

The Debut of our Newsletter - Inaugural Issue!

*Name This Newsletter. The Senior Center Foundation is looking for entries to name this new newsletter. Pick the name and you'll win a lifetime membership in the Foundation! Submit entries to the Foundation by dropping them off at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center located at 5501 27th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707 or email to mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com. We'll debut the new name in the next issue!

Inside this issue

What is the
Foundation?

Foundation
History

Message from Sue
Frank, Gulfport
Senior Center
director

Our Board of
Directors

Foundation to
Host
The Allegro Trio
March 27

Volunteer
Spotlight~
Meet the Card
Lady

Lifetime
Members

Thank you
to
Karen Keaton

Donors
Recognition

Greetings!

It's incredible! Before your very eyes, with great excitement, and no other fanfare, we are unveiling the first newsletter of The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation. I'd like to take this opportunity to say hello to all of our current Foundation Members, Sponsors, and Volunteers, and to welcome those of you who are just finding out about us.



Jane D. Ogilvie, President

Our newsletter is a work in progress.

As time goes by we will be working on the basics, in order to find a format that will be most appealing to you our readers. We hope to bring you the latest news related to the Foundation, and keep you informed of our progress. I anticipate in early 2008 you will be able to access the newsletter online at our web site.

In this first issue we'd like to provide you with some basic information about our Foundation. We are young, but we do have a history!

I hope you'll enjoy reading and learning about us. Our goals are worthy, our needs are great, and we can never have too much support.

Jane D. Ogilvie, President

Ruth Bird Named Lifetime Member



Ruth Bird, seated

The Foundation is proud to introduce our first Lifetime Member, Ruth Bird, born in Brooklyn, New York June 1, 1910. Bird said of her many generous donations to the Senior Center and to the Foundation, "God has been good to me by sending me two good husbands." My cup runneth over." Italy, England and parts of the Caribbean have claimed Ruth and family as residents, but according to her, the Gulfport area is the best. Her life today includes daily trips to the Gulfport Senior Center, a delight in flea markets, and a love of her family. These outside activities are accomplished with the aid of her younger son, Lee and his wife Star. Through the unselfish generosity of Ruth Bird and other friends, the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation will strive to enhance the Senior Center's activities and programs. Thank you Ruth!

Foundation History

Miss Frances Purdy (Longtime Gulfport resident and advocate) had a dream.

The dream was revealed at a Gulfport Senior Advisory Committee meeting in 2002.

Senior Center manager Susan Frank, Center Program Director Sarah Peel, and Volunteer & Senior Advocate Jane D. Ogilvie decided to start a Foundation. They were naïve but persistent!

Gulfport resident and Attorney Karen S. Keaton volunteered her professional expertise in drafting Articles of Incorporation.

November 3, 2003 the Articles were registered with the State of Florida.

Karen Keaton assisted in drafting of the Bylaws.

Bylaws were accepted in April 2004.

2004 – 2006

- Board of Directors was established.
- Organizational fundamentals were established.
- Non-profit Charitable Solicitation status was granted.
- Unsolicited donations were received.
- Assistance to support and enhance Senior Center began.
- Planning for first major fundraiser was started.

January 17, 2007 “Flashback in Time” @ Gulfport Casino (1st major fundraising event)

- Brochures were produced.
- Summer 2007 sales tax exemption received.
- Computers and equipment purchased for Senior Center participants.
- Computers and equipment purchased for Foundation use.
- New microwave purchased for Senior Center’s Congregate Dining Program.
- Brochure rack purchased for Center’s lobby.
- Financial assistance to Center special events and daily activities provided.
- Logo created, official letterhead printed, board name tags purchased
- Newsletter started.
- Web site started.
- Membership, Sponsorship, and Volunteer program organized.

What is the Foundation?

The Foundation is registered with the State of Florida as a 501 c 3 charitable non-profit organization. We are a completely separate legal entity from the City of Gulfport.

The City of Gulfport maintains the physical building and property, and is the Administrator for the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center.

What is our Mission?

Our primary Mission is to aide, assist and enhance services, programs and activities offered through the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center located at 5501 27th Ave. S. in Gulfport, Florida.

How are we Governed?

The Foundation is run by an all-Volunteer Board of Directors. We have a President, two vice presidents and a Secretary/ Treasurer. We meet on the last Thursday of every month at the Senior Center. Sub-committees meet prior to the general Board meeting. Special meetings are called when necessary.

Who do we serve?

The Foundation directly serves all Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center participants, their loved ones, and families. We indirectly serve all residents of Gulfport and neighboring communities. If you’re a Baby Boomer, we have your future interests in mind!

How do we help?

The Foundation actively pursues fundraising in order to provide for special needs of the Senior Center. For example, the Foundation is committed to helping the Center achieve National Senior Center Accreditation.

What do we need?

We need YOU! Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give”.



The Foundation’s first major public fundraiser, a dance entitled “Flashback in Time,” held in the historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom was a huge success in January 2007

A Message from Sue Frank, Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Director



It gives me great pleasure to offer words of thanks and praise for the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation, Inc. and for the dedication of its past and present Board members.

Once we were a Senior Center with one director, two part-time employees and handful of volunteers. That was 1983. Today we have one director, one full time and one part-time employee and a Volunteer Coordinator for over 100 Senior Center volunteers. (You can see where the difference lies).

We've passed a few milestones along the way. We became a Community Focal Point in 1985 and have kept that designation ever since. In 1997 we were awarded the prestigious Flo Goldman Award by the Florida Council on Aging for promoting excellence in service. Even our staff and volunteers have made us proud: volunteer Betty Staebell was awarded Volunteer of the Year in the Tampa Bay Arts & Recreation Division in 2004; Senior Services Coordinator Sarah Peel was awarded Most Caring Social

Worker of Pinellas County in 2003; Cynthia Dean was awarded Most Caring Volunteer of Pinellas County in 2006 and Pam McGinnis was awarded second runner up for Most Caring Volunteer of Pinellas County in 2007.

In fact we have been enriched by every person who has ever walked through our doors. Each person brought something to share: a smile, a story, words of encouragement, bags of grapefruit, bingo prizes, flea market items, food for our pantry, a particular talent, etc. We have truly been blessed through the years!

And where would we be without the determination and dedication of Jane Ogilvie who worked with staff to create and establish the Senior Center Foundation. Jane has also stood with Senior Center staff in getting the Communities for a Lifetime off the ground. This lady of many hats must be very proud of where we are today! None of us had any particular expertise in either of these areas but we did have a dream of how things could be if only people would work together.

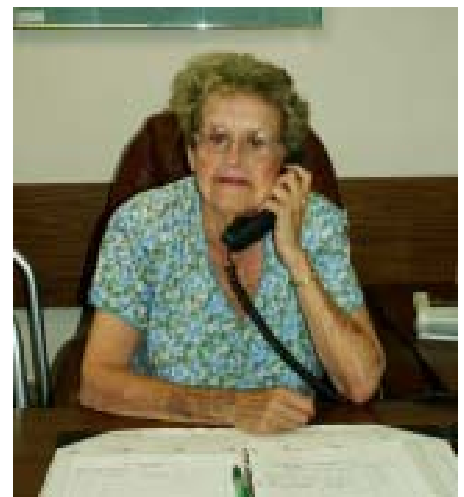
If you haven't already heard, we have dreams to renovate our lobby area to include a lunch and snack counter. We have dreams to install a loop system in all of our activity rooms so the hearing impaired can appreciate every spoken word. We have dreams of creating more comfortable spaces conducive for socializing. We have dreams of becoming a nationally accredited Senior Center that will increase our possibilities of obtaining grants. The Foundation has offered to

help us achieve some of our dreams but it's going to take the support of many others to help make our dreams come true.

Does participating at the Gulfport Senior Center improve your life in any way? Your support of the Senior Center Foundation would be an excellent way to express your appreciation. Together we can reach our goals and our Senior Center will be a better place for you and for our future participants.

Come dream with us!

Sue Frank, Director
Gulfport Multipurpose
Senior Center



The Cheery Voice on the other End of the Line - Laura Prosser is one of dozens of dedicated volunteers who assist with events, activities and the day to day operations of the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation Board of Directors
Board Title
Affiliation

Jane D. Ogilvie
 President
 Senior Solutions of Pinellas County

William R. Wolf
 Vice-President
 Retired

Greg D. Stemm
 Vice President
 Gulfport Chamber of Commerce

Cynthia M. Dean
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

Joan M. Barry
 Retired

Mary Connell
 Retired

William H. Distel
 Retired

Sophie T. Friedlander
 Retired

Carole C. Gabrio
 Stetson University

Louise LaValla
 Bank of America

Robert J. Myers
 Maney & Gordon, PA

Ken Reichart
 The Gabber

Thank You Karen Keaton, P.A.

Forming a 50(c)(3) organization like the Foundation involves a lot of hard work, energy, thought, and legal advice. In 2002 when Sr. Center Supervisor Sue Frank, Senior Services Director Sarah Peel, and I met to discuss "Where do we go from here?", we knew without doubt we would need legal guidance.

I turned to Gulfport resident Karen Keaton, P.A. to see if by chance she would help us. Karen, being involved herself with other non-profit organizations, knew exactly how to answer our question. How lucky I feel to have made that call- especially when I was asking her to donate her time, services, and expertise. Without hesitation, Karen "stepped up".

She met with us frequently as we labored through our Articles of Incorporation and the process of registering them with the State. We immediately began writing our Bylaws, again gaining the necessary information we needed, and the reasoning behind them.

Applying for non-profit status was no walk in the park either. It was a lengthy ordeal. Though we knew we needed to raise funds, we were restricted in our ability to do so until this tax status was obtained.

Since those initial endeavors, Karen has stepped in to offer legal counsel several times to our Board, and remains willing to share her knowledge and opinions with us to this day. Our success as an organization today is in large part the result of Karen's generous nature and her professional abilities.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Foundation in this our first Newsletter, I would like to publicly thank Karen for her patience and commitment to helping us through the years. Many have already received benefits from the creation of the Foundation, and hopefully many more will. Please join me in thanking Karen for the role she's played in helping us to make this possible.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jane D. Ogilvie, President

Foundation Hosts Allegro Trio

On March 27 at 7:30 p.m. the Foundation will host the Allegro Trio in special performance of classical and romantic chamber music at the Catherine A. Hickman Theatre, 5501 27th Avenue South in Gulfport. Tickets are just \$20 and are available at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, in the Bank of American Building at 2808 58th Street South.

Oleg Geyer (violin), James Connors (cello) and Vladimir Khokhlov (piano) comprise the Trio. Geyer served as concertmaster of the Ukrainian National Symphony, the Bulgaria Opera Theatre among others. Connors has worked as principle cellist of the Florida Orchestra for the past two decades. Khokhlov is internationally acclaimed and performed in concerts in Europe, Russia and the U.S.



Featured Senior Center Volunteer
Meet Margaret Reilly – The Card Lady

Margaret moved to Gulfport from Dearborn, Michigan in 1983. At one time, she worked for Ford Motor Company.

ON arrival, she immediately became involved with the Senior Center as a volunteer in the Reassurance Program.

Later and until this writing, Margaret volunteers at the Reception Desk on Tuesdays, come to the Arts and Crafts class and also has helped to decorate the lobby area from time to time. However, she is best known for her dedication to the greeting cards. She is always trying to keep them up to date, neat and in order on the rack.

Why does she enjoy the Senior Center? Margaret says that it is because the people are friendly, and the volunteers are sensitive to the needs of others. We do need more cards, especially birthday cards.

Contributed by Laura L. Prosser, Senior Center Volunteer

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been."

- Mark Twain

Inaugural Lifetime Members

- Ruth Bird
- Mary Connell
- William H. Distel
- Susan K. Frank
- Carole C. Gabrio
- Gulfport Women's Club
- Robert J. Myers
- Jane D. Ogilvie
- William R. Wolf

Friends of the Foundation \$100

- Josef Bonk
- Helen Mullins
- Emma Banks
- The Gabber (K. Reichart)
- Sarah Peel
- Agnes Shovlin

Bronze Donors - \$250

- Elizabeth M. Wood
- Nancy A. Lang

Gold Donors - \$1000

- Dawn Fisher
- Gulfport Senior Citizens Harmonica Club
- Francis A Stanley
- Family of John Shaw
- Wal-Mart
- Estate of Ann L. Bell

Donors above \$5,000

- Eleanor Daly Troy
- The Estate of Marguerite P. Brown
- The Estate of Marion T. Kester