



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *January 6 - 12, 2013*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall will be closed Monday, January 21 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

The Gulfport Public Library was the place to be on January 4 for an exciting night of rhythmic adventure and family fun as Jimbo Talbot brought his fun, high energy **DrumQuest** program to the town (photos below). Numerous library patrons and Gulfport residents joined in for this exciting rhythmic evening of percussion fun!



The crisp cold morning was perfect for the **Third Annual JWest Prostate Cancer 5k Walk/Run for Awareness** on January 5 (photos below). The race started outside the Gulfport Casino with 205 participants. Thanks to all racers, City staff and sponsors who made this event a success!



## Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Walking Club** meets at the Gulfport 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. Call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079 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 art and crafts, bath, body and wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. and special events on the first Tuesday of each month. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket), call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email [dan@igc.org](mailto:dan@igc.org).

Everyone is invited to the **49th Street South Business Association (So49)** meeting at the Gulfport Meeting Center, 5021 Tangerine Avenue South, on Monday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 515-4941

Join the City of Gulfport at Waterfront Complex Pavilion # 7 on Friday January 18 at 10 a.m. for the annual **Arbor Day** celebration. Free refreshments will be offered and attendees will receive seedlings to take home. For more information please call 893-1118.

Enjoy **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Saturday, January 19, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Join Tampa Bay Times staff writer Craig Pittman for evening **An Evening of Orchids and Scandal** at the Gulfport Public Library 7 p.m. Thursday, January 24. Mr. Pittman is the author of several books, and will discuss his latest work *The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid*. For more information please call 893-1074.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> 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 early, please contact the 49<sup>th</sup> Street South Business Association, email [JSRTraining@aol.com](mailto:JSRTraining@aol.com) or call Phil at 327-3509.

Empower you mind, body, and soul at the **Gulfport Health and Wellness Expo** in the beautiful Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Wednesday, February 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for a day of healthy fun for all ages with free health screenings, presentations, speakers, interactive demonstrations and fresh, healthy food. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-2237.

## Weekly Casino Ballroom Events

- Every Tuesday, 12 p.m.: Ballroom lessons, - \$7
- Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Argentine Tango Dance/ Lesson - \$7
- Every Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Swing Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Administration

Chief Vincent was on vacation December 21 - January 6. Lieutenant Stone was Acting Chief.

***Calls for Service:***

Offenses	36
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	32

**Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:**

Gary Butler was stopped by Officer Parks in the 2000 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street on the evening of January 1 for driving a motor scooter with no taillight. Butler is a habitual traffic offender, and was driving the scooter on a suspended license. He was arrested and the owner of the scooter retrieved it from the scene.

Officers responded to the 900 block of Freemont Street on the evening of January 2 after a resident reported that several items, including a large amount of cash and a firearm were stolen from his home. The items were recovered in St. Petersburg, and the suspects were arrested and charged with Armed Burglary.

Officers responded to the Gulfport Garage on January 2 after the owner reported that someone had crawled under a damaged wooden door at the rear of the rear of the business and removed a small amount of cash from the cash register. No other items were reported missing.

While on patrol on January 2 Officer Jon Davis observed a red sedan that failed to stop for a red light while traveling westbound on Gulfport Boulevard. A traffic stop revealed the driver was a Habitual Traffic Offender (HTO) and driving on a revoked license. The driver was arrested and transported to PCJ by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office transport van.

A vehicle was recovered in Childs Park after it was stolen from outside the Boca Ciega Center early January 5. The victim reported he left his van running in front of the Center while picking up a resident, and it was stolen by two males.

While on patrol in the 1500 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on January 6 Officer Jon Davis smelled and observed smoke coming from an area near 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 46<sup>th</sup> Street. He proceeded eastbound on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 46<sup>th</sup> Street and observed the smoke coming from behind a business north of the Pinellas Trail. He drove to the area and discovered a fire at the base of several large palm trees in the rear of a Fairfield Avenue business enclosed by a fence. Officer Davis notified dispatch and stayed on scene until the Fire Department arrived. He also provided a report to the St. Petersburg Fire Department arson investigator.

Officers were dispatched the scene of a scooter crash in the 2500 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on January 6, and found the driver unconscious on the ground. An investigation determined the scooter struck the left rear taillight of a legally parked vehicle and fell over. The driver was transported to Bayfront Medical Center. Officer Mills investigated the driver for DUI and determined that there was probable cause that he was intoxicated. The driver refused to give a blood sample at the hospital, and a citation was issued with a court date.

Officers responded to the 1400 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of January 7 after a woman reported that she parked her car at a gas pump and locked the doors before entering the store to pay for gasoline. When she returned she discovered her car unlocked and her purse missing.

**Investigations:**

<b>New Cases:</b>	16
Cases Suspended - no leads	4
Cases Assigned:	10
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	2

<b>Supplements Received:</b>	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	1
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	9

Detective Hanh Pham obtained photo evidence for a check fraud case. He also checked pawn shops for stolen property, and made several attempts with negative results to locate Cody Tompkins who is wanted for burglary.

This week Detective Embry attempted with negative results to locate a female involved in grand theft and burglary to a residence. He is also in search of a male involved in a burglary to a residence, and will continue to locate both individuals.

School Resource Officer Steve Beltran attended ACISS report training, and Officer Jason Motte completed his duties as Boca Ciega High School with no significant incidents.

Analyst Palmisano completed the quarterly seat belt citation report to DHSMV and worked in records for 10 hours. She also reviewed calls for service for activities and reported the results for the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, and commenced compiling data for our annual Uniform Crime Report

**Records**

Reports reviewed:	16
Supplements reviewed:	35
Public records requests:	13
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	7
Citizens assisted:	52

**MARINA**

Pumped eight hundred sixty two (862) gallons of gas, and one thousand one hundred four (1,104) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty nine (59) vessels.

Assisted in eighteen (18) pump-outs evacuating two hundred sixty five (265) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

**Transient vessels:**

Marina staff welcomed a 22' & 45' motorboat, a 49' Gulfstream and a 40' Albin this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

**LEISURE SERVICES**

**Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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/GTV615/Live\\_Webstream.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm). It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Continued preparations for 2013 City website meeting pages.
- Troubleshoot computers in Police & Administrative Services Departments.
- Updated City of Gulfport Internal Phone List and distributed to City personnel.
- Provided Control Room coverage of January 9 Board of Adjustment meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Updated upcoming City events and announcements to City website and GTV615.
- Met with Lynne Brown to discuss 2013 Pinellas County Fair presentation.
- Created Arbor Day Celebration program and flyer.
- Finalized 2013 February Events/Meetings calendar and sent to Supervisor for review.

### **Parks**

Removed and stored Clymer Park Holiday decorations.

Repaired bench swings on beach

Inspected & repaired benches in all City parks.

Hung memorial plaque on Beach Pavilion #6.

Removed mulch & rock from Casino perimeter in preparation for termite tenting.

Relocated irrigation valve and zone lines in preparation for Library outdoor reading garden project.

Weeded, trimmed and cleaned Library & Multipurpose Center grounds and Marina area, and hand raked around benches & pavilions.

Mowed Recreation Center field.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

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 needed repairs.

### **Other Activities:**

- All City park 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.
- Lowered and raised flags per Federal Order.

### **GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service)**

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Want to go shopping? GEMS offers hourly trips to: South Pasadena on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays; the Tyrone shopping area on Tuesday

mornings and Thursday afternoons, and; Walmart & Aldi every Tuesday afternoon. Call 893-2242 for more information on this door-to-door service.

### Multipurpose Center

The Multipurpose Center will be closed on Monday, January 21 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**.

Need assistance with your smart phone, iPad or android tablet? The Gulfport Multipurpose Center offers **classes for registered members** with Karen Gates every Monday. Call Gail at 893-2237 for information on February classes.

Join Escot Tours for a visit to Hard Rock Café. The bus leaves the Multipurpose Center at 7:45 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, and at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday & Tuesday. The \$20 fee includes \$30 in casino tokens. For information and reservations call 545-2088 or 888-571-7778, or visit [www.escotbuslines.com](http://www.escotbuslines.com).

Want to learn more about your family tree? Instructor Kay Boatwright will assist in researching family histories 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. every second Friday at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Learn where ancestors come from and nationalities; find out the variations of the spelling of surnames and how to build a family tree. This event is open to registered Multipurpose Center members only. For more information call 893-2237 or 893-1231.

Join us for the next **Snack Bar Movie Day** on Tuesday, January 15 at 11 a.m. when Stephanie cooks up a Hot Rib sandwich special for \$2.50. The movie is FREE!

Simone Healthcare will offer **free blood pressure screenings** in the Theater lobby on Thursday, January 31 beginning at 10 a.m.

The next **First Friday Mini Flea Market** is February 1, 9 a.m. - noon. Find great items at affordable prices while supporting Multipurpose Center special programs. Drop canned goods into the new "Love Bucket" for the Multipurpose Center pantry.

Multipurpose Center members who like to sing and love music are invited to sign up for a newly forming singing group. Stop by the Multipurpose Center, call Gail at 893-2237 or Cynthia at 893-1231 for more information!

A representative from the Community Law Program visits the Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. every third Friday offering **free legal help** for people over 60 who meet certain criteria. Call 582-7480 for more information.

Ready to get fit and meet new friends? If you're over 50 visit the **Foundation Fitness Center** Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Multipurpose Center and take a tour of our state-of-the-art fitness facility.

A **Beginners Line Dance class** is offered at Scout Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for registered members of the Multipurpose Center. Multipurpose Center membership is free.

A **Tai Chi for Arthritis Program** is offered on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

### Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater & Gulfport Neighborhood Center

#### **Casino (last week's events):**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 30 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John<br>7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 30)       |
| Monday, December 31 | 8 p.m. - New Year's Eve Celebration featuring the Hefner & Hefner Fabulous Five Variety Band (Turnout 159) |

Wednesday, January 2      6 p.m. - Bonus lesson with Swingtime  
    7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime  
    8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 225)

Thursday, January 3      7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
    8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 29)

Friday, January 4      10 a.m. - Mini Health Fair (Turnout 150)

Saturday, January 5      5:30 a.m. JWest Prostate Cancer 5K run (Turnout 205)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Sunday, January 6      6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson  
    7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance

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      7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
    8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

There were no events in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** last week.

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):**

Thursday - Saturday, January 10-12, 17-9 & 24-26, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 13, 20 & 27, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players presents **Sordid Lives**, a black comedy about white trash. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar & the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, January 6      6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 13)

**Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):**

Every Sunday      6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday      9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday      9:15 a.m. - Bible study

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

Monday - Friday      7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

Every Monday - Friday      7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

## LIBRARY

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:**

- Wednesday, January 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, January 2, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Wednesday, January 2, 5 p.m. - *Real Estate News* forum.
- Thursday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, January 3, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Friday, January 4, 7 p.m. - *DrumQuest*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Saturday, January 12, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids*. For more information call Cailey Klasson at 893-1134.
- Thursday, January 17, 10:30 a.m. - CoffeeTalk, sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Join us for light refreshments and coffee, and discussion of the book *Other Voices, Other Rooms* by Truman Capote. Copies of the book are available at the Circulation Desk. Call 893-1073 for more information.
- Saturday, January 19 - Free Family Movie day: 10:30 a.m. - *ParaNorman*; 1:30 p.m. - *The Dark Knight Rises*. Enjoy free popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.
- Tuesday, January 22, - *SCORE Counseling*: Free & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 893-1073.
- Thursday, January 24, 7 p.m. - *An Evening of Orchids & Scandal* with Tampa Bay Times Staff Writer Craig Pittman. Call 893-1073 to reserve a seat.
- Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *eSalon*. Learn to browse, place a hold, check out and download ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics, or discover new ways of using the e-Reader, tablet or mp3. For more information call 893-1073.
- Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*. Challenge your friends on the latest XBOX 360 games or just hang out and enjoy free refreshments.
- Every Thursday through February 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting. Sessions include a short meditation period, audio recording of a chapter of *Practicing the Power of Now*, group discussions and video recordings of Eckhart Tolle's teachings from Eckhart Tolle TV.
- Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - *Beginning Spanish*.
- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.

- Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous*.

**Library Services/Statistics December 30, 2012 - January 5, 2013:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,426	447
Sun. 12/30	Library closed	
Mon. 12/31	Holiday	
Tue. 1/1	Library closed	
Wed. 1/2	461	124
Thu. 1/3	378	116
Fri. 1/4	282	102
Sat. 1/5	257	80

**Recreation Center**

The Game Room is reserved 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday, January 12 for a private event.  
 The Art Room is reserved 3 - 8 p.m. Saturday, January 26 for a private event.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Forty three (43) children are registered for the School Year Child Care program, a quality program that provides a nurturing atmosphere where children in Kindergarten through age 14 have the opportunity to experience recreational, social, creative and enriching activities. 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 \$110 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Thirteen (13) children are registered for the 2012/13 **Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) 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. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

**Contractual classes:** Cooking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty three (53) teens are registered the **2012/13 Teen Night program**, a great hang out 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.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 12 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,323 totaling \$166,880.99
- Online Water payments: 107 transactions totaling \$12,362.82
- Bright House payments: 35
- Utility Bills Mailed 01/09/13: 1,272
- Payroll 01/04/13: 157 transactions totaling \$180,003.50
- Payroll-Accounts Payable: 11 transactions totaling \$21,688.59

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 39 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crash
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 23 Fire Inspections
- 9 Re Inspections

### **Life Safety**

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, January 17. For more information visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com) or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

### **This Week's activities:**

- Lt. Poirrier and the CERT team covered first response for the J. West 5k Run on January 5. Proceeds benefit the J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation which assists in awareness, education, detection and counseling for prostate cancer.
- The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting a Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College internship field program. Lt. Poirrier on the "B"- shift is his preceptor.
- The Fire Department monthly training will be facilitated by Pinellas Park Fire Department and Joe's Towing, and will consist of auto extrication and stabilization.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Cleaned gutters at Recreation Center.
- Repaired women's restroom toilet at Library.
- Removed holiday decorations from dining room, replaced 2 EXIT lights and completed setups for daily events at Senior Center.
- Completed termite tenting and replaced air conditioner thermostat at Casino.
- Replaced ballast in Fire Station restroom.
- Installed air hose holder in City Garage.
- Replaced several ceiling tiles and repaired Council Chambers exterior door at City Hall.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Delivered recycling bins and "City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines" information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street & 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard, Beach & Shore Boulevards, 56<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Completed asphalt patch work on multiple potholes throughout City per direction.
- Completed alley and easement grading throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout city per direction.
- Replaced/reset damaged traffic control signs throughout City.
- Repaired sidewalks at various City locations.
- Graded Gulfport Beach and removed seaweed & debris.
- Continued micro-surfacing project.
- Commenced curbside collection of Christmas trees.
- Cleaned and removed tires, metal and debris from truck wash area and City yard.
- Palletized electronics for recycling pick up.

#### **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).
- Disconnected water service at 122 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 27 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 153 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 5 water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.

#### **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.

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced speed sensor on transmission of Sanitation Truck #44.
- Replaced grabber belt on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Replaced coolant tank on Police Vehicle #111.
- Replaced hydraulic oil fitting on Lightning Loader #88.
- Performed service on Fire Truck #E17.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **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

From January to July of this year, the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board issued 536 citations against unlicensed contractors. 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 (727) 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 check their website at [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

**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 beginning home

improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the New Business Checklist at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area. This area comprises the southeast portion of the City which generally extends south from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to the City boundaries.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**January 9, 2013 Board of Adjustment results:**

V13-01; 6150 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 6 feet, from 25 feet to 19 feet to allow for the construction for an new, open front porch.  
APPROVED

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Attorney
- Department Directors
- The Gulfport Gabber
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
- The St Petersburg Times