with Public Safety staff to discuss event.
- Continued work on welcome package.
- Met with Bob Williams regarding event support for Tangerine Bluesfest.
- Met with Gulfport Neighbors Vice-President to discuss beach cleanup event.
- Provided audio and visual technical set up for movie day at Senior Center.

Parks

Inspected all parks and equipment for repairs: and repaired fence rail at Wood Ibis Park and fence post at Clam Bayou, replaced flex stick at north Wood Ibis Park entry and unblocked fountain drain lines at Tomlinson & Clam Bayou Parks.

Added sand to volleyball courts and tilled.

Recessed plaque on tennis court northeast bench.

Replaced GFCI receptacles at C&D at 3100X, 3037X and 2913X.

Replaced 2099X Beach Boulevard outlet, hot wire, timer & receptacle.

Replaced bulbs and photo sensor at Pinellas Trail/49th Street Welcome sign.

Greased mowers, sharpened blades, and replaced bump heads on line trimmers.

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

Mowed Clymer, Tomlinson, Caldwell, Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, Tangerine Greenway, Lake & signage area, 14th Avenue median, Pasadena entrance area, Recreation Center field, Neighborhood Center, City complex and Hoyt perimeter.

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 invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation has ordered 10 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 **Neighborhood 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.

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.

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.

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

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 49th 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.

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.

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.

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.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, September 1	Noon - Wedding reception (Turnout 43)
Tuesday, September 3	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 17)

	1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 11) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 32)
Wednesday, September 4	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 173)
Thursday, September 5	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 39)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Sunday, September 22 & 29	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

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Friday, September 6, 6 p.m. - Senior Center Summer Artists Reception (Turnout 30)

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, September 1	9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 20) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Thursday, September 5	2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 31)

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, September 3	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
Wednesday, September 4	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class
Friday, September 6	10 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 and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, September 3 - *Representative Young's Community Outreach.*

Tuesday, September 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, September 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, September 4, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, September 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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 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, 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 September 1 - 7, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,616	501
Sun. 9/1	Library closed	
Mon. 9/2 (Holiday)	Library closed	
Tue. 9/3	309	112
Wed. 9/4	321	101
Thu. 9/5	381	104
Fri. 9/6	311	95
Sat. 9/7	252	71

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, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Forty Two (42) 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

Welcome to new Tot Time Recreation Leader Kimberly Titara.

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Nolan Slone volunteered at the AVP Tournament last weekend.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

Account Activity (Water and/or Marina):	22 new, 0 closed
Water payments:	1581 totaling \$201,004.60
On-Line Water payments:	105 transactions totaling \$14,236.23
Bright House payments:	18
Utility Bills Mailed 9/11/13:	1260
Accounts Payable 9/6/13	288 transactions totaling \$119,363.66
Mail processed 9/5/13:	384 pieces totaling \$447.02
Purchasing Cards report:	231 transactions totaling \$35,910.42

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 0 C.O.'s

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:

- The Gulfport Fire Department C-19 Panasonic Toughbooks were reconfigured by the County with the new Zoll Data Management Console software for electronic Patient Care Reports.
- The Fire Department staffed a Special Rescue Unit for the two day volleyball event on September 7 & 8. The vehicle was on loan from the County.
- Chief Marenkovic and Bob Williams met with staff to discuss the upcoming mini triathlon and Blues fest on September 28. CERT is participating in the operation of the event.
- Gulfport Fire personnel continue St. Petersburg College 2013 Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Refresher training this week. All Pinellas County Fire Departments are due for recertification between September & November.
- Inspector Vento met with the Most Holy Name Coordinator to discuss details in preparation for the October Fall Festival.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced filters on all City AC units.
- Repaired broken fencing in Neighborhood Center storage area.
- Repaired air conditioner unit at Casino.
- Set up Council Chambers for workshop.
- Repaired sink in Neighborhood Center kitchen.
- Met with new cleaning company.
- Repaired chair in Police Department Records room.
- Lowered and raised American Flags for 9/11 remembrance.
- Picked up vehicle in Tampa following repairs for Garage Supervisor.
- Replaced outside light fixture on Street Department Building.
- Cleared blockage from men's room toilet at Dog Park.
- 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 illegal dumping and curbside yard waste.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at various locations.
- Delivered new automated containers for trash.
- Replaced broken automated containers
- Added fill & graded alley at 50th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Delivered recycling & garbage containers for Volleyball event, and removed following event.
- Added sand to Volleyball Courts and set grade.
- Removed large branch from roadway per Police Department request.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Cleaned beach, and removed debris following weekend Volleyball Event.
- Completed parking lot work at Marina.
- Removed & disposed of several loads of City-generated debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Disposed of old tires from City Garage.
- Replaced 300 gallon automated containers at Boca Ciega High School.
- Unloaded shipment of automated containers.
- Raised granite curbing along 58th Street.

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 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 14 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 103 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.

- 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.
- Watered new sod on drainage swale at 52nd Street terminus.
- 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.
- Installed new cleanout, and cleaned & televised sewer lateral at 5521 21st Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced rear brakes and one rear slack adjuster on Recycle Truck #40.
- Removed main boom from bucket and replaced bucket hydraulic cylinder on Lightning Loader #29.
- Replaced injector oil pressure regulator on GEMS Bus #11.
- Replaced A/C blower motor on Parks Department Vehicle #85.
- Replaced tie rod ends on Fire Truck #P17.
- 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.

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 continue in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area and generally extends south from Gulfport Blvd. to the water and west from 58th Street and 59th Street 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.