



Gulfport Community Update

August 9 - 15, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport's Night Out!

Gulfport City staff along with Police and Fire shared a night of information and fun with the community. Thanks to Community Officer Zack Mills for emceeing. A BIG thank you to American Legion 125, All Children's Hospital, CASA, Florida Fish and Wild Life, Florida Highway Patrol, Gulfport Family Restaurant, Gulfport Produce, McDonalds, O'Maddy's, Neptune's, Pia's, Pinellas County, SPPD, Sunstar & Stella's.



Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Library Circle of Friends** is searching for the City's first Poet Laureate. Any Gulfport resident age 18 and over may enter the contest. According to the Library of Congress, a poet laureate is a poet who is expected "to raise the consciousness of the population to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry." A panel of five judges will conduct a blind review of submissions. The Poet Laureate will be confirmed by the Gulfport City Council, and will agree to host 2 to 4 poetry events under the auspices of the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library within 12 months of being named, and may be asked to compose and deliver a poem for special events in or on behalf of Gulfport. No compensation will be provided. Gulfport residents interested in applying should submit three works of poetry as one attachment, along with a brief autobiography in the body of an email addressed to teachedit@yahoo.com by September 4. Only email submissions will be accepted and must include the applicant's name, Gulfport address, phone number and age. Applicants are not required to have published poems prior to entering the contest. Call 941-447-7811 for more information.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made 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 visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

The 49th Street South Business Association (SO49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** opens Saturday, August 15. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

Tickets for the **August 27 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Minnesota Twins game** are available at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. The \$25 price includes round trip transportation via the Gulfport Trolley. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch a free ride to the game. Departure from the Casino to Tropicana Field begins at 5 p.m. The Casino box office will close ticket sales August 21, 3 p.m. Return transportation will begin during the seventh inning. For more information call 893-1070 or 893-1118.

The monthly **Crime Awareness Meeting** is on Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th St. S. For more information, contact 727- 418-0126

The 1st **Friday Flea Market** is back after a long summer. Find great deals at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center on Friday, September 4 from 9 a.m. – Noon. The Center is located at 5501 27th Ave. S.

Meet local artists from the **Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA)**, who represent a variety of fine art talent and media. PAVA artists will include painters in watercolors, oils and acrylics, mixed media artists, drawings in ink, charcoal and colored pencil, and photographers. Each work will reflect the unique talents and interest of the artist. Members of PAVA will be on hand to discuss their work exhibited during an **Art Reception at the Catherine Hickman Theater** at 5501 27th Ave. S. (enter on the 26th Ave. S. lot) on Friday, September 4th, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Plan now to attend this late summer event, the **Seventh Annual Gecko Ball** that is known to be the party of the year in Gulfport on Saturday, August 29th. Mardi Gras will be the order of the evening, including its festivities and pageantry, high energy dancing, New Orleans-style music, food and more. The Gecko Ball also includes hors d'oeuvre and tapas, cocktail specials and a cash bar. Live music by the Jammin' Jambalaya Band will fill the dance floor. Tickets are \$35 and available at Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Blvd. S. and are going fast. For more information, contact 727-366-4086 or email dan@igc.org.

Gulfport's 15th Annual Geckofest will bring entertainment to streets and stages during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, September 5th. Amid the thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, expect to come face to face with acrobats, aerialists, break dancers, escape artists, magicians, jugglers, fire performers and more, creating an interactive circus atmosphere throughout the waterfront village. Live music on two stages, a few kid's zone, and a costume contest related to Mardi Gras following this year's "Gecko Gras" theme. All festivities take place on Beach Boulevard in Gulfport from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. GeckoFest is free and family-friendly. For more information, contact 727322-5217.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	125
Self-initiated calls for service	488
Offenses	37
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	64
Ordinance violations	42

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Two male juveniles stole a lawnmower from underneath the carport on the 58th block of 18th Avenue South on Thursday, August 6. The complainant was able to describe the suspects because they asked her if she needed her yard cut previously.

Officers responded to the area regarding a theft of a bicycle tire on Thursday, August 6 at the 3200 block of 58th Street South. The bicycle was still chained to the bike rack however someone removed the back tire within the last week.

A juvenile who was wanted on a pickup order (juvenile arrest warrant) was located at his house and placed under arrest without incident on Friday, August 7 at the 1300 block of 53rd St. S.

A resident from the 2800 block of 48th Street South learned that someone filed taxes under his name in 2010 resulting in a letter from the IRS this year stating he owed back taxes. The case was documented on Friday, August 7 and referred to the Internal Revenue Service fraud unit.

A woman went into a business on 49th block of 15th Avenue South, where her mother worked, to speak to her. She left her car running outside and someone stole it.

Someone entered an unlocked vehicle and took a designer purse with case and miscellaneous cards inside on August 7 at the 1300 block of 49th Street South.

A female entered the residence of an acquaintance at the 900 Block of 58th Street South on Friday, August 7 without consent then hit the resident on the head with an unknown object. The victim chose not to prosecute.

An intoxicated subject in front of Save A Lot was found to have stolen items from the store and was arrested on Saturday, August 8th.

A person called in claiming that his rental car had been stolen from the Save A Lot parking lot on Saturday, August 8th. When Officer Ross attempted to have the vehicle entered into FCIC it was found to have been impounded by Clearwater PD three days earlier after being involved in a hit and run. After the follow-up interview with the reporting party, he admitted that he lied about the

vehicle being stolen and that a known female subject had borrowed the car. He was issued notice to appear for filing a false police report.

Officer Langston observed a young child outside of his house with no clothes on and no adults around at the 1100 block of 61st Street South on Monday, August 10th. The child ran back inside when he saw the Officer. Officer Langston made contact with the mother who was unable to provide an explanation as to why the child was outside naked and unattended. Referral was made to the Department of Children and Family.

A man reported that he left a yellow Schwinn unlocked in front of a convenience store on Monday, August 10th at the 5700 block of 12th Avenue South. When he came out of the store 5 minutes later the bicycle was gone.

Someone made entry through a window into a vacant residence at the 6200 block of 8th Avenue South on Tuesday, August 11th and stole some tools that were left inside by a remodeler.

An adult male took his own life in the backyard of his residence on Tuesday, August 11th at the 5700 block of 12th Avenue South.

A female resident with an injunction for protection against her ex-boyfriend saw him ride past her house on a bicycle at the 5200 block of 10th Avenue South on Wednesday, August 12th. The subject was already wanted for multiple felonies and police spotted him riding in the area. He fled from officers and was able to avoid apprehension. Officers know his identity and additional felony charges are pending.

Kesharia Hicks was stopped by Officer Crane for traffic violations on a bicycle on Wednesday, August 12 at the 49th block of 25th Avenue South. She then learned that the St. Petersburg Police had probable cause for Hicks' arrest for battery on a pregnant female. Officer Crane detained Hicks until SPPD arrived and took custody of her.

Marine Unit: The Marine Unit was displayed at Gulfport Night Out for two hours. Sergeant Woodman was out for 4 hours and conducted 3 vessel stops and 1 contact before the storms came in. Detective Pham assisted patrol by retrieving two dinghies that were abandoned on private property.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	4

Special detail: Lieutenant Farrand, Sergeant Woodman, Detective Pham, Detective McLaughlin, Detective Crowson, and Officer Mills Assisted with an operation with the Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (ABT) conducting compliance checks at area convenient stores and bar/restaurants to ensure they were not selling/serving alcohol to persons under 21 years of age. Fourteen businesses were checked and five of them sold alcohol to a person under 21 years of age.

Investigator Highlights

Detectives Pham and Crowson conducted follow up investigations on the following cases: attempted homicide, harassing phone calls, suicide, two stolen vehicles, home invasion robbery, and four residential burglaries. They charged Michael Sampson with three residential burglary cases and a theft and arrested Avion Johnson for home invasion robbery.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston assisted patrol while school is out.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano processed and distributed 178 case agent evidence review forms, completed an analysis for Officer Priest in reference to several properties in Gulfport. and completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	51
Public records requests:	39
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	40

MARINA

Assisted in thirty seven (37) pump outs evacuating five hundred ten (510) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand four hundred five (2405) gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred eighteen (1,118) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty nine (86) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 34' powerboat 36' powerboat, 48' powerboat and a 45' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Replace GFI on pier 7 through 9
- Check electrical fault on pier 7 through 39
- Repaired lock at Boca Ciega Yacht Club
- Replaced and fastened boards on Coast Guard Auxiliary Deck

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-640. 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 and training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, and Recreation & Board of Adjustment information on City website.
- Continued preparation of upcoming fiscal events schedule and contacting organizers.
- Completed September calendar and dispersed.
- Worked at Gulfport Night Out event

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, and 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 this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. 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. Beginning in August, GEMS will provide transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital & Medical Centers and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, 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 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see 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, 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.

Hula on over for some tropical fun during the **Tiki Time Luau** at 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 19. Enjoy island foods and the ever popular photo booth. Limit 2 tickets per person; tickets must be obtained prior to the event.

The next **Gulfport Getaway is at Sunset at Pass-a-Grille** on Thursday August 20. Take delight in one of nature's most beautiful pieces of art as you walk along Pass-a-Grille Beach at sunset.

Space is limited. Reserve your seat by August 12. GEMS members \$5/Non-Members \$7. Price includes roundtrip transportation.

Avoid the Hassles with **Medicare Made Clear** on Wednesday August 26 at 3 p.m. Learn about the costs, benefits, & limitations offered on new & existing Medicare Beneficiaries. Presented by: Steven Reiser, CFP.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and glucose screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is August 27.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, August 28. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 1.

It's back! The 1st Friday Flea Market on Friday September 4 @ 9:00 am – Noon. We have been gathering goodies all summer. Don't miss out! Stop by and check out all the great deals!

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance 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.

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.

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, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, August 2 4 pm - Gross-Seiders wedding (Turnout 147)
- Tuesday, August 4 9 am – Rec. Center Tai Chi held at Casino for the summer (Turnout 16)
- Tuesday, August 4 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Paul Kirk Admission \$8 (Turnout 2)
- Tuesday, August 4 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson and dance Admission \$8 (Turnout 55)
- Wednesday, Aug. 5 10:30 am – Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 22)

- Wednesday, Aug.5 6 p.m. – Swing Dance with Swingtime Admission \$8 (Turnout 281)
- Thursday, August 6 9 am – Rec. Center Tai Chi held at Casino for the summer (Turnout 8)
- Thursday, August 6 6 pm – Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 30)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson
 7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with band Admission \$8
- Sunday, August 9 6 pm – Ballroom Fusion Dance with Swing Time Admission \$8
- Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker/Paul Kirk
 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing Admission \$8
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
- Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – Yoga with Barbara Newborn
- Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
- Every Thursday 6 p.m. – Latin Night - lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Latin Dance Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

- Thursday, August 6 6 pm – Gulfport's Night Out! (Turnout 75)
- Friday, August 7 6 pm – Art Reception (Turnout 115)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)

No events scheduled at Theater next week.

Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

- Sunday, August 2 9 am – Faith Cathedral Int'l Church bible study (Turnout 15)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous (Turnout 8)
- Tuesday, August 4 7 pm – Overeaters Anonymous (Turnout 14)
- Tuesday, August 4 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)
- Wednesday, Aug. 5 7 pm - Crime Watch meeting (Turnout 16)

Thursday, August 6 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. – F.C.I. Bible study
Every Tuesday 7 pm - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 am - Easy Tai Chi
Every first Wednesday 7 pm - Crime Watch meeting

Scout Hall (last week's events):

Monday, August 3 7 a.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 14)
Monday, August 3 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga held at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 14)
Tuesday, August 4 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 16)
Tuesday, August 4 11 am – Line Dancing held at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 15)
Wednesday, Aug. 5 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 15)
Thursday, August 6 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 13)
Friday, August 7 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 16)
Friday, August 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing held at Casino (Turnout 9)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

Every Mon - Fri 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga – held at Neighborhood Center until August 31
Every Tuesday 11 am – Line Dancing – held at Neighborhood Center (June 2 - August 25)
Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing – held at Casino (June 5 - August 28)

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 3, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Tuesday, August 4, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, August 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 5, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, August 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, August 6, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 6, 7 p.m. – *End of Summer Party with Didgeridoo Down Under!*

Friday, August 7, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* For movie titles call 893-1074.

Tuesday, August 18, 10:30 a.m. - *FHA Mortgages for Seniors:* Donna Moore from the Community Resource Council presents an informational program of interest to seniors about recent updates to guidelines for FHA mortgages.

Thursday, August 20, 11 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Analects of Confucius* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 p.m. - *Story-time Yoga:* All children must be accompanied by caregiver. Mats a plus, but not required.

Monday, August 31, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam:* Alex invites everyone to bring their acoustic instruments as he begins a new season of group musical creation.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.* For more information call 360-9069.

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information email robynfeatherstonesq@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 near the Easy books. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistics August 2 – August 8, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1926	687
Sun. 8/2	Library closed	
Mon. 8/3	386	104
Tue. 8/4	339	126

Wed. 8/5	362	128
Thu. 8/6	290	102
Fri. 8/7	278	100
Sat. 8/8	240	89

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Registration is underway for the **2015/16 School Year Child Care Program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Registration is underway for the 2015/16 **Tot Time/VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten) program**. 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 turn 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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8.

One hundred fifty two (152) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Summer Program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Eighty two (82) teens are registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

A **room rental** was staffed on Saturday, August 8th from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. for a Family Reunion. There were approximately ninety (90) people in attendance.

As of October 1st, all skaters/bicyclists will be due to purchase a new Skate Park Sticker. Currently, there are eleven (11) registrations for the Skate Park.

Teen Council President Elizabeth Brown-Worthington volunteered at Gulfport's Night Out on Thursday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 15 Fire Inspections
- 3 Fire Re-inspection
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Smoke Detector

CERT Program:

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Gulfport will be going through a restructuring period for their leadership position; there are two possible candidates for the president's position. The team will be on hiatus status as of now. More details to follow.

The Gulfport Fire Department began their Advanced Cardiac Life Support Re-Certification with the August CME Prep course provided by the St. Petersburg College. ACLS is renewed every two years.

Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for a Paramedic Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

The City of Gulfport Jose R. Hernandez the new Firefighter/Paramedic will start his 24 hour shifts on August 19 now that he completed his initial orientation.

Gulfport Public Safety Night Out was on August 6. The Fire Department has Engine 17 Pumper 17 Special Rescue 17, the 1925 La France and a Burn House water squirting demo. Rehab 17 was also displayed by the CERT team.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced two toilet tanks at the Casino and snaked the drain in the urinal in the Men's Restroom
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department
- Replaced toilet handle in Ladies Handicap Restroom stall at the Fire Station
- Assisted in completing daily set-ups for activities at the Senior Center
- Purchased and installed new refrigerator handle for Police Department break room
- Moved old tables from the Senior Center to Casino
- Unclogged shower drain at the Fire Station

Parks

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned up and Mulched Clymer Park, Library and Chase block, including dog park. Hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned up the beach
- Picked up trash and emptied trash on Beach Boulevard and Shore Boulevard (after art walk weekends).
- Picked up debris in parks following storms.
- Sanded, Sprayed weeds and removed weeds at ball fields
- Tilled up clay area at ball fields and reworked clay
- Replaced broken boards on fence at parking stalls on Tangerine greenway
- Added sand to new volley ball courts

- Repaired bench swings by the pier
- Cleaned out screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis park
- Reworked sand at the beach volleyball courts
- Mowed Caldwell Park, 14th Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area, Recreation Center playing field, Hoyt perimeter, Marina area, Lions Club, end of 49th Street and York Street, 55th Street medians, Clymer greenway, Tangerine greenways, Tomlinson Park, Wood Ibis Park, City Complex and 56th Street ditch.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades and replaced a coil pack on a backpack blower and a line trimmer.
- 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.
- 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.

Streets & Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement
- Continued curbside pick-up of bagged leaves
- Delivered residential recycling bins with informational sheets
- Assembled automated containers for replacements
- Removed debris from storm grates along Tangerine Greenway
- Cut, added millings and set new grade to alleyway at 57th Street & Gulfport Boulevard
- Removed illegal dumping at Hoyt Field
- Installed new stop sign, street sign, and pole at 53rd Street & Tangerine Avenue
- Removed illegal dumping at Osgood Point
- Cut and removed low-hanging limb at 59th Street & 18th Avenue South
- Added millings to street cut on 25th Avenue, between 51st and 52nd Street South
- Added millings to waterline cuts in the roadway at 51st Street & 18th Avenue South
- Added millings to alley, and set new grade at 3007 Beach Boulevard South
- Completed asphalt roadway work at 58th Street & 20th Avenue South
- Completed pothole patchwork at 58th Street & 16th Avenue South
- Cleaned box and opened drains at Beach Boulevard & 31st Avenue South
- Cleaned boxes and pipes at 56th Street & 15th Avenue South
- Cleaned stormwater lines with pressure truck on Beach Boulevard
- Cleaned storm water lines on 56th Street, from 14th to 15th Avenue
- Removed storm grate and cleaned out drop drain at the end of 49th Street South
- Removed overgrowth from runoff at the end of 50th Street South

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the 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 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service
- Completed 12 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off
- Completed 174 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates

- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach
- Replaced 2 water meters which were 20+ years old with a new electronic water meter
- Replaced water service at 5019 20th Avenue South
- Replaced mainline water valve and 2" service to backflow at 62nd St and 15th Avenue South

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2 including (Saturday & Sunday)
- Daily rain fall check and documentation (includes Saturday & Sunday)
- Daily ground water elevation recording (including Saturday & Sunday)
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations # 1 and # 2
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department / Garage
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Police Station / City Hall
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Senior Center
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection
- Installed well points around area of sewer break at 1009 Gray Street South
- Replaced sewer lateral at 1009 Gray Street South
- Cleaned sewer lateral at 5325 20th Avenue South
- Manually ran both lift station pumps because on heavy rainfall
- Cleaned storm water line stoppage at Beach Blvd and Essex Avenue South
- Cleaned storm water line stoppage at 56th St and Newton Avenue South

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced two front tires on Police vehicle #91
- Replaced all 4 tires on Building Maintenance vehicle #24
- Plugged tire on Parks' Toro Groundskeeper
- Replaced rear tires on Sanitation vehicle #30
- Removed faulty DEF hose from Sanitation vehicle #42
- Removed and replaced axle torque arm, and continued to track intermittent electronic fault in Sanitation vehicle #44
- Repaired hydraulic leak in Streets Loader #35
- Performed preventative maintenance and various small repairs on 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, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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:

The 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 have moved to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for July was 184. The fiscal year-to-date total is 1,741. The number of citizen complaints was 9 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 143. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.2 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. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review 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.

August 12, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

V15-18; 2810 47th Street South; Variance requests for the proposed construction of an 18' x 30' screen room with a composite panel roof which will connect the house to the currently detached garage:

- Reduce the required principal structure rear yard setback requirement by 19 feet, from 25 feet to 6 feet;
- Reduce the required separation distance between the principal structure (proposed screen room) and the north side of an existing shed by 10 feet, from 12 feet to 2 feet, and;
- Reduce the required separation distance between the principal structure (proposed screen room) and the west side of the existing shed by 11 feet, from 12 feet to 1 foot.

September 2, 2015 Planning and Zoning Board and September 15, 2015 City Council/CRA meeting:

- There are no cases scheduled at this time for this meeting.

September 9, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

- There are no cases scheduled at this time for this meeting.