



Gulfport Community Update

January 13 - 19, 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.

Upcoming Events:

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.

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 or www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket, call Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or email dan@igc.org.

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 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 early, please contact the 49th Street South Business Association, email JSRTraining@aol.com or call Phil at 327-3509.

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
- 1st and 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2nd & 4th Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Offenses	38
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	19

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard on the afternoon of January 8 after a woman reported her purse had been stolen. The complainant and a witness stated that a man grabbed the purse from a table and ran away. He was last seen getting into a vehicle occupied by a female. The case has been assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 10th Avenue on the afternoon of January 9 after Russell Moore got into an argument with a neighbor over the storage of tools. Moore went to his home, returned with a can of bear spray and sprayed the neighbor. He was arrested for battery.

Officers were summoned to the 5100 block of 18th Avenue on the evening of January 10 regarding juveniles throwing rocks at cars, striking the window of one vehicle but causing no damage. Officers spoke with them about the dangers of throwing rocks, and they were turned over to their parents.

An intoxicated customer at O'Maddy's Bar became upset and threw a bottle at the bartender after she refused to serve him more alcohol on the evening of January 10. The bartender wasn't hit, and the customer was arrested next door at Gulfport on the Rocks.

While on routine patrol on January 11 officers spotted a palm tree on fire in the alleyway in the 5300 block of Dellett Avenue. The fire was confined to the area around the palm, and no injuries were reported. The fire is believed to be related to a series of fires currently under investigation.

A Gulfport Montessori School staff member's purse was stolen from the school cafeteria during a social event for students and their parents on the evening of January 11. Surveillance video showed one of the adults taking the purse and leaving the campus.

Officer Langston arrested Eddie Lee Dawkins at a residence in the 5100 block of 11th Avenue January 12 on a warrant from Hillsborough County for failing to register as a sex offender. Dawkins admitted he has been in Gulfport since December, and was charged with failing to register with Pinellas County authorities.

Officer Langston stopped a vehicle at the intersection of 49th Street & 11th Avenue for a seatbelt violation. She smelled a strong odor of marijuana and a search of passenger Kanaya Leach led to the discovery of a bag of marijuana. She was issued a notice to appear.

A nineteen year-old man was issued a notice to appear after he was found to be in possession of a bag full of alcoholic beverages at a party attended by several underage juveniles early January 12.

Officers responded to the Coast Guard property on the afternoon of January 12 after a woman reported that she left the window of her vehicle open while she went for a walk, and discovered her wallet missing upon her return. She said that she noticed four people in a red Taurus watching her when she arrived but had no further information.

Officers responded to the 5400 block of 14th Street in the early morning hours of January 14 after a caller reported that a relative staying in the home took two tablet computers from the residence. One of the devices was pawned in St. Petersburg, and the victim did not wish to prosecute after learning of its whereabouts.

Officers responded to the Seaside Villas complex on the afternoon of January 14 after management reported that someone wrote profanity on the office doors, elevator and an apartment. The graffiti was removed, but a few scratches remained on one of the doors.

Investigations:

New Cases:	12
Cases Suspended - no leads	3
Cases Assigned:	5
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0

Cases Exceptionally Cleared: 0
 Cases Unfounded/No Crime: 2
 Cases Referred Back to Patrol: 3

Supplements Received: 9
 Cases Cleared With Arrest: 0
 Previously cleared with Arrest: 0
 Cases Closed-No Leads: 2
 Cases Unfounded/No Crime: 1
 Exceptionally Cleared: 0
 Cases Still Active: 6

Detective Hanh Pham is investigating an aggravated battery in which a 12 year-old old was assaulted by a 14 year-old boy. The victim, who was walking home from a business when the incident occurred, sustained a laceration approximately 1/2 inch long below his left eyebrow. The suspect has been identified via video surveillance from the business.

Detective Embry attempted with negative results to locate a female suspect involved in three cases he's investigating with negative results. He also attempted to interview a suspect involved in a grand theft auto case, and will continue to search for both suspects.

Officer Motte mentored several children, mediated an altercation preventing a fight, investigated three thefts, Baker Acted a student, attended a training block for ACISS and covered an after school Basketball game between Boca Ciega and Lakewood. All leads in the theft cases were exhausted without probable cause for arrests, and the cases have been suspended

Analyst Palmisano is tabulating data for the annual UCR report to be submitted to FDLE. She is also reviewing data in the final trial version being converted from the previous records management system (IMC) to the current system (ACISS). Additionally, she completed the monthly PCSO call out report and the biweekly open case list, covered records for 12 hours and attended training at PCSO.

Records

Reports reviewed: 17
 Supplements reviewed: 51
 Public records requests: 18
 Bike registrations: 6
 Fingerprints: 9
 Subpoenas processed: 10
 Citizens assisted: 58

MARINA

Pumped two thousand six hundred twenty six (2,626) gallons of gas, and one thousand four hundred eighty six (1,486) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twelve (112) vessels.

Assisted in twenty three (23) pump-outs evacuating three hundred seventy (370) 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 33' sailboat, 15' powerboat, 36' powerboat and a 45' Gulfstar this week. Welcome to Gulfport!

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/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.
- Provided Control Room coverage for January 15 City Council meeting. Rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Department and City Clerk's office.
- Uploaded upcoming weekly programming schedule, City events and announcements to City website and GTV615.
- Created promotional videos for February 6 Health & Wellness Expo and March 16 Citywide Yard Sale.
- Delivered Tour of Gulfport video to City Manager's office for approval.
- Installed software onto Community Development Department computers.
- Set up audio visual equipment for Senior Center Movie Day.
- Printed programs for 2013 Arbor Day Celebration.
- Provided Interim IT Director a list of applications used by GTV615.
- Met with Phyllis Rosenblum to discuss Circle of Friends annual meeting.
- Continued preparations for 2013 Pinellas County Fair presentation.
- Sent approved 2013 February Events/meetings calendar to printers for distribution.

Parks

Removed shrubs & trees from City Hall building perimeter in preparation for painting.

Replaced battery in Sandpro and wheels on mower, greased mowers and sharpened blades.

Installed sleeve for electrical service at Library outdoor reading garden, and bubbler for Arbor Day tree at Recreation Center.

Hand raked around benches & pavilions.

Mowed Recreation Center field, Chase block & Dog Park, Caldwell & Tomlinson Parks, Neighborhood Center grounds, 14th Avenue & 55th Street medians, Pasadena entrance, and Tangerine Greenway.

Installed new security light at Recreation Center playground, repaired bench swings at beach, and electrical outlets on Clymer Greenway.

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 CERT Team performed a practice fire drill at the Senior Center on January 16. There were approximately 50 people in the building at the time, and all were out in 1.5 minutes.

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 or call Gail at 893-2237 for more information!

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

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.

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.

Remember the days of live shows with jugglers, dancing girls, comics, singing and dance? Experience a bit of the past with a **Vaudville Show** sponsored by our friends Jay & Lota Wygant at the Catherine Hickman Theater, at 7 p.m. Friday, February 8. Tickets are just \$10 and help support the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

The next **Snack Bar Movie Day** is Tuesday, February 12 at 11 a.m. Enjoy a special lunch for only \$2.50 while enjoying a free movie.

What Medicaid Programs are available to seniors? Who is eligible? How do I apply? Find the answers at the **Understanding Medicaid forum** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Multipurpose Center 9 a.m. - noon Friday, February 25 to assist seniors with filing 2013 Property Tax Exemption applications.

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.

Want to learn more about your family tree? Instructor Kay Boatwright assists 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.

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, January 6	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with John 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 54)
Thursday, January 10	7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 31)
Friday, January 11	6 p.m. - Bonus Lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing dance lesson 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 221)

Casino (Upcoming Events):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - 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

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Sunday, January 6	Gulfport Community Players (GCP) stage setup & rehearsal
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Monday, January 7	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Tuesday, January 8	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Wednesday, January 9	6 p.m. - GCP dress rehearsal (Turnout 9)
Thursday, January 10	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Sordid Lives</i> (Turnout 41)
Friday, January 11	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Sordid Lives</i> (Turnout 95)
Saturday, January 12	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Sordid Lives</i> (Turnout 94)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, January 17-19 & 24-26, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 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
Tuesday, January 8	11 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)
Wednesday, January 9	10:30 a.m. - Yoga class (Turnout 20)
Thursday, January 10	9:30 a.m. - Bob's Band practice (Turnout 2)

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:

- Tuesday, January 8, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, January 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting*.
- Wednesday, January 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

- Wednesday, January 9, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, January 10, 12:30 p.m. - *Conscious Awareness Group* meeting.
- Thursday, January 10, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog*.
- Saturday, January 12, 11 a.m. - *Crafts for Kids*.

Upcoming Events:

- 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 Monday & Friday beginning February 1, 10 a.m. - AARP Income Tax Assistance. Taxpayers must bring social security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, a photo ID, and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits and a copy of last year's return if available. For more information call 893-1073.
- Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m. - Voter Registration Drive. Staff from the Supervisor of Elections office will be on hand to register & update registrations.
- Saturday, February 2, 1:30 p.m. - Crafts Club for all Ages. Join Pat for more recycling creativity.
- Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m. - Crafts for Kids. For more information call Cailey Klasson at 893-1134.
- Thursday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Maya the Reading Assistance Dog*. Call 893-1073 to schedule an appointment.
- 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 January 6 - 12, 2013:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	2,169	684
Sun. 1/6	8	12
Mon. 1/7	368	110
Tue. 1/8	432	130
Wed. 1/9	353	107
Thu. 1/10	325	104
Fri. 1/11	316	110
Sat. 1/12	366	111

Recreation Center

The Game Room was rented 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday, January 12 for a birthday party with approximately 40 (forty) in attendance.

The Art Room is reserved 3 - 8 p.m. Saturday, January 26 for a private event.

Programs, Classes & Activities

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.

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 seven (7) 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. The Tot Time/VPK Program enjoyed an evening of Bingo, a Potluck Dinner and Ice Cream during **Family Night Out** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center on Monday evening. There were approximately thirty-two (32) people in attendance.

Contractual classes: Chair Yoga, Cooking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Walking Club, 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.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon, and used the school bus to transport forty five (45) Gulfport Elementary students and six (6) adults to the St. Petersburg Main Library on Monday.

Wednesday's **Teen Council meeting** was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 23 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,088 totaling \$12,878.57
- On-Line Water payments: 74 transactions totaling \$8,177.28
- Bright House payments: 25
- Utility Bills Mailed 01/16/13: 1,256
- Accounts Payable 01/11/13: 569 transactions totaling \$441,971.16
- Mail processed 01/11/13: 428 pieces totaling \$382.65
- Purchasing Cards January report: 211 transactions totaling \$22,320.30

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Hung cabinet door in Fire Station kitchen, replaced light sensor on roof and repaired light fixture on flag pole.
- Replaced 8 ballasts and several lamps at Library.
- Completed monthly air conditioner filter changes and pest control at all City buildings.
- Repaired fresh air return unit at Casino.
- Installed security mirror in Administration Services area at City Hall.
- Painted lift station doors
- Completed setups for daily events at the Senior Center.
- 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 throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets throughout City.
- 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 and curbside Christmas tree removal.
- Prepared safety precautions for County's Gulfport Boulevard storm grate project.
- Commenced bimonthly street sweeping.
- Seeded and laid sod at Osgood Point dredging project and 29th Avenue/45th Street storm drain project.
- Removed debris and graded Beach front area and reset parking blocks in the Beach parking lot.

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 49 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 101 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 20 water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 5402 13th 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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Removed driver door, replaced hinges, removed door panel, replaced broken handle and re-hung door on Building Department Vehicle #03.
- Repaired A/C systems electrical problem on Police Vehicle #19.
- Repaired coolant leak on DEF exhaust system on Sanitation Truck #42.
- Performed service and front end alignment on Recycle Truck #40.
- 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.

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 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 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th 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.

Distribution:

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