



Gulfport Community Update

January 11-17, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

The **Gulfport Library will be closed for renovation** beginning Monday, February 9. Library services will temporarily relocate to Scout Hall beginning Monday, February 16. The renovation is expected to last 6-8 weeks. For more information call 893-1075.

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.

Upcoming Events:

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 for more information.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway, 49th Street & 18th Avenue. Stop by Moore's Resources Insurance booth and meet former Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Dave Moore. FREE admission. Call 327-3509 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 or Connie Parkinson at 709-4069 or cspventures@tampabay.rr.com or visit 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 audience 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 the Gulfport **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

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	145
Self-initiated calls for service	459
Offenses	37
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	15

Significant incidents or calls this week:

While on patrol early January 9 an officer witnessed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed crash into the back of another vehicle in the 5100 block of 28th Avenue. The driver fled on foot. There were no injuries, and the suspect has been identified.

A resident in the 5900 block of 17th Avenue reported he used a check to pay for a service in November 2014, and recently discovered that a check with the same number was used at a Wal-Mart in Tampa. The case was forward to Tampa Police for further investigation.

Officer Novak heard what sounded like cars racing east of 49th Street while on patrol in the early morning hours of January 10. A short time later he discovered a vehicle registered to Hertz Car Rental abandoned on the sidewalk. Based on skid marks on the roadway and the damage to the vehicle, it was determined car was traveling westbound on 15th Avenue, attempted to make a southbound turn and went over the curb, narrowly missing two parked cars. Impact with the curb damaged the axle.

A resident in the 4700 block of 27th Avenue reported early January 11 that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole approximately \$20 in change.

A resident in the 5300 Block of 16th Avenue was arrested on charges of filing a false police report after he reported that he believed that his 3 year old daughter had been sexually battered by a neighbor. The investigation revealed that the man made a false accusation.

A resident in the 5600 Block of 15th Avenue reported that a handgun was stolen from his bedroom. There were no signs of forced entry, but officers noted an unsecured window in the back of the residence.

Officers responded to a house fire in the 1600 Block of 58th Street. After the fire was extinguished, it became apparent that it was intentionally set. Two suspects were located and interviewed.

A resident in the 5600 Tangerine Avenue reported that five males entered her home and one pointed a gun at her. They ordered her into a bedroom and stole several items. The resident recognized two of the juvenile suspects as friends of her son. They were arrested the following day. Some of the stolen items were recovered and two other suspects have been identified.

A resident in the 5600 block of Newton Avenue reported on the morning of January 12 that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole a GPS/stereo display and monitors mounted in the car's headrests.

Sergeant Parks was patrolling Beach Boulevard early January 14 when he recognized a wanted person sitting on a bench. Debra Young was wanted for forgery and credit card fraud. Detective Crowson responded to the scene and interviewed Young, as she was the investigating officer in the case in which Young was the suspect. Young was discovered to be in possession of a controlled substance, resulting in an additional charge.

A resident in the 5600 block of Tangerine Avenue reported that several fishing poles and other items were stolen from his boat which was on a trailer in his front yard.

The marine unit was in the shop for scheduled preventive maintenance this week.

Investigations:

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	16

Detective Pham developed probable cause for a female suspect in a retail theft at the Dollar General, and; interviewed a residential burglary suspect in the Pinellas County Jail.

Detective Crowson interviewed three juveniles in a theft case, submitted subpoenas in a fraud case, and; interviewed and arrested the suspect in a purse theft case on charges of petit theft, uttering and fraudulent use of a credit card.

School Resource Officer Motte completed a burglary investigation at Boca Ciega High School and apprehended both suspects; hosted an explorer meeting on the topic of command structure; arrested a student for obstruction/resisting arrest without violence; mentored two students, and; provided security at two after school athletic events.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to two fights in progress; investigated a bike theft; handled two SPPD AOA's; conducted traffic control around the school, and; made contact with numerous students skipping class in the hallways. She also spoke with two students regarding issues that they were having with other students; provided security at three school events, and; delivered donated food items to the Senior Center.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed the 2014 Uniform Crime Report for submission to FDLE.

The Special Enforcement Team (SET) assisted other local agencies on Thursday in a violent fugitive sweep, resulting in more than 30 arrests.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	19
Supplements reviewed:	63
Public records requests:	18
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted:	33

MARINA

Assisted in forty four (44) pump outs evacuating six hundred forty five (645) gallons of waste.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 15' powerboat, 38' powerboat and a 40' motorboat this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Replaced line hangers on pier 3 slip 9 and pier 6 slip 8, pedestal light on pier 2 slip 30 and GFICs on pier 6 slip 15 & pier 2 slip 30.
- Replaced fuel hose dispenser #2.
- Installed dock box on pier 3 slip 4.

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/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 and upcoming events on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for January 14 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Continued organization and preparations for MLK Day event; met with Councilmember Roman to discuss logistics.
- Distributed February calendars at City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.

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.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborhood 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 27th Avenue South for more information.

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.

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.

Join Dr. Couch for this month's **HCA Health Talks: Advances in Surgery** on Monday, January 26 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Couch will discuss the advances in surgery and the new techniques that St. Petersburg General Hospital offers such as robotic assisted procedures.

Join us at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 28 for a very special performance by The Gulfport Senior Center's **Harmonica Club** as we celebrate their 21 years of dedication. Hors d'oeuvres be served following the performance. **TICKEST MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE EVENT. LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER PERSON.**

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 February 10. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

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, January 4 6 p.m. - Ellis Hale's band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 35)
- Tuesday, January 6 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 27)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 67)
- Wednesday, January 7 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 285)
- Thursday, January 8 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 33)
- Saturday, January 10 5 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 160)

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 (*last week's events*)

- Thursday, January 8 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 46)
- Friday, January 9 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 56)
- Saturday, January 10 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Turnout 69)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday-Saturday, January 15-17 & 22-24, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 18 & 25, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present **Escanaba in da Moonlight** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th 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 or at the door beginning one hour before performance.

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

- Sunday, January 4 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 40)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, January 6 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 23)

Thursday, January 8 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)

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

Tuesday, January 6 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 22)

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

Tuesday, January 6, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, January 7, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 7, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 7, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, January 7, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers.*

Thursday, January 8, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, January 9, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 22, 3 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 2-4 year olds*, and 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 5-10 year olds*: All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

Monday, January 26, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session*: Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument & join us! Get in touch with your musical self. Call Alex at 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, January 27 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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 rriddell@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.

Library Services/Statistic January 4 - 10, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,569	831
Sun. 1/4	Library closed	
Mon. 1/5	585	177
Tue. 11/6	464	160
Wed. 1/7	434	133
Thu. 1/8	359	124
Fri. 1/9	345	103
Sat. 1/10	326	117

Recreation Center

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 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 Teen Council meeting on Friday afternoon.

The **Teen Council** met in City Council Chambers on Friday afternoon. The Childs Park teen supervisor was guest speaker.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account activity (Water and/or Marina): 19 new, 27 closed
- Water payments: 1,150 totaling \$163,852.69
- On-Line water payments: 215 transactions totaling \$13258.53
- Bright House payments: 18
- Accounts Payable 01/09/15: 496 transactions totaling \$ 375,334.81
- Mail processed 1/9/15: 287 pieces totaling \$270.38
- Purchasing Card 1/9/15 167 transactions totaling \$28,930.84

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 7 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O
- 1 Fire Investigation

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, February 18. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshals meeting on January 15.

- Fire Inspector Lundh performed a walk through at the City Marina for Final Inspection of the new tanks and gas pump location. The Fire Extinguishers had to be moved and one added.
- Lt. Huffman is working on the ISO documentation for the three year annual review.
- The Gulfport Fire Department is attending a Face to Face St. Petersburg College CME. This month's topic is Mass Causality Incidents and triage.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed new Men's/Ladies' signs at beach restrooms.
- Cleaned restroom floors at Library following sewer back-up.
- Removed shelving from office at Senior Center.
- Replaced 21 screens at Casino.
- Installed new toilet seat in Neighborhood Center ladies' restroom.
- Removed abandoned bikes from behind Casino.
- Cleared blocked sink drains at Senior Center.
- Procured vehicle parts for Garage Supervisor.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed graffiti from Beach playground and Caldwell Park equipment.
- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Replaced bench at Hoyt Field.
- Installed butt cans at Library entrance.
- Prepared fire hydrant for repainting and installation at Dog Park.
- Replaced windshield on mule cart.
- Installed sidewalk at Tonkin Park playground entrance.
- Installed concrete ramp at Recreation Center gym rear doors.
- Repaired drinking fountain at Recreation Center.
- Removed boards, trash and junk from underneath Casino.
- Cleaned shop and storage area.
- 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 at Scout Hall, Dog Park, Chase Block, Clymer Park and Recreation Center, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed trees at Clam Bayou, Veterans Park, Beach & streetscapes, City complex, Senior Center & Library
- Mowed, Clymer greenway, Lions Club grounds and York Street terminus.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced fuel lines on hand held blower and chain bar on pole chainsaw.
- Repaired irrigation Hoyt & Little League fields and Caldwell Park.
- 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.
- Repurposed old sidewalk squares for storm drain lids.
- Removed and disposed of 80' of 4" sidewalk at 1125 Hull Street and replaced sections of sidewalk at 54th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Installed radius curbing at alley entrance at 61st Street & 9th Avenue.
- Repaired asphalt at Clinton Street & 31st Avenue per City Manager's direction.
- Removed concrete debris from damaged storm drain at 53rd Street & 11th Avenue and installed new 3' x 3' concrete storm drain lid.
- Added rock, fixed grade, and reset storm drain lid at 55th Street & 11th Avenue.
- Reset traffic control device at Beach Boulevard & 28th Avenue.

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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 44 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 94 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 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.

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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at the Gulfport Library, 1922 55th Street, 5925 19th Avenue, 5920 19th Avenue & 5914 Tangerine Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced ABS sensor and battery in Police vehicle #101.
- Replaced serpentine belt and idler pulley on Code Enforcement vehicle #55.
- Replaced headlights in Sanitation vehicle #88, Sanitation truck #44 and Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Disassembled and repaired hydraulic assembly in GEMS bus #93.
- Adjusted/repared “packing” control unit in Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Adjusted “packing” system in Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced front tires on Parks Division vehicle #25.
- 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 under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

“Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board,” said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. “Why take a chance with your money and safety?”

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the

job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th 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.

Planning and Development

January 14 Board of Adjustment results:

- 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. APPROVED

- V15-02; 5202 27th 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. APPROVED
- 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. BOTH REQUESTS DENIED
- 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. APPROVED
- 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. APPROVED

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.