



Gulfport Community Update

February 9-15, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

It's easy to get your Gulfport address on the brochure for the March 8 **Citywide Yard Sale**: Fill out a form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South or the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue, or print a form online at www.mygulfport.us/yardsale. Deadline for submission to get on the brochure is 4 p.m. Friday, February 28 so dig into the garage, closet or shed and get rid of all that stuff you haven't used for a year or more! For more information call 893-1118.

The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard every Thursday through March 29. The Club's adventures take them through many Gulfport and Pinellas County parks. Everyone walks at their own pace, so feel free to do a mile or five. For more information call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079.

Upcoming Events:

Dance the night away at the Gulfport Casino **Valentines Dance** on Friday, February 14, 8 - 11 p.m. Enjoy live music by the Encore IV 17-piece big band. Tickets: \$15 at the door. For more information call 893-1070.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & 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 every Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email gulfportmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com.

Join the Gulfport Garden Club at the Library on Thursday, February 20 at 1 p.m. for **Coyotes in Urban Habitats: How They Adapt & Survive** presented by Lara Miller of the Pinellas County Extension Service.

Come out to the **Tenth Annual Get Rescued** animal rescue festival and fundraiser on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. This free admission popular event represents as many as 60 animal rescue groups from throughout the region and is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state, with all profits benefitting participating non-profit rescue groups. Additionally, animal-related vendors, artists and crafters offer their wares to festival-goers. Pet-related activities will include a pet parade with domestic and adoptable pets, pet care education, pet services, a pet food and supplies drive, free samples, training demos, canine massage, food, music & games. Well behaved pets and their leashed people are welcome! For more information call 322-5217 or email SuzFest@gmail.com.

The **Get Rescued Evening Celebration** follows at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard, and will include dancing with music by The Hot Tub Club. Proceeds will be donated to rescue groups participating in the evening event. Free catered hors d'oeuvre, cash bar, fresh flowers and festive décor will add to the party atmosphere. Opportunity drawings will take place during the evening. Live and silent auctions will offer a chance to support non-profit rescue groups with a variety of items up for bid including travel, hotel stays, art, wine & food, pet accessories, restaurant gift certificates and much more. Rescue groups solicit their own items and will receive 100% of proceeds from their auctions. Tickets: \$20, available at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard or Domain Home Accessories, 3129 Beach Boulevard or by calling Lynda Shehan at 323-3892.

Join the Gulfport Lions Club for a traditional **Shrimp Boil** on Saturday, March 1, 4 - 8 p.m. and get a half-pound of peel & eat gulf shrimp, homemade hushpuppies & slaw for \$9. BYOB. The Lion's Den is located at 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information or to volunteer call 327-2100.

Enjoy live music while perusing the arts, shops, restaurants and more during **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 7. For more information call 322-5217.

Celebrate 10 years with our sluggers at **Gulfport Little League Opening Day** on Saturday, March 8. The parade begins at Shore & Beach Boulevards at 10 a.m., followed by opening ceremonies and league games at Lum Field, 1820 55th Street.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 for **Municipal Election Day**. For more information visit www.mygulfport.us/electioninformation.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. - noon. Snacks will be provided to dedicated volunteers! Call 893-1118 for more information..

Stroll down to **Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. March 15. For more information call 322-5217.

Looking for some unique nautical gear? The **Nautical Flea Market** at the Gulfport Marina will offer a variety of items for sale on Saturday, March 22, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10x10 vendor spaces will be available for free to slip renters, and \$10 for non-slip renters. Bring your own table. The Gulfport Marina is located at 4630 29th Avenue. For more information call 893-1071.

Enjoy a day of fun at the first ever **Gulfport Historical Society Hootennany** on Saturday, March 29. The schedule of events includes: A boys vs. girls Scavenger hunt at the Museum beginning at 3 p.m. followed at 5:30 by a Texas-style picnic dinner with local celebrity bar tenders offering beer and wine for donation. The Urban Gypsies take the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance at Beach Bazaar or \$20 at door. For more information call 656-5420.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	224
Officer initiated calls for service	264
Offenses	65
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	28

Significant incidents or calls this week:

There were eight vehicle burglaries throughout the City this week, all involving unlocked vehicles. Police arrested Richard Allen in one of those incidents.

David Ryals was arrested this week and charged with several counts of fraud and burglary after posing as a handyman and targeting elderly victims, accepting money and valuables in exchange for work he never intended to complete.

Officers from Alpha squad monitored the 900 block of 58th Street at the start of the school day on February 7 due to complaints of traffic problems caused by parents dropping off BCHS students on the street and pedestrians crossing in undesignated areas. They also conducted a traffic detail at Gulfport Elementary regarding children in vehicles unrestrained by seatbelts or car seats. Several violators were cited, and one person was issued a citation for parking in a disabled parking space with no placard.

Officers arrested a male subject in the backyard of a residence in the 5400 block of 15th Avenue in the early morning hours of February 7 after he attempted to break into the home.

Officer Merriam attempted to make contact with Kristine Maguire on the afternoon of February 8 after he observed her screaming obscenities as she walked along Gulfport Boulevard. She fled and was arrested a short time for disorderly intoxication.

Officer Randazzo observed a grey Toyota Corolla backed into a parking space at a business in the 700 block of 49th Street. The driver fled the area at a high rate of speed, and a check of the tag revealed the car was reported stolen from St. Petersburg. Officer Randazzo briefly pursued but the driver was able to elude him and was last seen in the area of 34th Street & 4th Avenue South.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Casino on the afternoon of February 9 after three Art Show vendors reported they had jewelry items stolen. Several juveniles were interviewed and denied stealing the times.

Employees at the Family Dollar store reported on the morning of February 10 that two people attempted to pass counterfeit \$20 bills at the store. They fled when employees realized the money was not real.

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported that 2 bicycles were stolen from his backyard sometime between February 6 & 10.

A man reported on the afternoon of February 10 that on the evening of February 7, he was riding his bicycle south on 49th Street when a black male came up behind him, stopped his bike, and robbed him at gun point. He stated he attempted to run away but the suspect was able to grab him and a brief struggle ensued. The victim stated that his wallet was taken and the suspect was picked up by someone driving a black sedan, possibly a Nissan Altima.

Patrick Murphy of Dunnellon was arrested on DUI charges on the morning of February 11 after he ran the stoplight at Gulfport Boulevard & 58th Street. A breath sample provided by Murphy indicated his breath alcohol content was .335%, more than four times the legal limit of .08%.

Officer Obrart attempted to stop a vehicle for running the stop sign at 11th Avenue & 53rd Street on the afternoon of February 11. The driver refused to stop and sped away at a high rate of speed. Officers attempted to locate the registered owner of the vehicle at the address indicated, but were unsuccessful.

Officers responded to a residence in the 5600 block of 15th Avenue on the afternoon of February 12 after a man reported a television missing from his father's home. They believe neighborhood kids might have entered the residence. There are no witnesses.

Officers investigated the theft of a Play Station by a known suspect. He was arrested on grand theft and dealing in stolen property charges after admitting he stole the game and sold it.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Investigations:

New Cases:	35
Cases Assigned:	5
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	18
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	6
Cases referred back to patrol:	6
Supplements Received:	22
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	3

Cases Unfounded/No Crime: 0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared: 0
Cases Still Active: 15

Sergeant Woodman arrested Jaylin Landers this week for a May 2013 grand theft auto.

Detective Hanh Pham completed eight supplements and conducted several follow-up investigations outside City limits. He also investigated a series of crimes involving David Ryals and his girlfriend Nicole Ross (Avros). Both have been arrested multiple times in the past on charges including burglary, scheme to defraud, fraudulent use of credit cards, and uttering forged instruments. Ryals was arrested this week for accepting money to do odd jobs and never completing them, and for burglary. He targeted elderly women in Gulfport and in several incidents, broke into the victims' residences while they were not home.

Detective Jennifer Crowson investigated and developed probable cause for a second contracting without a license case involving the same suspect; completed several subpoenas for various cases and is awaiting requested information; developed a possible lead in a purse theft and credit card fraud case, and is attempting to determine the locations the cards were used, in order to obtain surveillance video. She also assisted patrol in placing a pawn hold on a recovered stolen item and is still attempting to collect video surveillance; opened one new report, completed seven supplements and worked on several other cases.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated an altercation, evaluated a student for Baker Act, escorted a trespasser off school grounds, and investigated a theft. He also attended a meeting regarding the Explorer Post.

School Resource Officer Langston assisted Officer Lavigne with a criminal mischief investigation, checking school cameras for possible suspect leads. She also spoke with a parent regarding possible bullying that her daughter was experiencing, and spoke with the students involved; assisted Officer Motte with a bicycle theft investigation by identifying the alleged suspect; assisted St Petersburg Police Department Detective Cruz with an investigation, and; attended the BCHS College and Career Fair in an effort to recruit Police Explorers.

Analyst Palmisano completed pawn checks on 31 cases with a known suspect or identifiable property. She also created the Crime Alert that was distributed and posted around the City in an attempt to identify additional victims of David Ryals.

Records Section

Reports reviewed: 23
Supplements reviewed: 94
Public records requests: 49
Reports disseminated: 26
Background checks: 0
Bike registrations: 0
Fingerprints: 4
Subpoenas processed: 11
Citizens assisted: 41

MARINA

Pumped two thousand four hundred six (2,406) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred ninety four (1,494) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty (80) vessels.

Assisted in twenty two (22) pump outs, evacuating three hundred twenty (320) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 40' motor boat, 33' motorboat and a 23' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced light on shrimp tank.
- Replaced light on pier five, slip ten.
- Completed pump-out maintenance and replaced pump-out hose on east fuel dock.
- Replaced water valve on west fuel dock.

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. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated Departmental pages and contact information on City website.
- Completed March calendar and sent to printer.
- Provided control room coverage for February 12 Board of Adjustment meeting and uploaded to web.
- Continued accepting applications for March 8 Citywide Yard Sale.
- Uploaded Police Department PSA to GTV615.
- Continued preparation of Leisure Services Annual Report.
- Assisting with coordination and logistics for March 15 Clam Bayou Cleanup .
- Assisted Marina Director with brochures and image conversions.

Parks

Removed Car Show and PAVA banners, installed Little League banners, and ordered new banner for Gulfport Boulevard.

Inspected/replaced power outlets on Beach Boulevard, and replaced timer box.

Replaced bench at pier.

Installed brick pavers at Library Reading Garden.

Replaced outlet cover and hung "reserved" signs at volleyball courts.

Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, City complex, Veterans Park and Chase block.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced pull rope on blower, adjusted bed knife on Hoyt Field reel mower and drive shaft on stick edger.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Chase Block, Scout Hall grounds, Dog Park, Beach lift station and Library grounds, trimmed Wax Myrtles & pepper trees behind Neighborhood Center, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed City Complex, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Pasadena entrance area, 14th Avenue median, and Veterans, Clymer & Caldwell Parks.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

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 repairs.

Other Activities:

- All City parks 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 Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older 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. 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 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 to 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 qualified 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 more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. 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. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

A murder has occurred! Guests will be questioned as possible suspects in an interactive show that features live music from the 1950's, trivia, reenactments of bygone days and dance contests with prizes PLUS a 4 course meal. Grab your Valentine and enjoy the **Murder Mystery Dinner Show** on Friday, February 14 at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$10.

Empower your Mind, Body, & Soul during the annual **Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino on Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. Don't miss out!

What's keeping you up at night: noise, light or sleep disorder? Dr. Larry Eberle from St. Petersburg General Hospital will discuss sleep apnea, its causes, diagnosis and available treatment during this month's **HCA Health Talk** on Monday, February 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Join Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park and Funeral Home on Wednesday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m. for a complimentary **luncheon seminar** offering valuable information on funeral & cemetery planning, final needs options, financial considerations and more. Call 813-965-4462 to reserve a seat.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is March 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, March 14. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

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 visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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.

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 at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. 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.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures, and tips with others at the new **Bon Voyage** discussion group at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Ester from Four Seasons Travel and Cruise will offer great tips and insider information. Don't miss out!!

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

The Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers a free **Blood Pressure Clinic** the last Thursday of every month.

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*):

Sunday, February 2	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 24)
Tuesday, February 4	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 36) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 58)

Wednesday, February 5	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 318)
Thursday, February 6	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 39)
Saturday, February 8	10 a.m. - PAVA 2Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,346)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every 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	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7
Friday, February 14	7:30 p.m. - <i>Gulfport Casino Valentine Dance</i> with live music by Encore IV 17-piece Big Band, dance demonstrations, prizes, snacks & cash bar. Tickets \$15. For more information call 893-1070

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*)

Sunday, February 2	7:30 p.m. - <i>The Rat Pack Together Again</i> (Turnout 50)
Friday, February 7	8 p.m. - <i>Comedy Magic Show</i> with a touch of hypnosis by Cesar Domico (Turnout 110)
Saturday, February 8	8 p.m. - <i>Comedy Magic Show</i> with a touch of hypnosis by Cesar Domico (Turnout 106)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, February 20-22, February 27 - March 1, March 6-8, 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 23 and March 2 & 9, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Visiting Mr. Green*: a gripping drama about Jewish tradition and family values. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, February 2	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11)
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Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
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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
Monday, February 3	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 8) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, February 4	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 21)
Wednesday, February 5	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 24)
Thursday, February 6	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, February 7	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

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, February 3, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, February 3, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Tuesday, February 4, 9 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors* meeting.

Tuesday, February 4, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry.*

Tuesday, February 4, 5:45 p.m. *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, February 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, February 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, February 5, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 6, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, February 6, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners* facilitated by Dave Mather & Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, February 6, 6 p.m. - *Pinellas County Public Information Officers Group meeting.*

Friday, February 7, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Friday, February 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy two flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Dharma Bums by Jack Kerouac* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Tuesday, February 25 - *SCORE Counseling:* FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Friday, February 28, 6 p.m. - *Senior Artists Reception:* Workshop participants kick off their exhibit of paintings which will be on display at the Library through March 26. Directed by volunteer art instructor Betty Staebell, each student has prepared new original paintings in watercolor, acrylic, and/or oil. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 for more information.

Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Annual meeting* featuring a performance by Chautauqua actor Betty Jean Steinshouer about Ernest Hemingway as seen through the eyes of three women in his life. Performance made possible by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. Event includes the Grand Opening of the Library's Reading Garden. Refreshments will be served in the Frances Purdy Friends Room at 6:30 p.m. Preregister for this very special occasion by calling 893-1073, or sign up at the Reference Desk.

Every Monday & Friday through April 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance:* Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, photo ID and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science 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, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry:* Gulfport Historian Lynne Brown instructs you on how to research family history and genealogy. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at riddell@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 February 2 - 8, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,290	783
Sun. 2/2	Library closed	

Mon. 2/3	426	148
Tue. 2/4	421	135
Wed. 2/5	385	142
Thu. 2/6	293	105
Fri. 2/7	422	128
Sat. 2/8	321	111

Recreation Center

The Multi-purpose room was reserved on Saturday, February 8 for a birthday party with approximately twenty five (25) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty one (51) 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 nonresidents. 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.

Fifteen (15) 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, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Walking Club, Women’s Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Sixty five (65) 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.

Skaters & bicyclists wishing to use the **Skate Park** are required to register with the Recreation Center. Six (6) FY2013/14 passes have been issued to date.

Staff Activities:

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport the Tai Chi society to Dunedin for High Tea on Tuesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash

Life Safety:

- 1 Fire Inspection
- 1 Plans Review

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- The Gulfport Fire Department staff has commenced annual training for Live Fire at the Largo Fire Department training grounds. Fighters need the safe and controlled “real life” training offered through live fire exercises in order to be fully prepared for the hazards of the fire-ground this is based on NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.
- St. Petersburg College Paramedic student Zachary Ross continues his ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford on the “B”-shift.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Replaced air conditioner filters at all City facilities.
- Installed two ballasts and replaced all lamps at Garage.
- Installed new flooring in Little League Concession Stand.
- Inspected fire alarms and sprinklers at City Hall complex and Fire Station.
- Replaced hand towel machine in ladies room at Library.
- Replaced blower motor in air conditioning unit above Theater lobby.
- Replaced toilet seat in Library men’s room handicap stall.
- Painted over graffiti at Beach pavilions.
- Transported donated items to Goodwill following Senior Center Flea Market.
- Cleaned mildew from exterior of Scout Hall.

Streets & Sanitation:

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Assembled and delivered automated trash and recycling containers in preparation for Car Show, and removed following event.
- Reset storm water cover and cleaned box at 50th Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Trimmed trees, graded alley and removed sod at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Removed debris from Tangerine Greenway following Car Show.
- Removed and disposed of old tires and auto parts from City Garage.
- Cleaned Neighborhood Center recycling drop-off area and recycled mulch pile.
- Added millings to depression at 54th Street & 16th Avenue.

Water:

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 33 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 19 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 107 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 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.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 48 backflow devices due in January.

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.
- Refueled diesel generators at Police Department, Fire Department, Senior Center & Lift Stations.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Installed steel hydraulic line on Sanitation Truck #31.
- Installed hydraulic hose on Sanitation Truck #41.
- Performed regular service and maintenance on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Replaced right rear step on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Performed regular service and maintenance on sewer backhoe.
- Replaced brake lines on Police Department Vehicle #103.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

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 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 visit www.pcclb.com.

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.

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.

February 12, 2014 Board of Adjustment results:

- V14-01; 6141 8th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 3 feet, from 15 feet to 12 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 10' x 10' accessory structure. APPROVED
- V14-02; 5522 17th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement from the rear property line by 7 feet, from 15 feet to 8 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed 14' x 14' accessory structure. APPROVED