



Gulfport Community Update

September 15 - 21, 2013

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Municipal Marina was host to St Petersburg Yacht Club last weekend. The Club visited Gulfport Marina and downtown waterfront district for its restaurants, bistro's pubs and live entertainment. Ten vessels between 35' & 50' arrived on Friday evening (photo below). Other club members arrived by car and were transported via the City's trolley in conjunction with third Saturday Gallery Art walk. The Marina and downtown waterfront are popular destinations, with additional boating clubs and yacht clubs booking a year in advance for their annual itinerary cruises. For more information on guest docking facilities contact Marina Director Denis Frain at 893-1071 or email dfraim@mygulfport.us.



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.

Plan early and sign up your Gulfport address for the **Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Applications are available at City Hall, Gulfport Library or online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. Applicants can also email addresses to jshea@mygulfport.us. A confirmation email will be sent. Deadline for registration is October 25. For more information call 893-1118. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application.

Upcoming Events:

Cheer on your favorite athlete during the **Keep Gulfport Weird Mini-Triathlon** on Saturday, September 28. Check-in for registered participants begins at 6 a.m. and the race begins at 7 a.m. For more information call 893-1118 or 893-1066.

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.

Eat all you can at the **Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner** at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive on Saturday, October 5, at 4 p.m. Admission \$7 at the door. For more information call 321-5717.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, October 12 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

Experience a traditional Gulfport event at the **103rd Gulfport Birthday Bash** at the Gulfport Historical Museum, 5301 28th Avenue South on Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy our famous mullet toss, trolley tour, pet parade, photo contest, and free cake! For more information call 893-1118.

Enjoy an evening of **Gulfport: Under the Stars** with the Gulfport Historical Society at the Gulfport Historical Museum on Saturday, October 12 at 6 p.m. This sit-down dinner celebrating the City's heritage will feature live entertainment and dancing. For more information, email dreamsfloat@me.com.

The **Most Holy Name Oktoberfest** is scheduled for Thursday - Sunday, October 17 - 20, at 5800 15th Avenue. Enjoy rides, games, food & drink, dancing and entertainment. Call 344-2744 for more information.

Join the **Gulfport Neighbors; "Day of Caring & Sharing: Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck"** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday October 19, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring gently used items to swap, sell, give away or junk. Enjoy a cup of coffee during "Java with Josh" (Lt. Joshua Stone), and register you or your child's bike with the Gulfport Police Department. For more information call 893-1118.

Volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. - noon. Clam Bayou Nature Park is located at the corner of 29th Avenue & Miriam Street. For more information call 893-1066.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

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| Dispatch calls for service | 197 |
| Officer initiated calls for service | 176 |
| Offenses | 53 |
| Arrests | 8 |
| Traffic citations | 22 |

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Two vehicle burglaries in the 6200 block of 13th Avenue were reported on the morning of September 19: In the first, a caller reported that her unlocked car was entered and items thrown around, but nothing appeared to have been taken. The second caller reported that her unlocked car was entered, and approximately \$3.00 in change was stolen.

An employee of Gulfport Montessori School reported on the afternoon of September 19 that a laptop she left at the school during summer break was missing.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 26th Avenue on the afternoon of September 19 after an elderly caller advised that she was missing money from her wallet. The caller stated that she had never been without her wallet, lives alone and nobody had access to her house. She advised that she lost her purse in her house but found it shortly thereafter. The caller is known to misplace items and report them to police as stolen.

Officers responded to the 5400 block of 11th Avenue on the evening of September 19 regarding a fight between elderly brothers. Both parties said it started over living arrangements for their mother, and both had witnesses who said the other one started the physical altercation. There were no independent witnesses and the brothers do not reside together. No arrest was made on scene. The case was sent to the State Attorney's Office.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard in the late evening hours of September 19 regarding a female hiding in the bushes from her boyfriend. Officers located the female, and shortly thereafter found the boyfriend. After an investigation, officers determined that no battery occurred. The female who was very intoxicated claimed that her boyfriend ran over her foot. Surveillance video of the area where the incident allegedly took place did not match the victim's story.

A caller in the 6300 block of 11th Avenue reported on the morning of September 20 that her unlocked car was entered, and her purse containing \$400 in gift cards and several credit cards was stolen. Another caller in the 6300 block of 11th Avenue reported a short time later that their unlocked car was entered, but nothing appeared to be missing.

GPD received a complaint of a barking dog in the 5100 block of 27th Avenue on the evening of September 20. When officers arrived on scene they were unable to locate a barking dog, but spoke with a resident and a neighbor who stated their dog had barked while playing a game of fetch. They were advised of the complaint.

Officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of 49th Street on the evening of September 20 after a caller advised that she was she was robbed by two black males while walking home from Gulfport Liquors. One suspect grabbed the victim from behind while the other took her backpack and iPod. The victim attempted to fight back and chased the suspects. Video surveillance was obtained from the area, but the suspects have not yet been located.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 28th Avenue early September 21 after a caller reported a male subject on the ground. The subject was very intoxicated. Once it was determined he had no medical issues, he was transported home and left in the care of his roommate.

Probable cause affidavits have been issued for Douglas Klinger McGraw for theft and dealing in stolen property after a family member reported McGraw entered her home without permission using a key, and stole several items from the garage which were later pawned.

Officers made contact with a resident in the 700 block of 60th Street on the evening of September 21 regarding two gunshots heard by multiple parties. They were unable to determine the origin of the shots, but two rounds of ammunition, one spent and one live were found.

Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of 56th Street on the afternoon of September 22 regarding a domestic altercation and found a male in the street screaming and acting in a belligerent manner. He refused to comply to their verbal commands. When officers attempted to take him into custody he continued to resist their efforts, and an officer used his Taser to stun

the male, enabling him to be taken into custody without further incident. He was charged with disorderly intoxication and resisting without violence.

An elderly man driving a pickup truck apparently had a medical issue that caused him to lose consciousness and cross the center line in the 800 block of 64th Street on the afternoon of September 22, resulting in a head-on collision with another vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle was not injured but both cars sustained significant damage. The elderly man remains in the hospital with serious injuries but is in stable condition. Officers conducted a DUI investigation on the not-at-fault driver who was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence. He provided breath samples (0.22 and 0.218) and voluntarily provided blood samples.

Officers responded to the 6200 block of Vista Verde Drive West at the request of a male resident who advised a woman would not let him out of his room. She did not reside at this location and while the officers were trying to sort things out, she produced a large Ziplock bag containing 10 large marijuana cigarettes. The male admitted that he had purchased the marijuana and planned to share it with his friends. Both subjects were issued Notices to Appear for possession.

Police made contact with the a resident of the 5200 block of 9th Avenue on the evening of September 22 after receiving a Crime Stoppers tip indicating that a dog at the home was being abuse or neglected. The owner allowed the officer to see the dog, which was very friendly and appeared to be in good health with no visible injuries. The dog had adequate shelter, food and water.

Several vehicle owners in the 5800 block of 26th Avenue reported on the morning of September 24 that their vehicles were burglarized: In the first, the owner reported that his vehicle was entered and an interior handle was broken, but nothing appeared to have been taken. The second caller reported set of headphones, a pocket knife and loose change were missing from his unlocked vehicle. The third caller reported that her car was entered and items were moved around inside the glove box, but nothing appeared to have been taken. The fourth caller reported that his unlocked vehicle was entered, and approximately \$5 in change was taken.

A resident in the 6200 block of 8th Avenue reported that her water bill skyrocketed from \$50 in a month to over \$700. She believes that a contractor working on a nearby house may have used her hose without her permission.

Officers were dispatched to the area of 9th Avenue & 49th Street on the evening of September 24 after a woman advised a 911 operator that she saw a boy "checking out" another boy with a gun. The caller hung up and the call back number was invalid. Officers circulated the area with negative contact.

Officers initiated a welfare check at a home in the 1000 block of 59th Street after an anonymous caller notified the Florida Abuse Hotline that someone was abusing a young girl. Officers conducted an investigation, and it appears the girl is well cared for and not abused in any way.

Matthew Barbush was arrested for trespass after warning in the early morning hours of September 25 after he entered his former girlfriend's home uninvited, through an unlocked door while in an intoxicated state. Barbush was issued a written trespass on August 26.

Officers responded to a report of a deceased person at a home in the 5900 block of Shore Boulevard on the morning of September 25. A 76 year-old male was pronounced dead of apparent natural causes.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office requested officers check a residence in the 5800 block of 13th Avenue for a person with a violation of probation-DUI warrant. Christopher Wilson was located and arrested for the outstanding warrant.

A resident in the 2200 block of Premier Drive reported on the afternoon of September 25 that his girlfriend's white 2013 Kia Optima was stolen from their driveway sometime between September 24 & 25. The car was unlocked and the key may have been inside when it was

taken. Later that afternoon a resident in the 2500 block of Premier Drive reported that their vehicle appeared to have been ransacked. The storage compartments were left open and all the contents removed. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Officers were flagged down by a security guard at the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 51st Street who reported that a juvenile stole with a motorized shopping cart from a parking lot and was heading to another business. The juvenile was released to his mother and charges have been filed with the State Attorney's Office.

Officers received a late-reported vehicle burglary on the evening of September 25. A resident in the 5800 block of 24th Avenue reported that sometime between September 23 & 24 two unlocked vehicles were entered by unknown subjects. Small change was taken from inside one of the two.

Officers were dispatched early September 26 regarding a domestic battery. The victim advised that the battery started at Sink the Ink Tattoo Parlor in St. Pete, then progressed to The Stinger Bar, ending in the 5100 block of 24th Avenue. The victim was punched in the face several times.

Investigations:

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| New Cases: | 13 |
| Cases Assigned: | 5 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 4 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 1 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 2 |
| Cases referred back to patrol: | 1 |
| | |
| Supplements Received: | 21 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |
| "Previously" Cleared With Arrest | 4 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 1 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 1 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 2 |
| Cases Still Active: | 13 |

Detective Hanh Pham conducted a follow-up investigation into a theft of a bicycle and interviewed suspect Raymond Bynes, who sold the bicycle at a local pawn shop. Bynes admitted to taking the bicycle, claiming he thought it was abandoned property because it was left in an alley. After further investigation, Bynes agreed to compensate the victim for money he had to pay to the pawn shop to get his bike back. No charges will be filed against Bynes because the victim did not wish to prosecute. The case was exceptionally cleared. Detective Pham also investigated a couple of fraud cases with very few leads.

Detective Embry attempted to locate a suspect identified in a burglary case he is investigating, and continued investigating assigned cases.

Officer Motte mentored several students, mediated several altercations preventing fights from occurring, and detained one student but referred the charge to the school in place of an arrest. He also investigated three thefts this week; two at Boca Ciega High and one at Gulfport Elementary and located a suspect in all three cases. In one case, the property was returned the victim who declined prosecution so but the case was exceptionally cleared. The suspect is known and in the other two cases and will be arrested after the investigation is complete.

Officer Langston investigated a narcotics violation in which a strong odor of marijuana was present throughout a classroom. Students were searched with the assistance of an administrator, but no narcotics were located. She responded to a disturbance on campus after school and prevented a fight occurring. The students involved received school consequences.

She also responded to several disturbances throughout the week assisting in deterring fights. Officer Langston assisted Child Protection Investigator Mootz with an investigation alleging the neglect/abuse of a BCHS student. The accusation was determined to be unfounded. She also assisted SPPD with the attempted recovery of a missing student. The student was not present at school throughout the week. Additionally, Officer Langston provided mediation, counseling, and mentoring to several people throughout the week; spoke with a citizen who voiced her concerns regarding a friend's son who she stated was always truant, and offered the friend advice on steps that could be made to further assist the son; counseled with a school mentor regarding a reoccurring conflict between students; provided mediation with a parent and her daughter regarding ongoing disciplinary concerns, and; provided security coverage for the varsity football game at BCHS versus Osceola H.S.

Analyst Palmisano completed pawn checks regarding a reported larceny and identified three additional items that were pawned but had not yet been reported stolen. She continued searches of the pawn databases in an attempt to identify and/or locate additional stolen items, and has also started an analysis of a series of vehicle burglaries occurring.

Records Section

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| Reports reviewed: | 16 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 113 |
| Reports disseminated: | 29 |
| Public records requests: | 17 |
| Bike registrations: | 2 |
| Fingerprints: | 4 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 9 |
| Citizens assisted: | 25 |

MARINA

Pumped one thousand nine hundred twenty (1,920) gallons of gas, and one thousand one hundred thirty three (1,133) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty six (86) vessels.

Assisted with twenty nine (29) pump-outs evacuating four hundred ten (410) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed 7 powerboats and two sailboats this week.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. 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.

- Uploaded GTV programming schedule to website.
- Met with Gulfport CERT team and volunteers to discuss positioning for Triathlon.
- Continued preparation for Historical Society Birthday Bash & Gulfport Under the Stars events.
- Providing event support and assistance for Tangerine Bluesfest.
- Assisting Gulfport Neighbors with upcoming event logistics and production of welcome packages.
- Met with Bob Williams and Leisure Services supervisors to discuss upcoming events.
- Attended Volunteer Luncheon meeting, reviewed event logistics with staff, and commenced development of printed program.
- Commenced planning and preparation of Tree City USA recertification.

Parks

Assisted Community Development with envelope stuffing during heavy rain events this week.

Reset power in pavilion #6.

Inspected parks for repairs; replaced 2 fence rails & repaired south dune bench at Clam Bayou and beach playground east gate.

Removed Skate Park grinding box and painted over graffiti on asphalt.

Cleaned gutters on metal structure over shop storage bay.

Trimmed & mowed ball fields and dragged infield clay.

Sanded, coated and painted green metal bench outside Library reading area.

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and changed oil on maintenance equipment.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Tangerine Greenway in preparation for Bluesfest, continued picking up debris in all parks.

Mowed Senior Center/Theater grounds, Library grounds, Veterans, Chase & Caldwell Parks, Pasadena entrance and 56th Street drainage area.

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:

- Confirmed materials needed for fencing, blocking areas for Bluesfest and Triathlon.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied
- Worked on CIP projects for Beach area, benches, picnic tables, cigarette receptacles and bike racks.
- Replaced lights at Williams Pier.

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 **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.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South.

The Senior Center'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.

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 Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center is offering **Flu & Pneumonia shots** on Tuesday, October 1, 1 - 3 p.m. Medicare recipients are asked to bring their Medicare cards, and HMO/Medicare Advantage recipients should bring insurance cards. For non-insured members the Flu vaccine will be \$30, and the Pneumonia vaccine \$80. This service is provided by Sarasota Health Care Services, Inc. For more information, call 941-924-0347.

Join LBC Analysis Operations Director Debi McArthur at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 2 as she reveals revolutionary new approaches to maximizing one's lifestyle and health through diet, supplements & exercise at the **Life is in the Blood** seminar. Debi will introduce a sneak peek at Blood Optimizer, the world's first mobile nutritional live blood cell analysis clinic, and the new high definition visual analysis of an individual's live blood cells.

Visit the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center **First Friday Flea Market** on October 4, 9 a.m. - noon to find your perfect item. We have jewelry, art, household items, small furniture, knick knacks and more all at bargain prices. Please bring a canned good or two for the Senior Center lobby's "bucket of love" for local seniors in need.

The **Eden Homecare Partnership Caregiver Workshop** will offer a 4 week course at the Senior Center beginning Friday, October 4, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., assisting care partners including family, friends, neighbors, volunteers and home care professionals. See aging, care, and living with different abilities through new eyes. The workbook for the course is \$20. For more information or to register, call Mel Coppola at 547-7000.

Bongo Bob will perform **Songs for the Pantry** Monday, October 7 at 2:30 p.m. Bob will entertain you with great music and bongos, all for the price of items or a small grocery gift card for the Center Pantry.

Movie Day at the Snack Bar is Tuesday, October 8 at 11:30 a.m. Watch a FREE movie and get a great deal on lunch for \$3.00!

Celebrate with us! It's the **Senior Center's 30th Birthday** and we're celebrating with a sock hop, a photo booth and munchies provided by Brentwood on Wednesday, October 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Test your skills and challenge your mind at the **Puzzle Pages** at 11 a.m. Friday, October 11. Learn how to play Sudoku, Binairo and so much more! Prizes provided. From the Puzzle Pages!

Happy Birthday to You! Celebrate this month's birthdays with cake & ice cream for everyone on Tuesday, October 15 at 12 p.m. Sponsored by Wellcare.

Get your golfers duds ready for the **Duffers Ball** at the Historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom n Friday, October 18 from 7 - 11 p.m. Enjoy a *Duffers Duds* costume contest, live music by *Double M Band*, 3-hole golf putting contest, fun and prizes. Tickets: \$20, available at the Senior Center and Beach Bazaar. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation. For more information call 592-1933.

HCA Health will host a **Breast Cancer Awareness Month discussion** at 2:30 p.m. Monday October 21, 2:30 p.m.

Safely dispose of your outdated and unused medication during **Prescription Drop off Day** at the Senior Center on Tuesday, October 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It's **Save for Retirement Week** and open discussion is provided by Scott O'Berry from Edward Jones on Wednesday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m.

The **Blood Pressure Clinic** will offer free screenings in the Theater lobby on Thursday, October 31, 10 a.m. - noon.

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. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

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.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

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.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

Casino (last week's events):

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| Sunday, September 15 | 7 p.m. - City Social (Turnout 20) |
| Tuesday, September 17 | Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 15) 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 18 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 178) |
| Thursday, September 19 | 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 24) |
| Friday, September 20 | 7 p.m. - The Original IMPACS <i>Band Rock - Roll 'N' Remember</i> (Turnout 300) |

Casino (Upcoming Events):

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| Sunday, September 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 |

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| | 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)

Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 a.m. - Magic Show photo shoot & rehearsal.

There are no events scheduled for the **Catherine Hickman Theater** next week.

Neighborhood Center (Last week's events):

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| Sunday, September 22 | 9:30a.m.- Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Services (Turnout 18) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous |
| Thursday, September 19 | 7 p.m. - Kipps Colony Homeowners meeting (Turnout 5) |

Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):

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|----------------------------|---|
| 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):

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday - Friday | 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting |
| Tuesday, September 17 | 11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10) |
| Wednesday, September 18 | 10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 13) |
| Friday, September 19 | 10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5) |

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, September 16, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, September 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, September 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, September 18, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, September 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Discussion* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*, facilitated by Dave Mather.

Friday, September 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, September 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Saturday, September 21, 11 a.m. - *Youth Book Writing Workshop & Contest*.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, October 1, 9 a.m. - *Community Outreach*: A staff member from Congressman C.W. Bill Young's office will provide information and solicit questions and concerns from the public.

Thursday, October 3, 1 p.m. - *Medicare/Affordable Care Act Q&A session*: How will the Affordable Care Act affect me and my family? Bring your questions to this informational session and open discussion forum.

Tuesday, October 8, 4 p.m. - *Manatees in Florida*: Informational program presented by Save the Manatee Club of Maitland. For all ages. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Turn of the Screw* by Henry James over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, October 19 - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two movies with popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends beginning at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Tuesday, October 28 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *After-School Club*: New activity club for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 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 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 15-21, 2013:

Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,857 | 570 |
| Sun. 9/15 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 9/16 | 270 | 100 |
| Tue. 9/17 | 354 | 89 |
| Wed. 9/18 | 253 | 94 |
| Thu. 9/19 | 368 | 113 |
| Fri. 9/20 | 337 | 96 |

Recreation Center

The game room was rented for a birthday party on Saturday, September 21, 3 - 7 p.m. with 55 in attendance.

The game room is reserved Saturday, September 28, 1 - 6 p.m. for a baby shower.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty eight (38) children are registered 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: Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty (50) 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

| | |
|---|--|
| Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): | 14 new, 0 closed |
| Water payments: | 1,032 totaling \$128,961.98 |
| On-Line Water payments: | 66 transactions totaling \$11,394.46 |
| Bright House payments: | 12 |
| Utility Bills Mailed 9/25/13: | 1276 |
| Accounts Payable 9/20/13 | 765 transactions totaling \$873,251.31 |
| Mail processed 9/20/13: | 702 pieces totaling \$903.81 |

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 28 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert

- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 2 Gas Leak
- 2 Wires Down

Life Safety:

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 1 C.O.'s

The CERT Team will provide public safety/crowd control. Volunteers will meet at the church at Gulfport & Beach Boulevards at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, September 28. The event will last approximately 90 minutes.

CERT meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, October 17 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.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Repaired men's restroom toilet in employee area at City Hall.
- Set up Council Chambers for AFLAC Representative/employee meetings.
- Completed maintenance on east Casino air conditioning unit.
- Replaced toilet seat in men's handicap stall at beach restroom.
- Painted over graffiti in ladies beach restroom.
- Replaced motion detector light at Historical Building.
- Picked up City vehicle in Tampa following repairs for Garage Supervisor.
- Replaced ballast in storage area at Fire Department.
- 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.
- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers replaced broken containers.
- Trimmed and removed low-hanging tree limbs over the roadways on 58th & 60th Streets and 11th Avenue.
- Repaired damaged "BluesFest" banner.
- Trimmed palm tree obstructing stop sign on 52nd Street.
- Removed debris from several storm drain grates throughout City.
- Filled and repaired multiple potholes on 57th Street.
- Unloaded new palette shipment of cold asphalt patch.
- Removed palm tree obstructing roadway following inclement weather.

- Barricaded corner of 53rd Street & 20th Avenue due to heavy flooding.
- Relocated recycling bins from Beach area to Tangerine Greenway in preparation for BluesFest.

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 45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 36 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 77 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locate.
- Replaced 2 water meters that were stuck and not recording usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.

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.
- Cleaned, televised & repaired sewer lateral damaged by “Plumber” at 1008 54th Street.
- Monitored and ran lift stations manually during heavy rain to avoid sewer overflow.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced starter and motor mounts on Sanitation Truck #43.
- Replaced main boom swivel cylinder on Lightning Loader #29.
- Repaired DPF exhaust system on Recycle Truck #40.
- Repaired air leak on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced ESIM pump and vapor evaporative system detector on Police Vehicle #102.
- 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.

Business 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 Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits. Beginning in October, Code Enforcement moves to Section 4, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets South.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for August was 328 for a fiscal year to date total of 2,063 cases. The number of citizen complaints for July was 13 for a fiscal year to date total of 162. This represents an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.9 percent.

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.

Planning and Development

September Site Plans

- 1737 49th Street, 1743 49th Street South and adjacent vacant lot - construction of discount retail store. AWAITING SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS FROM APPLICANT.
- 2914 Beach Boulevard - Site Plan to rebuild damaged front addition to restaurant and construction of an uncovered elevated deck for outdoor seating. APPROVED.
- 1219 61st Street - Site Plan for conversion of single family home to office use. APPROVED.

October 2, 2013 Planning & Zoning Board and October 15, 2013 City Council/CRA meeting:

Review of an ordinance allowing for package liquor stores with restrictions, as conditional uses in the Waterfront Redevelopment District.

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 for the construction of a discount retail store.
- Variance Request V13-15; 6111 Pasadena Point Boulevard; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 8'-4" from 25' to 16'-8" for the proposed construction of an uncovered lower landing and stairs which are part of the front entry into the proposed single family house.