



Gulfport Community Update

February 2 - 8, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport Fire Department lost one of its respected members this week when Lieutenant Frank Vento passed away unexpectedly on February 3. Frank had served as the City's Fire Inspector/Investigator since February 2007. He is survived by his wife and two children. A public memorial service was held on at the Seminole Recreation Center on February 7.

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that the exemption for Recreational Vehicles that cannot meet the required setbacks expired on January 2, 2014. All RVs must have a permit sticker to be in compliance with RV regulations. One hundred twelve properties were notified between October & December 2013 of new regulations, and ninety four permits had been issued as of January 8: Twenty nine green permits for RVs in compliance with regulations, and sixty four red exempt permits for those not meeting setbacks; two applications are pending; one was denied, and; five violation notices for unpermitted RVs were issued. A permit application and copy of RV regulations can be obtained at www.mygulfport.us. For more information on RV regulations, call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

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:

Enjoy **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District February 7, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, February 8 at 9 a.m. Bring your own supplies and meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information visit www.pava-artists.org.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49th & 51st Streets. More than sixty awards will be presented in numerous categories ranging from best in show, best paint job, Mayor's Choice and more. Bring the whole family to enjoy the live music, shopping bazaar, costumed characters, and kiddy area! To register your classic car, email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

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.

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.

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

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| Dispatch calls for service | 198 |
| Officer initiated calls for service | 327 |
| Offenses | 51 |
| Arrests | 6 |
| Traffic citations | 30 |

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2000 block of 56th Street reported on the morning of January 30 that sometime within the previous 24 hours someone broke into her vehicle. Nothing was taken.

A customer of a business in the 700 block of 51st Street reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and removed an orange iPod shuffle from the glove box. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 23rd Avenue on the morning of January 31 after a caller reported that his unsecured red and black Peace Sport ATV was stolen from the side yard of his property. The investigation is ongoing.

James Blackstock was arrested on a warrant for burglary and grand theft the evening of January 31 after a car in which he was a passenger was involved in a minor parking lot crash.

A resident in the 5300 block of 28th Avenue reported on the morning of February 1 that a tool box and bicycle were stolen from his detached garage sometime overnight.

Officers made contact with a juvenile female walking in the 5800 block of the Pinellas Trail on the evening of February 1. She provided false information when officers attempted to identify her but eventually gave her correct name, after which it was determined she was reported missing from Clearwater by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. She was arrested for providing a false name to law enforcement and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Bonnie Cook was arrested for driving on a suspended license on the morning of February 2 after Sergeant Parks observed her driving a car on Gulfport Boulevard. Sergeant Parks has arrested Cook twice in the past for the same offense.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 17th Avenue after a resident reported that an acquaintance attempted to steal a large television. The suspect fled the area when confronted by the victim and the television was located on the side of the house.

Police are looking for a male subject who assaulted a taxi driver after the driver was summoned to a residence in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard to pick up a passenger. The customer got into the car and said he didn't have any money and became aggressive when the driver stated he could not work for free. The driver then drove to a nearby gas station for safety with the man still in the car. The man punched the cab driver in the head before fleeing the area.

A teacher and several students at Hamilton Disston Middle School observed two males reach over a backyard fence on the morning of February 4, and take a purebred pit bull puppy. The witnesses notified the owner who recovered the puppy after locating the subjects at 48th Street & 10th Avenue. Ofc. Marshall is following up on the identity of the two subjects.

A resident in the 6100 block of 8th Avenue was approached by a couple in their late 20's who offered to trim her trees for \$100 which she paid in advance. The work was never done; however, while the victim was out walking her dog a neighbor saw the two suspects pull up to the house in a white Tracker and the male entered the house. They left in the Tracker after crawling out a back window.

The owner of a lawn care business reported that two of his employees stole lawn equipment from the business and pawned the items. Drew Danks was arrested for grand theft and dealing in stolen property after providing his boss with the pawn receipts. The second suspect is still at large.

The owner of a business in the 1000 block of 49th Street reported that someone broke into the business and took \$60 from the cash register and tools belonging to a former employee. The former employee, recently terminated for stealing is a suspect.

A resident in the 2200 block of York Street reported on the morning of February 5 that someone stole her scooter from the walkway leading up to her apartment.

A resident in the 5600 block 31st Avenue reported that 3 suspicious juveniles in the area stole a neighbor's motor scooter. Officers confirmed that a scooter was stolen.

Officer Cavanah operated the police boat for 4 hours this week, conducting 3 contacts and 3 vessel stops.

Investigations:

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| New Cases: | 25 |
| Cases Assigned: | 4 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 12 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 0 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 6 |
| Cases referred back to patrol: | 3 |
| Supplements Received: | 8 |
| Cases Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Previously Cleared With Arrest: | 0 |
| Cases Suspended-No Leads: | 0 |
| Cases Unfounded/No Crime: | 0 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared: | 1 |
| Cases Still Active: | 7 |

Detective Hanh Pham completed 6 supplements, submitted 3 subpoena requests to the State Attorney's Office for further investigation and investigated a stalking incident in which an ex-boyfriend was harassing the victim, and closed the case without further incident after speaking with both parties. He also conducted a follow-up investigation at a pawn shop in St. Pete regarding a grand theft and dealing in stolen property incident. The suspect stole a tablet and pawned it at the shop. Detective Pham recovered the property and obtained video evidence in the case, and is looking for the suspect for questioning. He also conducted unannounced address verification checks on registered sexual offenders living in Gulfport.

Detective Jennifer Crowson attended a one day training course on Child Homicide and Physical Abuse Investigations. She also investigated a burglary that was determined to be three separate burglaries over the course of a month and a half; opened two new reports, completed three supplements, worked on several other cases, and; developed probable cause for a suspect for contracting without a license. She is attempting to locate the suspect.

School Resource Officer Motte mediated several altercations; Baker Acted a student having suicidal thoughts; recovered a runaway, and investigated two thefts. He also spoke with three Driver Education classes about road laws and what to do when pulled over by police.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to a call for assistance from a campus monitor who needed help dealing with a student, and a call for assistance from a teacher regarding a possible narcotics violation. The student was searched but no narcotics were found. Officer Langston also provided counseling to a student who is a habitual runaway; conducted a Baker Act evaluation, determined the student was in need of services, and transported the student to P.E.M.H.S.; investigated several complaints related to thefts; responded to a medical call involving a student who had a seizure; attended a State Attorney's invest and worked a boys basketball game.

Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis of residential burglaries occurring in Gulfport between 12/1/2013 and 2/4/2014 and identified two patterns in the burglaries: in the first, two residences were burglarized on two separate occasions and appear to involve the same suspect. In the second, seven burglaries and one attempted burglary appear to be related by location, day/time and M.O. Analyst Palmisano also completed and distributed open case lists, and created and distributed a bulletin for Det. Crowson in an attempt to identify a suspect in an identity theft investigation.

Records Section

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| Reports reviewed: | 14 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 131 |
| Public records requests: | 24 |
| Reports disseminated: | 26 |
| Background checks: | 0 |
| Bike registrations: | 0 |
| Fingerprints: | 0 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 5 |
| Citizens assisted: | 40 |

MARINA

Pumped two thousand two hundred seventy six (2,276) gallons of gas, and six hundred thirteen (613) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty six (66) vessels.

Assisted in twenty one (21) pump outs, evacuating three hundred forty (340) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 23' sailboat, 36' sailboat and 28' sailboat, 13' powerboat and a 21' powerboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Performed pump-out maintenance.
- Installed line holder on piers six and two.
- Weeded under kayak rack.
- Inspected and cleaned fish cleaning table.

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.
- Provided Control Room coverage for February 4 City Council meeting & February 6 City Council workshop, and uploaded video to City website.
- Commenced video production of January 16 Gulfport Police Reaffirmation.
- Commenced promotional preparations for March 8 Citywide Yard Sale.
- Updated February information & program schedule to GTV615
- Met with Merchants and Police & Fire to discuss logistics for Get Rescued event.
- Commenced preparation of March calendar.
- Assisting in formatting of Leisure Services Annual Report.

Parks

Received estimate for Sand Pro engine replacement.

Built shipping crate for Vehicle Maintenance Department.

Hung PAVA Art Show banners.

Meet with skateboard equipment sales representative.

Painted numbers on volleyball courts and repaired bench swing near beach volleyball court.

Replaced slats on bench at corner of 58th Street & 26th Avenue, light bulbs in Parks shop, equipment box at bocce ball court and 'Reclaimed Water' sign at Tomlinson Park.

Installed cigarette butt outpost at Wood Ibis Park gazebo and Library Reading Garden.

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

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced pull rope on stick edger.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & Marina area and Recreation Center grounds, aerated Hoyt Field, hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Tangerine Greenway, Beach area, Recreation Center grounds, Clymer Greenway, Marina area, Lions Club grounds, 55th Street medians and York & 49th Street termini.

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.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimers Association will offer **FREE, Confidential Memory Screenings**, advice and information at the Senior Center on Monday, February 10, 9 a.m. - noon. Call 893-1231 to schedule your screening.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 11.

A representative from the Pinellas County Property Appraisers office will visit the Gulfport Senior Center on Wednesday, February 12 9 a.m. until noon to assist citizens who qualify the **Low Income Senior Citizen property tax exemption** with filling out forms.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Life Coach Kathy Lane returns on Wednesday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. with **Law of Attraction: The Love Connection**, a discussion on understanding the essentials for attracting love and more.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay will offer **Free Blood Sugar screenings** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center on Thursday, February 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Christine and Tony from The Cell Phone Solution will offer a **Cell Phone Class** at the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 13. Bring your cell phone and questions!

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

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!

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.

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 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, January 26 | 9 a.m. - Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 275) |
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| | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 49) |
| Monday, January 27 | 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance (Turnout 181) |
| Tuesday, January 28 | 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 16) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 40) |
| Wednesday, January 29 | 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 248) |
| Thursday, January 30 | 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 24) |
| Saturday, February 1 | 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 150) |

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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| 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 & Saturday, February 7 & 8 | 10 a.m. - PAVA 2Cool Art Show FREE Admission |
| 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*)

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| Saturday, February 1 | 2 p.m. - <i>Sunsation Show Chorus presents Gershwin, Porter & Friends</i> (Turnout 150) |
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Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Friday & Saturday, February 7 & 8, 8 p.m. & Sunday, February 9, 2 p.m. - *Comedy Magic Show* with a touch of hypnosis by Cesar Domico. Tickets: \$30 at the door, or \$20 & \$21 in advance at the Gulfport Casino or online at www.gulfportmagicshows.com. Use code word "hypnosis" or senior code "magic".

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*):

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| Sunday, January 26 | 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11) |
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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 |
| Monday, January 27 | 10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 8) |
| Tuesday, January 28 | 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 24) |
| Wednesday, January 29 | 11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 23) |
| Thursday, January 30 | 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8) |
| Friday, January 31 | 10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6) |

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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| 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, January 27 - 3 p.m. - *Science Club*.

Tuesday, January 28 - 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry*.

Tuesday, January 28 - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, January 29, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, January 29, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Wednesday, January 29, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

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

Thursday, January 30, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners* facilitated by Dave Mather & Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, January 30, 6 p.m. - *Pinellas County Public Information Officers Group meeting*.

Friday, January 31, 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 rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic January 26 - February 1, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons**

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|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Weekly Circulation: | 2302 | 761 |
| Sun. 1/26 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 1/27 | 489 | 140 |
| Tue. 1/28 | 393 | 125 |
| Wed. 1/29 | 396 | 125 |
| Thu. 1/30 | 384 | 140 |
| Fri. 1/31 | 346 | 109 |
| Sat. 2/1 | 283 | 110 |

Recreation Center

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.

Fourteen (14) 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:

Marivel Gutierrez and Tim Connor met with a representative from Rep Services, Inc. on Tuesday morning to discuss Skate Park equipment replacement.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Gas Leak

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.

- St. Petersburg College Paramedic student Zachary Ross continues his ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Burford on the "B"-shift.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the City Safety Committee and Accident Review Committee meeting on February 5. Mercedes Perez, Mike Taylor, Deanna Doss, Cailey Klasson, Robert McLaughlin and Justin Shea were also in attendance.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the PCFCA monthly meeting at the St. Pete College Epi Center on February 6.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Relocated boxes from Public Services building to City Clerk's office.
- Repaired handicap stall partition in Casino men's restroom.
- Repaired exercise equipment at Senior Center.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Dog Park men's room.
- Ran errands for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Repaired Neighborhood Center automated gate.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Rented scissor lift to change lights in Recreation Center Gym & Garage.

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.
- Removed and disposed of old tires and debris from City Garage.
- Picked up recycling truck from Tampa following warranty work.

- Cleared debris from roadway at 58th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Reset concrete storm drain cover in Town Shores and reopened sidewalk.
- Removed & disposed of concrete following water break at 45th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Patched asphalt and repaired potholes at: 58th Street between Gulfport Boulevard & 7th Avenue, 52nd Street & 23rd Avenue, and 52nd Street & 25th 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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 58 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 71 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples and quarterly TTHM's and HAA5s on water distribution system.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 25 backflow devices due in January.
- Repaired water breaks at 2744 45th Street & 6326 8th Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned, televised and removed roots from sewer lateral at 1207 Gray Street.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage at 2019 56th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired air conditioner on Sanitation Vehicle #42.
- Replaced tailgate seal on Sanitation Vehicle #31.
- Serviced Fire Engine #17.
- 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.pccclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for December was 198 for a year-to-date (YTD) total of 601. The number of citizen complaints was 15 for a YTD total of 38. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.3 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.

Beginning in February Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area and generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

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:

- 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.
- 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.