



Gulfport Community Update

February 16-22, 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:

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.

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.

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 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.

Join the Gulfport Lions Club for a traditional **Shrimp Boil** on Saturday, March 8, 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.

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 Hootenanny** 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	207
Officer initiated calls for service	206
Offenses	49
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	20

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Detective Hanh Pham investigated numerous cases of fraud involving David Ryals and Nicole Ross, and interviewed Ross at the Pinellas County Jail. Ross admitted to cashing two checks reported stolen by one of the victims, and to being with Ryals while he was using a stolen credit card at a Home Depot in St. Petersburg. Gulfport Police took at least ten cases in which Ryals is suspected of scamming elderly females. St. Pete Police had three similar cases involving Ryals. Both Ryals and Ross are in the Pinellas County Jail on multiple charges.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 9th Avenue on the morning of February 13 after a resident reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole a laptop. There are no suspects.

A 12 year-old boy was transported to the hospital with minor injuries after he was hit by a car in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident reported that his bicycle, which was not secured, was stolen from a Laundromat on Beach Boulevard sometime between the afternoon of February 13 and the morning of the 14th.

Corey Foran was arrested on an outstanding warrant for grand theft.

A resident in the 4900 block of 31st Street reported that she answered a knock at her door and was sprayed with pepper spray. The attacker then grabbed a Samsung flip phone that was

plugged into the wall and ran off with it. The victim believes this was a planned attack perpetrated by someone with whom she had an argument earlier in the evening.

Michael Cuddy was arrested for disorderly intoxication after a bartender reported he was causing a disturbance. He was extremely intoxicated and became belligerent with officers.

A vehicle owner reported that someone broke the window and stole several items while the car was parked at Gulfport Liquors in the early morning hours of February 15. Officers are using video footage and fingerprint/DNA evidence to identify the perpetrator.

Officers responded to the 2600 block of Miriam Street after a resident reported a vehicle struck their mailbox. The vehicle was located in the yard of a nearby residence. They spoke with an intoxicated female who denied driving the vehicle.

A pregnant woman reported that her husband grabbed her wrist and pulled her onto the floor after an argument. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended with the assistance of a K9 unit. He attempted to strangle the K9 and was charged with battery on a police dog.

Officers on patrol heard shouting coming from the home of the suspect of an earlier hit & run in the 2600 block of Miriam Street. The woman was argumentative and confrontational with officers and her roommates. She was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act.

Officers responded to the area of 8th Avenue & 54th Street after a caller reported 4 juveniles possibly in possession of a gun. The juveniles were located and one was carrying an orange BB gun. They were cooperative and advised they would leave the BB gun at home.

Michael Montgomery was charged with burglary and criminal mischief on the morning of February 17 after a couple called 911 and reported that someone was attempting to get inside their home. Montgomery had ripped a screen from a window on the side of the house and was attempting to open the window when officers arrived.

Officers responded to the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard in the early morning hours of February 17 after a woman punched another woman on her head when asked to keep her voice down. The suspect is unknown at this time.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 49th Street after a resident reported someone forced entry into their home and stole a 42 inch RCA Flat Screen TV. The resident believes someone he knows may have committed the crime.

Between Tuesday the 18th & Wednesday the 19th, there were seven vehicle burglaries reported, all involving forced entry and all in the area of 28th & 31st Avenues between 51st & 54th Streets.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS):

New Cases:	5
Cases Assigned:	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	3
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements Received:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	3
Previously Cleared With Arrest:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	5

Sergeant Woodman investigated an apparent suicide in Town Shores which resulted from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Detective Jennifer Crowson developed a possible lead in a burglary at the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club, and assisted Patrol in collecting video surveillance and locating stolen property that had been pawned at a local shop. She also questioned a burglary suspect.

This week School Resource Officer Motte mediated several altercations, mentored students, arrested a student that violated his probation, and exceptionally cleared a theft investigation after the victim refused to prosecute. He also attended a Department of Juvenile Justice focus group working with at risk juveniles.

School Resource Officer Langston assisted SPPD with an investigation of a report of solicitation for prostitution, completed a theft report of school equipment and responded to a report of a possible fight after school. No disturbance was observed. Officer Langston also mentored with a number of students and attended *Investigating Crimes Against Children* training.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis on thefts of motorcycles, mopeds and scooters. Although there is an increase in the thefts of this type of vehicle there is nothing to definitively link the cases. In all cases the vehicles were left unsecured. She also completed pawn checks for 31 cases with a named suspect or identifiable property, set up alerts for 14 of the cases with a known serial number, and set up alerts on 25 subjects known to commit burglaries or thefts so that she will be notified if they pawn any items. At the request of Chief Vincent she created a crime alert bulletin to be distributed to residents regarding a subject wanted for questioning.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	19
Supplements reviewed:	106
Public records requests:	49
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	15
Citizens assisted:	33

MARINA

Pumped one thousand seven hundred thirty seven (1,737) gallons of gas, and six hundred fifty nine (659) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy two (72) vessels.

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

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 40' sailboat, 33' motorboat, 31' motorboat, 38' hunter, 22' motorboat and a 38' trawler this week.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced florescent lights and shower curtains in men's room.
- Completed pump-out maintenance.
- Installed water fittings on pedestals and water valve on 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.
- Assisted with technical training of new nighttime staff at Senior Center.
- Commenced preparation of April calendar
- Provided live broadcast and technical assistance for February 18 City Council meeting, uploaded video and information to website and rebroadcast on GTV615
- Continued accepting applications for March 8 Citywide Yard Sale.
- Continued preparation of Leisure Services Annual Report.
- Provided technical assistance for Health Expo at Casino.

Parks

Replaced flags at Wood Ibis Park & Pier, 2 butt cans on beach and photo cell on sign light at 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, and re-anchored 4 butt cans at beach following vandalism.

Repaired fence at Little League field and power outlet on Beach Streetscape.

Removed and repaired Skate Park ramps, and repositioned ramp equipment.

Commenced removal of dead/diseased plants from 49th Streetscape and continued removal of pepper trees behind Neighborhood Center.

Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field, Little League Field and 49th Streetscapes.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced pull rope on blower, and adjusted cable on drive train on mower and carburetor on line trimmer.

Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, Tangerine Lake, Trail Spur and 56th Street drainage area.

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.

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.

Did you know that reducing your body weight by 7% and increasing your physical activity can greatly reduce your risk of developing a host of chronic diseases? The next **YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program** begins on Tuesday, February 25 at 4:45 pm. For more information call Kieran Gabel at 895-9622, ext. 219.

Join Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park and Funeral Home on Wednesday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m. for a complimentary **luncheon seminar** offering valuable funeral & cemetery planning information, 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 9	10 a.m. - PAVA 2Cool Art Show (Turnout 1850)
Tuesday, February 11	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 27) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 52)
Wednesday, February 12	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 205)
Thursday, February 13	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 33)
Friday, February 14	7:30 p.m. - Valentine Dance (Turnout 146)
Saturday, February 15	8 p.m. - SPHF Lady in Red Ball (Turnout 395)

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
Saturday, February 22	7 p.m. - <i>Tails at Twilight</i> animal rescue fundraiser

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

Sunday, February 9	2 p.m. - <i>Comedy Magic Show</i> (Turnout 106)
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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 9	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, February 11	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 18)
Tuesday, February 13	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Scout Hall (*last week's events*):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, February 10	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 12) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 25)
Tuesday, February 11	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 19)
Wednesday, February 12	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 22)
Thursday, February 13	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 10)
Friday, February 14	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

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

Monday, February 10, 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Tuesday, February 11, 5:45 p.m. *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, February 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, February 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, February 12, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, February 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers*.

Thursday, February 13, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners* facilitated by Dave Mather & Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, February 13, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*.

Friday, February 14, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance*.

Friday, February 14, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Annual meeting* featuring a performance by Chautauqua actor Betty Jean Steinshouer on 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.

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.

Every Saturday beginning March 1, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Readers & Writers Workshop* for parents and toddlers thru Kindergarten. Helps children develop reading and writing skills. Call the Library at 893-1073 stop by the Reference Desk to register. For more information call Trace Taylor at 813-486-5437 or email Tracetaylorpublishing@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m. - *The String Quartet: From Roots to Ragtime Concert*. Professional musicians offer comments and play music by Corelli, Telemann, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Borodin, Dvorák and Joplin. Join us for an evening of delightful performances. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Movies begin at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. For movie titles call 893-1074.

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 9-15, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,104	708
Sun. 2/9	Library closed	
Mon. 2/10	339	126
Tue. 2/11	416	131
Wed. 2/12	329	118
Thu. 2/13	323	115
Fri. 2/14	320	105
Sat. 2/15	354	101

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, March 1 and 3-7 p.m. Saturday March 15 for baby showers, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday March 22 for a Women's Conference/Church event.

The game room is reserved 2-7 p.m. Saturday, March 8 for a birthday party.

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.

Seventy Four (74) 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 1 Re-Inspection
- 2 C.O's
- 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, March 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshal meeting in Pinellas Park on February 20.
- The "B"-shift provided a tour of the station and the apparatus for a birthday party of 6 children on February 15.
- Lt. Fuchs taught the Sea Scouts Heartsaver with AED training on February 13. All participants passed and are recertified for the next two years.
- Municipal Emergency Service Inc. is performing annual preventive maintenance on the Self Contained breathing Apparatus and Compressor equipment per NFPA1500 requirements.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Installed new fencing around Little League complex.
- Transported several City vehicles to Tampa for warranty maintenance.
- Relocated popcorn machine from Library to Recreation Center.
- Completed annual fire inspection on ANSEL System at City Hall.
- Hung coat hooks and replaced breaker for kitchen receptacle at Senior Center.
- Painted outside wall at Recreation Center playground.
- Replaced stones in light fixture at Library entrance area.
- Upgraded hardware on card readers at Police Station.
- Cleared blockage in toilet in Public Services Building break room.
- Delivered mail to main Post office for Administrative Services Department.
- Recovered broken piling behind Casino and transported to Marina.

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.
- Graded and filled Beach parking area and Veterans Park parking area.
- Removed and disposed of 4.5' lemon shark illegally dumped in alley.
- Reset traffic control devices at 23rd Avenue & Beach Boulevard.
- Removed obstructions from the alley at 51st Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Reset storm drain cover at 54th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Reset "No Parking" signs around Hoyt Field.
- Cleaned drain structure at 52nd Street terminus.
- Clean box and reset storm drain lid at Delette Avenue & Beach Boulevard.
- Completed sidewalk replacement at 58th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, and removed cones and barricades.
- Added millings and set grade in alley at Clinton Street & 57th Street between 28th & 29th Avenues.
- Replaced stolen street sign at 54th Street & 28th 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 #31, 32, 33, & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 39 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 150 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 15 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 2001 59th Street.

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.
- Removed pump #1 at Lift Station #1 for repairs of upper oil seal leak.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5518 13th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced brakes and installed new camera on Sanitation Vehicle #45.
- Installed new “back-up” camera and monitor on Sanitation Vehicle #46.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the *New Business Checklist* on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. For more information regarding business tax receipts call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

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.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for January was 122 for a fiscal year-to-date (YTD) total of 723. The number of citizen complaints was 20 for a YTD total of 58. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8 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.

March 5, 2014 Planning and Zoning Board and March 18, 2014 City Council/CRA meeting:

Application #EV14-01; 1737 49th Street South; Proposed easement vacation for the relocation of City utilities and the development of a box store development; first reading of the ordinance vacating this easement will be April 1, 2014, and the second reading and public hearing will be noticed for April 15.