



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *January 4-10, 2015*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Out with the old/in with the new: The Gulfport Parks Department spruced up along the **49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape**, mulching and replanting the flower beds to welcome the New Year (photos below).



Last Saturday's **5<sup>th</sup> Annual J West Prostate Cancer 8k Race** took place in front of the Historical Casino Ballroom. This event benefits the organization that continues to offer free screenings in the community. 162 runners participated and Christopher McCaffrey ran in with best time of 27:06:42 (photo below).



### Upcoming Events:

Meet Gulfport artist Linda Worsham at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Friday, January 9, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception and exhibit of her **Gulfport Musicians** series of paintings. Free admission: cash bar. Tapas provided by Tommie's Tiki. For more information call 893-1118.

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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate the life of trees and their importance to the environment during the annual **Arbor Day** celebration at the Dog Park, 2726 54<sup>th</sup> Street at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 16. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts and the Gulfport Teen Council will serve refreshments. A new Live Oak tree will be planted, and Southern Magnolia and Red Maple seedlings will be offered to attendees. Gulfport Food Forest will also offer fruit bearing seedlings and moringa (miracle tree) cuttings, and will answer planting questions. For more information, please call 893-1118.

On January 17 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S., stepping up as volunteers during our inaugural **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. In partnership with Gulfport Neighbors, the Day of Service will leverage the strength of

our community through a variety of service-oriented projects. Now is the time to identify a community service project and form a team. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice](http://www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice) for more information.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2Cool's proximity to Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity to find that special fine art gift for your special person. Contact Susan Gehring at 916-0105 or [srgehring211@gmail.com](mailto:srgehring211@gmail.com), or Connie Parkinson at 709-4069 or [cspventures@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cspventures@tampabay.rr.com) or visit [www.pavaartists.org](http://www.pavaartists.org).

**Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.**, three famous superstars who came together in the 1960s as part of the "Rat Pack" will be recreated in a show at the Gulfport Casino at 7 p.m. Friday, February 13. Tony Sands as Sinatra, Johnny Petillo as Martin and Geno Monroe as Davis assume the roles of the three singers during their glory days to bring their audiences the best of the Rat Pack songs and their individual hits with the onstage banter that made their act a big hit in Las Vegas. Tickets: \$20, available at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard or the Gulfport Beach Bazaar Box Office, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 893-1070.

Animal lovers, get ready for Gulfport's Get Rescued event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. FREE Admission. Stay for the **Tails at Twilight** animal rescue fundraiser at the Gulfport Casino from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Call 323-3892 for more information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

Lt. Josh Stone will spend 10 weeks at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This is the most prestigious training program in the world for law enforcement administration, and attendees are selected to fill an extremely limited number of slots.

### ***Calls for Service:***

Dispatch calls for service	169
Self-initiated calls for service	481
Offenses	40
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	29

### **Significant incidents or calls this week:**

Officers were dispatched to the 4800 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Street early New Year's Day regarding report of a man struck by a fire extinguisher. He was not cooperative and indicated that he did not want to prosecute.

A resident in the 5100 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of January 2 that she forgot to lock her vehicle the night before and her laptop was stolen from the backseat.

A Chevy Silverado reported stolen from St. Pete Beach on January 1 was recovered in front of the Gulfport TV Shop. The suspect parked the truck and handed the keys to the store owner.

A resident in the 1000 block of Fremont Street reported someone entered her unlocked vehicle overnight and stole \$7 in change.

Staff at Seaside Villas reported that a resident saw two males attempting to cut the locks off of several bikes parked on the bike rack. He yelled at them and they took off in a gray pickup. No bikes were taken.

A resident in the 5300 block of Dellett Avenue discovered a .45ACP full metal jacket projectile lodged in a shingle on his roof on January 3. The bullet was not there a week before and was likely fired into the air by someone celebrating the New Year.

Officers responded to Tomlinson Park on January 4 regarding a drug transaction and made contact with several juveniles who consented to searches. No drugs were found and officers were informed the subjects in question had already left the area.

Officers were dispatched to the 2800 block of Miriam Street regarding a juvenile male seen in a vehicle. A second male appeared to be acting as look out. Both fled the area when the caller started honking her car's horn as she approached. Nothing was taken and fingerprints were located on the exterior of the vehicle.

An unknown subject egged a home in the 5100 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. One of the eggs apparently struck a window and shattered it.

A resident seeking a cash advance loan online was contacted by phone by scammers on January 5 who convinced her to go to the store, buy \$250.00 in Green Dot cards, and give them the card numbers over the phone. The victim did so and the scammers were never heard from again.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Street regarding a disturbance in progress. When officers arrived, an intoxicated Edward Gonzalez was acting aggressive and potentially violent. Officer Ross attempted to take Gonzalez into custody under the Marchman Act, but he resisted and had to be forced to the ground to be handcuffed. Gonzalez was charged with resisting an officer without violence because he did not actually try to hurt the officer.

Officers were dispatched to a traffic accident in the 5500 block of Gulfport Boulevard involving a Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority bus. There were no injuries, and the driver of the vehicle that struck the bus was issued a citation.

An officer was dispatched to the 6000 Block of Shore Boulevard regarding a battery that was deemed unintentional. It was later discovered that one of the involved parties was not to drink alcohol as a stipulation of probation. Michael Trudell admitted that he had been drinking alcohol and was arrested for violation of probation.

Selmar Salter was arrested for criminal mischief on January 7 after officers responded to a fight in the parking lot at the Sunoco. Salter was mad at his mother because she wanted him to pay for gas. He used the gas pump nozzle to smash her windshield, breaking the gas nozzle in the process.

A resident in the 5200 block of 6<sup>th</sup> Place reported that 3 to 4 black male juveniles kicked out several fence slats at the back of the mobile home park on the trail side. There are no suspects.

The marine unit was on the water for 6 hours this week. Several contacts were made and a follow-up to a case was also completed.

**Investigations:**

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1

Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	11

**Records Section**

Reports reviewed	30
Supplements reviewed:	37
Public records requests:	17
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	21
Citizens assisted:	27

**Professional Standards**

**Policy Review and Development**

The following policies are in the review process: 104 - Vehicle Use, Inspections and Equipment; 120 - Infectious Diseases; 125A - Investigative Responsibilities; 206 - Grievances; 341 - Report Writing; 421 - Homicide Investigations; 425 - Bicycle Patrol; 109 - Extra Duty/Off Duty Employment; 101A - Intermediate Weapons, and; 202 - Duties and Responsibilities.

GPD is participating in online blood borne pathogens & first aid refresher training, and refresher training on the use of the Taser.

Thirteen Police Officer applications are being processed. One applicant has been scheduled to meet with the Chief for a possible conditional offer of employment.

**MARINA**

Assisted in thirty three (33) pump outs evacuating four hundred fifty (450) gallons of waste.

**Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 28' sailboat, 30' sailboat, 43' sailboat and a 22' motorboat this week.

**Staff activities/Marina maintenance:**

- Installed gate closers on gates five, four & three.
- Repair tire on marina truck.
- Completed slip count.
- Procured drinks for resale.
- Repaired signs on fuel dock.

**LEISURE SERVICES**

**Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulford.us](http://www.mygulford.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulford.us/gtv-615](http://www.mygulford.us/gtv-615). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated meeting schedules & minutes, upcoming events and Recreation, Teen Night & Senior Center information on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for January 6 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued organization and preparations for MLK Day event.
- Commenced preparation of February calendars and plans for Arbor Day event.
- Booked BloodOne mobile, assisted with registration for MLK event, and contacted Fountains coordinator to offer musical entertainment for their MLK event.
- Contacted Senior Center coordinator to offer assistance in planning for pantry brunch.

### **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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is January 12. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

**Are You Prepared for Retirement?** Michelle Stone & Shands Greenlee will offer an educational seminar at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, answering questions on how to make sure you're prepared throughout your retirement. Pizza will be served so please, RSVP to 893-5657.

Experience modern art at its best during our monthly Gulfport Getaway to **The Dali Museum** on the evening of January 15. The Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso Exhibit, showcasing the works of two of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is now on display. Reserve your seat by January 8. GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$16. Price includes round-trip transportation and admission. Call GEMS at 896-2242 for more information.

**Bongo Bob** will perform a Concert on Thursday, January 22 at 3 p.m. The price of admission is a non-perishable food item for the Senior Center Food Pantry. Come hear Bongo Bob sing & support a worthy cause.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games at our new class every Monday at noon.

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone CAN do this, Everyone SHOULD!

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

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.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** 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. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

### **Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall**

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

Sunday, December 28            6 p.m. - Ellis Hale's band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 41)

Tuesday, December 30        2 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 120)  
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 53)

Wednesday, December 31    8 p.m. - Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve Gala (Turnout 329)

#### **Casino (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday                6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time  
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday            12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker  
                                  2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8  
                                  6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson  
                                  8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

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 (upcoming events):**

Thursday-Saturday, January 8-10, 15-17 & 22-24, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 11, 18 & 25, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present **Escanaba in da Moonlight** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A contemporary comedy about deer hunting traditions set in the Escanaba, Michigan area. Tickets \$15, available at Beach Bazaar, online at [www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org](http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org) or at the door beginning one hour before performance.

**Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):**

Sunday, December 28     6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, December 30   10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

**Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):**

Every Sunday                6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday   10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

**Scout Hall (last week's events)**

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

Monday, December 29       9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 10)  
    11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, December 30      10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 18)

**Scout Hall (upcoming events):**

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

Every Monday               9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion  
    11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday               10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday          10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

## **LIBRARY**

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

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, December 29, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, December 30, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

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

Friday, January 2, 3 p.m. - *Teen Anime Club*.

Friday, January 2, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Thursday, February 12, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners*. Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [riddell@gmail.com](mailto:riddell@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.

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

### **Recreation Center**

The game room is reserved 3-7 p.m. Saturday, January 10 for a baby shower.

### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty (50) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 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 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. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Sixty (60) teens have been 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:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 14 new, 22 closed
- Water payments: 1,080 totaling \$212,432.86
- On-Line Water payments: 207 transactions totaling \$12,881.76
- Bright House payments: 20
- Payroll 01/02/15: 158 transactions totaling \$183,555.58

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 31 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 10 Re-Inspections
- 1 FACP Test Final
- 2 Smoke Detectors

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, January 15. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the J. West Cancer Foundation 8K run/walk on January 3.
- Fire Inspector Lundh and Chief Marenkovic performed a walk through at Stetson Law College with Piper Fire Protection in preparation for the installation of an additional sprinkler head in an interior hallway.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Installed drain plugs for floor in Police Armory and holding cells.
- Picked up 30 turkeys and extras from Carillon Center for Senior Center.
- Completed monthly a/c filter replacement at all City buildings.
- Replaced ballast in Public Services building upstairs storage area.
- Replaced fire exit sign at Historical building.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in ladies handicap restroom at the Library.
- Repaired exit door at Library.
- Repaired locking mechanism on men's restroom door outside Casino.
- Assembled new chair for City Manager.
- Set up art room at Senior Center.
- Covered graffiti on tables behind Casino.
- Cleared drain on exercise room air handler at Senior Center.
- Replaced ballast in Parks Division storage room.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Removed 5 cigarette butt cans from beach pavilions for repairs.
- Removed graffiti from beach playground.
- Replaced solar lights on Clymer greenway art.
- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Repaired and oiled bench swings on the beach.
- Repaired/replaced benches at Wood Ibis Park, Clam Bayou and Tomlinson Park.
- Repaired water fountains & gates at Dog Park.
- Replaced light on welcome sign at Pinellas trail & 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Installed upcoming event banners.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued trimming palms along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds on 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes, City complex, Senior Center & Library, grounds and Beach streetscapes, removed dead palms at marina and Senior Center, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed, Neighborhood Center, Senior Center, Library, Clymer, Wood Ibis & Caldwell Parks, Clam Bayou, trail spur, Recreation Center, beach & Marina green spaces, Chase block, Dog Park, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, Pasadena entrance area, and Tangerine Avenue & 49<sup>th</sup> Street signage area.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced fuel lines on hand held blower and chain bar on pole chainsaw.
- Repaired irrigation along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- 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**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Removed glass from roadway on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Picked up and returned recycling bins to inventory following Operation Santa.
- Set out and removed barricades for holiday block party at Hull Street & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Shrink-wrapped and loaded 10 pallets of electronics for recycling pickup.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 98 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 111 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 8 old water meters with new style meters.
- Repaired water break at 5133 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Replaced 3 water service taps, meters and backflows at Pasadena Estates.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.

## **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.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 2101 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 2926 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced hydraulic hoses in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Replaced water pump in Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced batteries in Utilities vehicle #22.

- Sent Sanitation vehicle #29 to Florida Fuel Injection for repair of broken turbocharger and intercooler.
- Repaired control joystick in Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Diagnosed and replaced ignition coil in Code Enforcement vehicle #55.
- Diagnosed and repaired power steering issue in Police vehicle #102.
- Installed new tires on Parks vehicle #25.
- Replaced water pump in Police vehicle #102.
- Performed preventive 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of code enforcement cases for December was 151. The fiscal year-to-date total is 496. The number of citizen complaints was 10 with a fiscal year-to-date total of 45. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 9 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.

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).

### Planning and Development

#### January 14 Board of Adjustment:

- V15-01; 5961 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 7 feet, from 9 feet to 2 feet to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.
- V15-02; 5202 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 10.65 feet, from 25 feet to 14.35 feet, to acknowledge the existing

encroachment of the house and to allow for the construction of a proposed new covered front porch.

- V15-03; 3102 Dupont Street South; Variance request to:
  - 1) Reduce the secondary street side yard setback requirement by 8 feet, from 12 feet to 4 feet; and
  - 2) Reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 17 feet, from 25 feet to 8 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed new single-family structure.
- V15-04; 3015 Beach Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 3 spaces, from 3 to zero off-street parking spaces for the proposed construction of a building addition to the existing commercial retail structure.
- V15-05; 4763 Baywood Point Drive South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one third setback requirement by 35.73 feet, from 40.73 feet to 5 feet to allow for the construction of a new dock and installation of a proposed new boat lift.

**February 11 Board of Adjustment:**

- Variance Application V15-06; 5937 Seabird Drive South; Variance request to:
  - 1) To recognize the existing catwalk and dock encroachments of 0.42 feet into the side outer one-third required setbacks of the extended waterfront; and
  - 2) To reduce the right-hand outer one third setback requirement by 12.42 feet, from 26.67 feet to 14.25 feet to allow for the installation of a proposed new boat lift.